

CENTRAL NORWICH CITIZENS' FORUM

Minutes of a meeting of the Central Norwich Citizens' Forum held at City Hall, Norwich on Tuesday, 3rd April 2007 commencing at 7pm.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman provided an update of information not listed on the agenda as follows;_

1. He had attended in Birmingham on 31st March the AGM of the Network of Residents Associations in English Towns and Cities (NoRA) which had changed its name to the National Organisation of Residents Associations (NORA). He had been re-elected as its Press Officer and there had been much useful discussion on a number of issues.
2. He had been invited by the Chief Constable to become a member of the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP), a body set up to meet monthly to assist the Police to establish priorities and to recommend strategies to improve the safety of the central Norwich community.
3. The Board had approved the Annual Statement of Accounts for the last year which would be forwarded to Companies House, the Charity Commissioners and shareholders for approval at their AGM.
4. He described the events leading up to the publishing by the Evening News of the two filmed incidents of assaults on a homeless person in Prince of Wales Road and a young man and his girl-friend at the Station last November, his transmission of these to the Police and discussions with journalists about the events.
5. He reported that the City Council's two bids for unitary status had been submitted and shortlisted, that consultation was due to proceed until July and that, if the Forum wanted to make recommendations concerning this, he proposed the he invite Laura McGilivray, CEO of the City Council to attend the next meeting to provide a briefing.

MINUTES

APOLOGIES: Dawn Castle-Green, Lititia Devlin, Howard Jago, Maran McKay, Steve Morphew.

PRESENT: Beryl Bottomley, Pat Daniel, Jim Durrant, Paul Eastaugh, Don Homfray, Esther Harris, Hazel Harrison, Peter Jackson, Vanessa McGregor (Minute Taker), Ann Rostron, Barbara Searle, Chris Wilson.

1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

Hazel Harrison asked if more information had been provided by the City Council concerning the sculpture to be erected on Hay Hill. The Chairman pointed out that he had reported the response from Cllr Brenda Ferris at the last meeting, that the sculpture had been commissioned by the previous administration at City Hall with an Arts Council grant and that there had been no consultation with either the Council or the public. It still required planning permission and, if the Forum wished to comment, it would be proper for its Planning Committee to do so.

Peter Jackson asked if consideration could be given to encouraging the City Council to restore the seating removed during the restoration of the Market and, perhaps, to adding more for the benefit of people wishing to sit and enjoy the amenities. The Chairman agreed to write to the Director of Regeneration and Development about the matter and to refer it to the Planning Committee to make recommendations if it felt inclined to do so.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held at City Hall on 6th March 2007 were taken as read. **RESOLVED** that they were a correct record and should be signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

3.1 Launch by the Lord Mayor of the “Buy Local” campaign

The Chairman reported that he had attended the launch which had been well supported by 160 people, that he had met many representatives of small businesses from the city and the county who were looking for customers for their goods and services and that he was able to offer them contacts through the Forum. It was noted that, from the attendance list, it was possible to see that nobody from Norwich Market had attended but the Chairman pointed out that many of stallholders did not actually buy locally and were not, therefore, eligible to join the campaign.

3.2 Visit Norwich Members’ Business Meeting

The Chairman reported on his attendance at the meeting. The Draft Sustainability Policy was **RECEIVED**.

3.3 Prostitutes and Sex Workers

The Chairman reported on discussions he had had with Chief Inspector Kevin Clarke about the possibility of devising a strategy to manage city centre sex workers and reduce complaints from residents. He pointed out that Inspector Lillie had found it necessary to write to residents who had asked for them to be served with ASBOs or prosecuted in the Magistrates Court that this simply displaced the problem elsewhere where it was not possible for the Police to protect them from harm. The Chairman proposed that the Forum mount a public meeting (or meetings) where all concerned with the problem might debate how best to manage it and recommend strategies to alleviate it. He said he had already discussed his proposal with Councillor Steve Morphew (leader of the City Council) who had indicated he would be happy to support such a proposal. **RESOLVED** to accept the proposal and to ask the Chairman to arrange such a meeting and to invite both residents and representatives of all the relevant agencies to attend.

3.4 Trams in Norwich

The Chairman reminded members that, in 1999 when discussing the Transport Strategy, the Forum had recommended the creation of a ‘Green Spine’ from Thorpe Station, up Prince of Wales Road, through Castle Meadow and St Stephens Street to Earlham Road, the University and the Hospital. They had also recommended that, ultimately, a tram route should be created to follow this. He had chaired a conference in 2000 at Cinema City which had presented a report, commissioned by First (Eastern Counties) from Messrs Halcrow Fox who had concluded that such a proposal was quite feasible. He asked whether the Forum wished to still promote that view though he suggested that, since there had been so much development to the east of the city since then, it might be appropriate to extend any proposed tram service to the Broadland Business Park and even to the Airport. **RESOLVED** that Paul Eastaugh should research what advice the officers

had given the City Council on the subject and that the matter should be re-visited to see if more might be done to treat the matter with increased urgency.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Norwich City Centre Licensing Forum

The minutes of the meetings held on 13th February and 13th March were **RECEIVED**. The minutes of the Quarterly Meeting with Residents and Licensees held at TAKE 5 Gallery on 15th March had not been received. The Chairman reported that only two residents had attended and that, with this kind of support, it was unlikely that he could retain the interest of licensees in attending future meetings. Therefore he proposed that he hold one more residents meeting and, if support was not forthcoming, he would arrange no more.

4.2 ParkatmyHouse.com

The proposal from the Company was received and considered but, after discussion, it was **RESOLVED** not to support the initiative which, if successful, would serve to attract more cars into the city centre.

4.3 A Loyalty Discount Card Scheme for Forum Members

The Chairman reported on a loyalty card system being proposed for members of the Norwich City Centre Licensing Forum and the work done on it by Andy Gotts, General Manager of Lava & Ignite Night Club. It was **AGREED** that, when this was more advanced, it might well be worth considering opening the scheme to Forum members.

4.4 City Centre Management Partnership

The minutes of the meeting of the Partnership held on 23rd November 2006 and the draft job description for the new City Centre Manager post were **RECEIVED**. The Chairman pointed out that, when the job description had been considered by the Executive Board some changes had been made which would be reported to the next meeting. Pat Daniel commented that there was no responsibility for the cultural aspect of the city centre manager's job contained in the job description and the Chairman said he would raise the matter at the next Executive Board meeting

5. PRESS CUTTINGS

The press cuttings published since the last meeting were **RECEIVED**.

6. LIAISON WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

There being no representatives of the local authorities present no reports were offered.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting should be held at City Hall, Norwich at 7pm on Tuesday, 1st May 2007.