

Minutes of public meeting of St Augustine's Community Together Residents' Association (ACT)
held on 3 July 2014 in St Augustine's Hall, Norwich. The meeting started at 7.30 p.m.

1. Present: 20.
2. Apologies: Jeremy Hall (Bakers Road), PCSO Jo Longstaff (Norfolk Police), Cllr Amy Stammers.
3. Welcome from ACT Chair, the Revd Nicholas Vesey, who then made a personal statement. He had been offered and had accepted a new ministry in Aspen, Colorado, USA, and would be moving there with his family as soon they received their visas. He would be resigning as Chair of ACT.
4. Announcement. There would be a special service in St Augustine's church on Sunday 3 August to commemorate and remember the servicemen from this area who went to war 1914-1918 and did not return. Their names would be read out during the service and there would be a recitation of poetry and some contemporary popular songs performed by the Red Steeples. Following the service Stuart McLaren hoped to be launching his new book *'They Are Not Dead'* A Norwich Parish in the First World War, about the war dead of St Augustine's, if copies were available.
5. Councillors' reports:
 - a) Cllr Simeon Jackson spoke on the sale of Anglia Square and suggested that as a community we needed to develop our own ideas for what we would like to see happen if and when the shopping precinct is redeveloped. The Northern City Centre Area Action Plan currently in force specifies that the area should be for mixed use (housing and retail), however, the Plan expires in 2016. The new owners may not have developed their redevelopment plan until after then. The Localism Act provides for the setting up of Neighbourhood Forums that can influence local planning developments but such a forum would need to include other local stakeholders other than ACT. He would look further into this issue and report back in due course. ACT would try to establish contact with the new owners of the Square and invite them to one of our meetings.
 - b) Cllr Richard Bearman spoke about traffic issues in the area, in particular speeding and the need for traffic calming on Duke Street, where the speed limit needed to be reduced to 20 mph. The idea of setting up a community speed watch here was raised yet again. ACT agreed to email him the names of six volunteers who were prepared to take part in this.
 - c) Stuart McLaren reported on a fire in Oak Street near the junction with Sussex Street, which had burnt down the advertising hoarding there. The fire appears to have been started deliberately, at night, in the pile of old rubber car tyres and other rubbish which had accumulated there. He had reported this as a potential fire hazard a year ago to the police, the city council's environment team and Norfolk Fire Service but nothing could be done as the tyres were on private land.
6. "Open Mike"
 - a. Nick Hall reported that rats had been seen in and around the large mound of earth on the Anglia Square side of Botolph Street. It is understood that this area has been fenced off and cannot be disturbed while the soil is being treated to eradicate Japanese knotweed
 - b. Adrian Holmes reported on the work of Friends of Train Wood. The area beside the river was now registered as a community asset. They are negotiating with Norfolk County Council over the lease to take over management of the area. County Council was applying for a grant to set up WiFi along the path that would activate phone App showing historic images of the old railway station that formerly stood on the site of the wood.
7. Valedictory speeches were given for ACT's outgoing Chair, the Revd Nicholas Vesey, by Alan Camina, co-Vice-chair of ACT; Cllr Richard Bearman; and former Norwich City Councillor, Diana Lowe. Stuart McLaren, Secretary of ACT, presented Nicholas with a framed print of St Augustine's church commemorating his chairing of the Association over several years.
8. Date of next meeting: 18 September.