

MINUTES

NORTHSTOWE DELIVERY GROUP

Date: Thursday 27th February 2025

Time: 12:00-13:00

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Cllr Henry Batchelor (HB)	Lead Cabinet Members for Communities - (Chair)
Cllr Paul Littlemore (PL)	Northstowe Town Council and Mayor of Northstowe
Cllr Firouz Thompson (FT)	County Councillor for Longstanton, Northstowe, Over, Oakington & Westwick
Cllr Tom Bygott (TB)	Cllr Longstanton Ward (including Longstanton, Oakington & Westwick and Northstowe)
Giuseppe Bernardis (GB)	Asset & Estate Manager, Northstowe Town Council.
Clare Gibbons (CG)	Growth Manager – Communities
Kirstin Donaldson (KD)	Service Manager - Acquisitions & Development
Peter Campbell (PC)	Head Of Housing
Yvette Noble-Conner (YNC)	Personal Assistant (Minute taker)

Apologies:

Mark Nokkert (MK)	Clerk to Northstowe Town Council
Anne Ainsworth (AA)	Chief Operating Officer & Senior Responsible Officer for the Northstowe Programme at SCDC
Cllr Richard Owen (RO)	Northstowe Town Council
Kate Swan (KS)	Project Development Lead, Commercial Development & Investment
Cllr Natalie Warren-Green (NWG)	Cllr Longstanton Ward (including Longstanton, Oakington & Westwick and Northstowe) – Chair
Marianne Whitby (MW)	Development Project Manager- Acquisition and Development

1. Welcome and Apologies (NWG)

Apologies were reported.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting and actions arising from them

Actions:

KD/MK	To arrange an informal Town Council meeting Ongoing - Once feasibility study is completed.
AA/KD	Local Centre - Pulling together briefing and program, include a briefing for the Town Council - Ongoing
CG	Look at forward planning for contribution – submit topic suggestions for future forums. Forum communication list. Transport Focus as a result, Summer forum Health Focus.

3. Updates

Faith Land (CG)

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- Bidding window launched.
- Further Faith Strategy Group meeting, representatives from all active faiths in Northstowe seeking representation, currently listed below:
 - Buddhist
 - Cambridge Alliance Church
 - Northstowe Muslims
 - Hindu Samaj Northstowe
 - Jain Community
 - Reformed Jewish Community in Cambridge, although they have now stepped back from interest.
 - Northstowe Church Network led by Pathfinder Church, alliance between the Church of England and various other Christian denominations.
 - Emmanuel Church, Baptist aligned Christian denomination.
- As this is quite a list of interested communities, there will be likely disappointed groups, noting this, there's 3 future site allocations in Northstowe after this Phase 1 allocation.
 - Phase 2 1000-1050sqm floor space
 - Phase 3A 0.15hectares – adjacent to local centre
 - Phase 3B similar size to 3A – adjacent to local centre/primary school.
- Opportunities around joint bids are welcomed, Church of England and various other Christian denominations are forming in effect a consortium.

Community Gym & Café

(CG)

- Community Gym - Window for tenders has closed, a healthy number of bidders, scoring underway at the moment – an aim to make an appointment in April.
- Decision made to take Café out of the operating contract. Meridian Trust and the school are in discussion with Northstowe Hub to operate the Café on a community basis, similarly to The Cabin – update at the community forum next week.

Update on Community Buildings/Construction (KD/MW)

- ***P1 Community Centre – Unity Centre*** **(KD)**
 - Unity Centre in Phase 1 is now under construction, proposed end date early 2026, programme on track.
 - Road surfacing works ongoing around Pathfinder Way, Links Lane and Stirling Road.
 - Groundbreaking event, Cllr Henry Batchelor and local members to mark the fact the build is beginning. Future on-site opportunities during the process.
 - Relocation of trees – aim was to retain trees, due to the roots being entangled, there was risk of losing some, so 3 new trees have been provided.
 - Blue hoarding will be fixed. Aware post and rail fence is damaged, meeting a contractor regarding this also, awaiting quotes.

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- **P2 Town Hub / Cricket Pavilion** **(KD)**
 - Atkins Realis feasibility study completed based on Section 106 – reviewing benchmarks as to whether this still meets the needs as it was originally signed in 2017.
 - Working with colleagues across County Council, Health, Libraries, Homes England and others who are specifically named and allocated space within the Town Hub.
- **Cricket Pavillion:**
 - Discussion on going around land transfer.
 - Identifying services, planning status, building start date, future governance etc – working with Homes England
 - Runs alongside the latter half of the Town Hub construction, projected 2029.

4. Highlight Report

Reviewed the highlight report, nothing major outstanding/concerning.

5. Community Forum (CG/ALL)

- Next forum 5th March 2025.
- Unity Centre to be discussed. Submission from the Town Council to submit the Unity Centre community asset transfer process to be launched.
- Finishing works from Urban & Civic
- Planning update from planning service
- Update on the Northstowe Learning Community
- Transport update from Combined Authority and VOI
- Stagecoach presentation
- Northstowe Town Council and development offices.
- Drop in from 18:30 with the formal session starting from 19:00.

6. Communications

CTF – Meridien to give a timeline on the Community Gym to ensure this information gets good reach. 2 page spread in Northstowe News featuring Community Centre and the Faith Land – deadline adjusted to feature groundbreaking also.

KD - New Council houses being delivered at Northstowe, 32 properties in total.

7. Date for next meeting

- Thursday 27th March 12:00-13:00

8. AOB

Cllr Paul Littlemore to step down as Mayor after 2 years in the position in the coming months.