

## **CDO's report for September 2024**

### Northstowe Community Forums 2024

The last Forum was held on Wednesday 11 September at Western Park Pavilion. It was well attended. For the first time, the forum was hybrid and we successfully broadcast live on Microsoft Teams. Feedback from residents informed that it worked well and the audio was clear. We are now starting preparations for the next Community Forum on 4 December.

### The Northstowe Running Festival

We had a very good morning helping as marshals for the 10K and Half Marathon, although Lottie, one of our dogs, would have preferred to be in the race rather than being an assistant.

Engaging New and Emerging Communities Conference, we are helping organise a partnership event with colleagues from Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, and the developers Urban & Civic, which takes place on Saturday 5 October. The lead speaker is Cormac Russell from Nurture Development. The invitees include planners, developers, urban designers, landscape architects, youth engagement officers and community development officers.

### Proactive Neighbourhoods

This is a programme designed for South Cambs, ran by the NHS and aimed at people who are frequent users of the services. It aims to look at preventative measures before the person reaches their threshold. Most professionals can make a referral and cases are then discussed collectively and considered by various professionals during a monthly Multi Agency Forum (MAF). The project is only in the beginning, however people referred so far are benefiting from a personalised care approach. We have recently referred a Northstowe resident and they are currently receiving multi agency support adapted to their needs.

### Digital Buddies

Following the initial Digital Buddies drop-in session on 12 July, a further session took place on 18 September. These were provided by the Citizens Advice during the Food Bank sessions. Connecting Cambridgeshire are also supporting the project and had a drop-in session on 18 September 10:30am-1:30pm to find out what local residents need in regards to digital support. The sessions are designed to offer digital assistance such as: using/downloading apps, searching information online, bus pass application. We are working towards establishing regular Digital Assistance sessions, however volunteers will be needed to run the sessions, all training will be provided.

### Junior Bowls

Thanks to the Kickstart Fund from Homes England, the Longstanton and Northstowe Bowls Club have had some fun sessions with juniors and family members. The lawn is now being prepared for next season which starts in April 2025.

### Menopause Meetings

The Menopause Group meetings are free and take place monthly on a Wednesday evening. The guest speaker for the meeting on 25 September is Ingrid from Midlife360. She will be

talking about supporting women returning to work and changing job roles whilst experiencing menopause symptoms. Future meetings will be advertised on Northstowe Facebook pages and community Noticeboards. Please contact us if you would like to help run the group.

### Community Activation Grant Fund

SCDC are administering the Northstowe Community Activation Grant Fund on behalf of Homes England. Some applications have already been received and have been successful [www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/northstowe/northstowe-community-activation-fund](http://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/northstowe/northstowe-community-activation-fund)

### Community Networkers

The Community Networkers meeting in September reviewed the Midsummer Festival. It also discussed future events i.e. Light Up Northstowe (23 November), Northstowe Tap & Social Christmas Market (16 November), and Remembrance Sunday (10 November).

### Social Walking Group

The CDOs have been supporting and joining some of the walks. There was a very successful Treasure Hunt Walk during the summer holiday, with people of all ages joining in. Please look out for future dates, routes and themes on the Northstowe Community Facebook pages and the noticeboards at The Cabin and Western Park Pavilion.

### Hallmaster

All room bookings for The Cabin are now made through Hallmaster, if you would like to see room availability, size and capacity or make a booking please go to: [The Cabin - South Cambs District Council \(scams.gov.uk\)](http://TheCabin-SouthCambsDistrictCouncil.scams.gov.uk).

### Photography Quiz

We organised a Photography Quiz which resulted in lots of beautiful photographs from around the world being submitted, people had to guess the location name. The quiz was available on the Northstowe Hub website and in printed format. The results can be found online at: [northstowehub.org](http://northstowehub.org). The five winners were contacted and collected their prizes.

### Meetings attended with external agencies

- Attending Northstowe Open Space and Landscape monthly meetings
- Liaised with the Cambridge City Council Cohesion and Resettlement Team with the view of supporting refugees who have been relocated to Northstowe
- Supported Refugee Team CRRC to make connections at Northstowe
- Recurring meetings with Smart Journeys discussing Sustainable Travel Plans
- Part of the Northstowe Communications Group which promotes Northstowe and its events; this includes Henbe Communications (supporting Homes England)
- Participated in the Proactive Neighbourhoods – South Cambs MAF meetings
- Part of the Northstowe Social Value Steering group (September meeting)
- Member of the working group for 'Engaging New & Emerging Communities Conference' which takes place on Saturday 5 October
- Participated in an Introduction to Age Friendly Communities course

- Took part in training such as: Proactive Neighbourhoods, County Lines and Criminal Exploitation
- Midlife360, a social enterprise helping women return to work, whom are participating in a future menopause group session

#### Meetings with Community Groups

- Supporting and promoting the Social Walks through discussions including external agencies
- Participating in the Northstowe Youth Partnership, sub-group meeting
- Assisting and reviewing applications for the Kickstart Fund
- Supporting Sustainable Northstowe with their Toy Swap event planned for November

#### Other work:

- CDOs meeting: Community Roadshow and site visit to Waterbeach
- Delivered Welcome Packs to residents in Phases 1 & 2 and engaging them in conversations regarding their new community, while also completing the occupation counts
- Working with colleagues for the social and economic benefit of the community
- Assisting with the formation of new community activities
- Discussing ideas and plans for future events
- Processing bookings at The Cabin for community groups, individuals and businesses on a daily basis including raising invoices, checking payments and following up requests
- Updating FAQ page on the SCDC website
- Created a new flyer for the welcome pack about the work a Social Prescriber does
- Updated the welcome letter which is part of the welcome packs
- Part of various community WhatsApp groups i.e. Cabin Keyholders, coordinating out of hours access arrangements for The Cabin
- Collecting food for the community larder on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and making this available for collection from The Cabin
- Designing promotional material and updating social media
- Writing reports and articles for local publication
- Evening and weekend meetings and events in furtherance of the above

If you would like to get involved in any projects or activities, or help with other volunteering opportunities please contact us on [northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk)