

# CENTRAL NORWICH CITIZENS' FORUM

Minutes of a meeting of the Central Norwich Citizens' Forum held at City Hall, Norwich on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007 commencing at 7pm.

## MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Beryl Bottomley, Pat Daniel, Jim Durrant, Julian Foster (Chairman), Don Homfray, Peter Jackson, Vanessa McGregor (Minute Taker), A N Other, Bridget Quirk, Barbara Searle, Christine Way, Chris Wilson.

**APOLOGIES:** Paul Eastaugh, Esther Harris, Hazel Harrison, Ann Rostron, Sue Skipper.

### 1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A query was raised about 95 St Giles Street being a property in the hands of a developer. Jim Durrant agreed to seek information as to whether a planning application had been submitted.

A query was raised as to the percentage of affordable housing to be included in the Duke's Wharf development proposals. The Chairman reported that it was the City Council's policy to seek 30% social housing in developments of such significance.

A query was raised as to the likely extent of a tables and chairs licence expected to be submitted by the proprietors of the Coach and Horses in Bethel Street. The Chairman reported that, as yet, no application had been registered but, as soon as one was, it would be considered by the Forum's Licensing Committee.

### 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held at City Hall, Norwich on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April were taken as read. **RESOLVED** that they be signed as a correct record.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

#### 3.1 Prostitutes and Sex Workers

Following consideration of this matter at the last meeting when it was resolved to establish a Public Meeting at City Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> May to bring together all the agencies concerned with sex workers and residents of the city centre, the Chairman reported that he had arranged such a meeting that had attracted wide support and asked that as many as possible members of the Forum should attend in the hope that it would be possible to start to develop a strategy to improve the management of sex workers of both genders in the city centre. His report was **RECEIVED**.

#### 3.2 Trams in Norwich

The Chairman reported that, since the Forum had agreed to revisit this matter about which it had previously made recommendations in September 1999 he had had discussions with Councillor Steve Morphew, Leader of the City Council who had advised that, as long as the Northern Distributor Road (NDR) was supported, it would be unlikely that the Government would allocate any public money to further a tram project. It was **AGREED** that, nonetheless, the Forum should

continue to seek information about the officer advice that had been made available to the City Council to see whether it would be possible to mount a counter claim for priority to be given to a proposal for trams to be introduced through the *green spine*.

### **3.3 Unitary Status for Norwich**

The Chairman reported that, because of the local elections, it had not been possible to invite the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Norwich City Council to attend the meeting to explain the proposals being put to Government. However, two bids had been submitted, one based on existing boundaries and the other extending them to the larger communities surrounding the City's administrative area. The first bid had been short-listed and consultation would proceed until July.

**RESOLVED** that the CEO be invited to the next meeting.

### **3.4 The Appointment of a City Centre Manager**

The Chairman reported that he had brought to the attention of the Executive Board of the City Centre Management Partnership a request that, when the job description was finalised, reference should be made to the need to consider the cultural aspects of the city's well-being as well as those concerned with its commercial, professional and industrial health. The Partnership had been happy to accept the recommendation. His report was **RECEIVED**

## **4. REPORTS**

### **4.1 Norwich City Centre Licensing Forum**

The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007 were **RECEIVED**.

### **4.2 Planning Committee**

Jim Durrant outlined the proposals that had been considered by his Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and on 12<sup>th</sup> April relating to St Benedict's Street, St Giles' Street, The Close and the installation of a sculpture on Hay Hill respectively and the recommendations of his Committee were **CONFIRMED**.

### **4.3 National Organisation of Residents' Associations**

The Chairman's letter to the Times was **RECEIVED** as was the recommendations made to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee Inquiry on Refuse Collection without comment. The Chairman reported that Ann Rostron had contacted him to ask that further consideration be given at a later date to the proposals being made by Government about refuse collection and recycling.

### **4.4 City Centre Management Partnership**

The Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2007 and of the Board on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007 were **RECEIVED**.

### **4.5 Norwich City Centre Licensing Forum**

The minutes of the Sixth Quarterly Meeting with Residents held at TAKE 5 Gallery on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007 were **RECEIVED**.

### **4.6 Maintaining Independent Living Conference**

The Chairman reported that he had attended the conference held in Blackfriars Hall which had been well attended by a large number of charities and organisations concerned with the well-being of the elderly and that some of what was proposed was already being undertaken by the Forum though not especially for the elderly exclusively which made the Forum ineligible for grant support which would have become available if it was provided only and especially for the elderly (over 55s). His report was **RECEIVED**.

**5. PRESS CUTTINGS**

Press cuttings published since the Forum's last meeting were **RECEIVED**.

**6. LIAISON WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

**6.1 With the City Council**

No report was available.

**6.2 With the County Council**

No report was available.

**7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the next meeting should take place at City Hall, Norwich on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007 commencing at 7pm.