

# CENTRAL NORWICH CITIZENS' FORUM

## MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Forum held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008 in the Mancroft Room, City Hall, Norwich commencing at 7pm.

**PRESENT** Dawn Castle-Green, Jim Durrant, Julian Foster (in the Chair), Sarah Hall (Evening News), Hazel Harrison, Don Homfray, Barbara James, Maran McKay, Vanessa McGregor (Minute Taker), Richard Steer, Chris Wilson.

**APOLOGIES** Beryl Bottomley, Pat Daniel, Paul Eastaugh, Barbara Searle, Canon Maire Talbot.

**1 REPORT** The Chairman reported on – the settlement with Norwich City Council for 2008/09; his attendance at two meetings of representatives of residents' groups in the city to seek a consensus on what might be needed from them if a new community engagement strategy were to be introduced; later discussions about what role the Forum might play within that strategy having regard to whatever role it foresaw in view of its status as representing all the residents in the city centre and the official representative of residents in relation to the City Centre Management Partnership (CCMP), the Norwich City Licensing Forum (previously the City Centre Licensing Forum) (NCLF), Norfolk Constabulary, Safer Norwich Action Panel (SNAP), the SOS Buses and other partnerships, the developing role the Forum might adopt in the foreseeable future. He stressed the need for new members to be recruited, particularly young members and suggested that, providing that the Charity Commission approved such a proposal, it might be appropriate to invite young people from the two senior schools within its purview – Notre Dame and the Norwich School – to become members. Since the Board, on 8<sup>th</sup> May, had only approved the items reported so far it would be necessary to re-convene the Board to gain approval for an AGM to be convened and for that to confirm the new proposals, if they were agreed, to alter the Articles of Association to allow members to be recruited below the age of 18. It was suggested that the AGM should attempt to attract a large audience so as to recruit new members.

The report was **RECEIVED** and the proposals **APPROVED**

### **2. UNITARY STATUS FOR NORWICH?**

The Chairman reported on his attendance at three consultative meetings convened by the City Council and the County Council and

invited the Forum to make recommendations to the Boundary Committee as to which of the three proposals made by the Committee for a new type of unitary government it would prefer and why. After considerable discussion it was **RESOLVED** to recommend the so-called 'doughnut' option.

**3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** Hazel Harrison invited members to feel free to join the Chapelfield Society since membership was not restricted to neighbours and was available to anybody interested in joining it. Her invitation was **RECEIVED**.

The matter of the improvement of Blackfriars and St Andrew's Halls was discussed and it was **AGREED** that, when these proposals were open to consultation the need to preserve the green spaces should be recommended.

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

**RESOLVED** that future meetings should be convened only when there was need and as issues arise. When such was the case it was felt that it remained preferable to hold meetings on the first Tuesday of the month