

Minutes of public meeting of St Augustine's Community Together Residents' Association (ACT) held on 29 September 2011 in St Augustine's Hall, Norwich.

1. Apologies were received from the Revd Nicholas Vesey (ACT Chair) and Margaret Camina. In the absence of the Revd Nicholas Vesey, Alan Camina took the Chair. The attendance register was circulated. There were 18 people in attendance.
2. The minutes of the last meeting (14 July 2011) were approved.
3. Matters arising:

Cllr Richard Bearman spoke on the issue of parking spaces in Sussex Street. He had raised the issue with the City Council officer responsible for parking who had told him there was no mechanism for dual use of parking spaces (i.e. for permit holders & short stay visitors) and that the Council considered there was not a shortage of parking spaces in this area. However, a survey of parking spaces in the city was to be carried out and Cllr Bearman would report back once the survey had been completed.
4. There was then discussion of recent incidents of drug misuse in the area and the problem of discarded sharps. PCSO Mick Olsen (West Centre Safer Neighbourhood Team) reported that there had only been three drug-related incidents reported in the area in recent weeks and two people had been arrested following the latest incident in the St Augustine's churchyard area. Debbie Norwell (ACT's Children's Champion) asked Stephen Codling (Broadland Housing Association) why people with drug-related problems were being housed in an estate (The Lathes) with families with young children. He responded by saying that people with a history of drug abuse were only housed once BHA was satisfied that they were recovering addicts and would take action to remove any tenant subsequently found guilty of a drug-related crime. People were advised not to touch sharps but to report them to the City Council which would arrange for the sharp to be removed safely.
5. Chris Murphy spoke next on the community-orientated work of the Surrey Chapel in Botolph Street and hoped that groups that meet in St Augustine's Hall and similar groups that meet in Surrey Chapel can begin a dialogue and explore ways of cooperating and sharing resources. etc. A meeting would be held between various group leaders in the new year.
6. Councillors' Reports.
 - a) Cllr Adrian Holmes asked whether refuse and recycling bins were still being left out on the pavement in Sussex Street after collection. Stuart McLaren (ACT Secretary) reported that a letter from the City Council had been received by Sussex Street residents pointing out that bins should not be left on the pavement after collection. His impression was the practice had lessened immediately after the letter was delivered but was again on the increase. Cllr Holmes also reported that he had heard from a director of company responsible for the redevelopment of Anglia Square that work was unlikely to begin there before 2012. He also reported that there was £100K in the City Council's budget this year to carryout work on the vacant lot behind the city wall (the old Magpie Printer site).
 - b) Cllr Bearman reported that work on the road at the bottom of Grapes Hill was underway.
7. AOB:
 - a) Cllr Holmes brought the meetings' attention to the FarmShare scheme (people could buy shares in a farm near Postwick and receive allotments of fresh vegetables, currently being distributed at the Blind Centre in Magpie Road. Stuart McLaren said he would put a link to FarmShare on the community's website.
 - b) Jeff Compton (Norwich City Council's Community Engagement Officer) said that the Parks and Open Spaces team were about to publish their plans for the redevelopment of the Leonard Street play area, car park and small green space. There would be a public consultation period. Details would be advertised locally once known.
8. Date of next meeting: 24 November 2011.