

Minutes of public meeting of St Augustine's Community Together Residents' Association (ACT)
held on 26 September 2012 in St Augustine's Hall, Norwich.

1. The Chair of ACT, the Rev'd Nicholas Vesey, welcomed all to the meeting, and noted two new attendees: Terry Rawlinson of AgeUK and Kate Fenn of Coleman Opticians. The attendance register was circulated; 12 present. Apologies: Bruce Bentley (Norwich City Council's Transportation manager), Eileen Brennan, Andre & Cherry Cappuccio (Trends Hair Salon), Gill Doel, David & Heather English (Dental Surgery), Councillor Graeme Gee, Jeremy Hall, Nick Hall (ACT management committee member), Adrian Holmes, Nicholas Jackson, Jacqueline Middleton (Doughty's Hospital) and Councillor Amy Stammers.
2. The minutes of the last ACT meeting (27.6.12) were approved.
3. Matters arising: Item 5; loose manhole cover in Edward Street; Cllr Richard Bearman had reported this.
4. **"Open Mike" session.** Hazel Temple (Leonard Street) read a letter expressing her appreciation for the work done by ACT and members of the local community over a number of years to bring the redevelopment of the Leonard Street green space, car park and children's play area to fulfilment. The area had been greatly enhanced and was a now pleasure to visit and live beside. She also mentioned the deaths of two neighbours who had often attended ACT meetings over the years and had been passionate about their local community, Steve Birmingham and Rose Weithaler. Nicholas Vesey suggested that we put photos or memories of them on our community website. Stuart McLaren (Secretary of ACT) would follow this up with Hazel.
5. **Age UK Norwich.** Terry Rawlinson spoke about the new AgeUK information and advice surgeries that he was running at The Stage (52 St Augustine's Street) on the first Monday of the month 9.30–11.30 a.m.
6. **Councillors' reports.**

Cllr Bearman spoke on a traffic survey report undertaken in the St Augustine's area by Norfolk County Hall's traffic engineers in 2011 about a month after the Gyratory was completed. The report had not found evidence of excessive speeding and where averaged speeds (conducted over a 7-day period) had exceeded the limit these were within tolerances allowed before remedial action need be taken by the authorities. Alan Camina (Vice Chair of ACT) noted that if the averaged speeds were 2–4 mph above the 20 mph limit there must be occasions when the speed recorded was well in excess of the limit. Anecdotal evidence was that drivers were routinely exceeding the speed limit in the evening, particularly after the rush-hour period when the roads were less congested. Stuart McLaren read out a statement from Bruce Bentley (Principal Planner (Transport) Norwich City Council), which, to summarise, said that the problem of speeding on the Gyratory was a police enforcement not a planning issue. Stuart McLaren noted that the police had been invited to tonight's meeting no one had been able to attend. Cllr Bearman said that the installation of a speed-activated flashing light might cost £7000. Evidence of excessive speeding would need to be gathered and a convincing case made in order to make the case for this sort of financial outlay. Carol Cooper (Sussex Street) felt the County Council traffic survey's had been done too soon after the Gyratory had opened and needed to be done again now that drivers were more used to the new road layout. Stuart McLaren noted that drivers were routinely crossing the pedestrian safety island in New Botolph Street in order to avoid having to drive around the one-way system to the St Crispin's roundabout when they wished to go north. The issue of cycling on the pavement, especially in St Augustine's Street,

was also discussed and it was agreed better signage was needed at the ends of the street to show cyclists where the designated cycle tracks were in the area. Traders on St Augustine's Street were very concerned about the dangers posed to themselves and their customers from cyclists on the pavement and frustrated that neither the police or the council appeared to be able or willing to do anything to curb it.

Cllr Lucy Howard reported that Norwich City Council contractor Biffa was now undertaking street cleaning and weeding more efficiently than when they had started. Jeremy Hall (Bakers Road) said that the shrubbery on the south side of the road was not being properly maintained earlier in the year but had been weeded in the summer. It was noted that some residents in Sussex Street were still leaving their wheelie bins on the pavement, causing obstructions to footpath users. Some properties at the St Augustine's Street end of the street had either no back yard or access was difficult so residents here had no option but to leave bins on street all week. Terry Rawlinson suggested it was possible for residents to obtain permission to leave their refuse sacks on the pavement on collection day and not use wheelie bins if these were impractical. Ian Robertson (Howard Terrace) reported that a number of the refuse bins near his property had been vandalised. Carol Cooper noted that there had been a fire started in the bins there. Cllr Howard reported that a City Council officer had visited St Augustine's Street in July and counted ten empty commercial properties, some in a poor state of repair, but that the City Council said it was unable to do very much about this situation. Regeneration would be largely market led and partly dependent on when Anglia Square was redeveloped.

7. AOB. Alan Camina gave a brief report on the work of St Augustine's new community resource, The Stage (St Augustine's Gateway Enterprise), which had been officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Norwich on 18 August. Stuart McLaren reported on the Magdalen–Augustine Celebration Day events due to take place in the area on 13 October, including a free concert of classical music in the old church, stalls and food in the churchyard and various child-centred activities in the Hall, as well as an exhibition of historical photographs and prints of the St Augustine's area at The Stage.

8. Date of next meeting: Thursday 6 December 2012. It was proposed that a festive element be included in this meeting, including a glass of wine or juice and a mince pie etc.