

Northstowe CDOs Report for April 2024

Northstowe Community Forum – New Venue

The next Forum will be on Wednesday 8 May at the Western Park Pavilion in Northstowe. The drop-in session will start at 6:30pm and the presentations at 7pm. We are liaising with the presenters and setting up meetings for the Forum. We have been working with the Communications Team and distribution company for the flyers, which will be delivered to all residents to promote the new venue. New Forum sound/projector equipment has been purchased, which we have been testing. We will be asking for questions and sending out emails with the agenda once confirmed.

Raised Beds at The Cabin

We have been working with Northstowe Hub and Northstowe Horticultural Association to run a gardening workshop where the community and Youth Hive were invited to design the planting for the two raised beds in the back garden. We are hoping to have the planting session at the end of May, weather dependant.

Menopause Café

We have been working with residents and health care professionals to start a Menopause Group in Northstowe. The first Menopause Meeting will take place at the Cabin on Wednesday 24 April starting at 6pm. It will mainly be a 'Get together group' but will hopefully have guest speakers at a later date. The sessions are free and will be run monthly.

Midsummer Festival 22 June 2024

Preparations for the Midsummer Festival are under way, this will take place on The Green, it's an event for the whole community. We are supporting Northstowe Arts and Northstowe Hub with preparations, there is participation from many other groups.

Meetings attended with external agencies

- Art Strategy officer from Commission Projects appointed by Homes England to start early conversations on the art strategy for Northstowe
- Smart Journeys to discuss travel initiatives in Northstowe and update the travel brochure for Phase 2
- Cambridge Architectural Research, discussion from the prospective of people living in Northstowe and our work on community development.
- We met with representatives from the NHS, Social Prescribers and residents for the Menopause group
- Greenbelt, discussed the use of green spaces for community events
- Elite sports to discuss the Activation event and sports groups in Northstowe
- Interviewed by Thinking Place on our community work

- Northstowe Health and Wellbeing group, exchange of information and problem solve challenges around health and wellbeing in Northstowe. Liaising with professionals to support and promote health and wellbeing.
- Attending Open Space monthly meetings
- Hosted the Community Development Roadshow, which is an exchange of best practices with community development officers from across the district

Meetings with Community Groups

- Sustainable Northstowe monthly meeting and also the AGM which resulted in a full committee being voted in and new members joining the group
- Chairing, taking minutes, preparing agendas for the Community Networkers meeting where future events and initiatives are discussed
- Kickstart applications, providing information and helping interested parties to complete the application form
- Meeting with residents to discuss and plan future events and activities i.e. junior bowling, chess group and table tennis
- Attending and taking minutes for The Cabin's Management Board Meeting
- Attending and taking minutes for the Western Park Pavilion Management Board meeting
- Supporting and promoting the Social Walks through discussions including external agencies

Other work:

- Attending the Sport and Wellbeing Group meetings as a co-opted member
- Part of the Young people and adult engagement group, working towards a conference in October
- Processing bookings at The Cabin for community groups, individuals and businesses on a daily basis including raising invoices, checking payments and following up requests
- Part of various community WhatsApp groups i.e. Cabin Keyholders
- Working towards establishing a Digital Assistance programme
- Supporting a local resident to create a WhatsApp Chanel for the community
- Trying to start new sporting activities, we are looking for volunteer coaches for Touch Rugby
- Delivery of Welcome packs to Phase 2 residents, talking to them about activities and events in the community
- Supporting Sustainable Northstowe to organise the Great Big Green Week, liaising with external agencies, schools and residents
- Collecting food for the community larder on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Designing promotional material and updating social media
- Writing reports and articles for local publication

- Involvement in Northstowe Neighbourhood film
- Evening and weekend meetings and events

To contact the Community Development Officers, please email Northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk