

Minutes of a meeting of St Augustine's Community Together Residents' Association (ACT) held at St Augustine's hall, Norwich, on 6 December 2012

1. Welcome from the Chair, the Revd Nicholas Vesey. Attendance: 17. Apology: Cllr Lucy Howard. Announcements: Christmas Eve Mass at old church; Boxing Day lunch at The Hall – free, all welcome.
2. Minutes of last meeting (26/9/12) approved.
3. Matters arising: Cllr Richard Bearman had reported loose manhole cover in Edward Street to Highways.
4. "Open Mike" (issues from members):
 - a. David English wondered if there could be a temporary pedestrian crossing in St Augustine's Street for a trial period, possibly located where there is a dropped kerb before the junction with Esdelle Street. Cllr Bearman thought it unlikely we'd get a light-controlled (pelican) crossing here, partly because of the cost (c.£70K) and would have a better chance if we pressed as a community for a zebra crossing (c£10K). Request would be better if it came from the community rather than councillors. Some at the meeting favoured having a zebra crossing to the south of Sussex Street junction instead of as above.
 - b. Nick Hall mentioned a recent aggravated burglary at a flat in St Augustine's Street and asked whether there was any chance of CCTV being installed in the area.
 - c. Nick Hall also raised the issue of speeding in the area and felt better signage was needed.
5. Councillors' reports. Cllr Amy Stammers spoke on Norwich City Council's Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI): a code of practice for involvement in planning. She suggested that ACT needed to be added to Planning's consultation list.
6. The Magdalen-Augustine Celebration day on 13 October. There was a round-up of this event, which it was felt had been very well managed. Events in St Augustine's area (churchyard, old church, church hall, The Stage, St Augustine's Street) had been well attended and there had been a diversity of attractions from Caribbean food to puppet making. There was a vote of thanks to the organisers, especially Stefi Barna.
7. The old Rose Inn St Augustine's Street (last occupied by Portraits, a photographic studio) was generally seen as an eyesore and a detriment to the redevelopment of the area. There were calls for action to be taken to make it look more attractive and to encourage its owner to either sell or let it so as to bring it back into productive use.
8. Fund raising. Lynda Honeywell-Hall and Nick Hall offered to organise a craft fair in the Hall to raise money for ACT, possibly in the spring. It would be discussed more fully at next meeting
9. Date of next meeting: 23 January 2013 (this will also be our AGM).