

Community Networkers – Minutes, Wednesday 9 July 2025, 7pm - 8:30pm The Cabin, Northstowe

Attendees

Graeme – Northstowe Hub, Town Council
Jawad – Northstowe Muslims/ N. Hub
Michele – SCDC
Neal – Hindu Samaj Northstowe
Michelle Kemp – Northstowe News

Apologies

Petra – Northstowe Town Council
Mari – Northstowe Arts
Val – Food Bank
Natalie – SCDC
Beth – Northstowe Church
Kathy – Walking and Menopause Groups

Agenda

1. Actions from May meeting
2. CPR/Defib training
3. Northstowe Hub: feedback given during the Midsummer Festival
4. Northstowe Art Show: Exhibition of residents' work in September
5. Let's Talk Tables conference: Creating Cohesion in New Communities – sharing invite to wider group member
6. Town Council – market update
7. Northstowe Art Exhibition – update on workshop, advice sessions etc.
8. Community Development Officer update
9. AOB

1.) Actions from the May meeting

- Fire extinguisher training cancelled
- Anita – waiting for update on discussion starter questions
- Graeme - CamLETs, there is a poster on social media. Northstowe Hub will kindly support 20 memberships. Credits can be acquired by offering a service or goods i.e. car ride, gardening, equipment and exchanged for a different service or goods
- First Aid courses may still be of interest, Action - Michelle is going to look into it.

- 2.) CPR/Defib – the session was kindly hosted by East Anglian Air Ambulance, 15 people attended the session which took place during the Community Lounge on Thursday 3 July. The feedback was very positive. A request was made for a sign outside the Cabin informing people of where an external defib could be located.

Action – Liz

- 3.) Northstowe Hub – feedback from the Midsummer Festival

- What people enjoy/want more
- Gaps and suggestions for community events/activities.

Attendees to the event were asked about what they liked most about Northstowe, they could indicate their answers by putting ping pong balls into different containers. The choices offered included, Lakes and Green Spaces, Community Groups, and Cultural Diversity. They also carried out a paper survey and have received 30 forms back.

Ideas for future events were a car boot sale, more festivals, outdoor cinema, Christmas wreath making and the possibility of market stalls.

There will be more detailed feedback from Northstowe Arts and Northstowe Hub at the September meeting, but in the meantime they would like to say ‘A big thank you to everyone that took part’, and if you have any feedback, that you have not yet shared please complete the online form at

<https://forms.gle/MCRkJ9xt6YGLmYSf8>

- 4.) Northstowe Art Show (September 26/27 September)

As part of the event there was an art workshop with local artist Ali Chappell-Bates on Thursday 26 June. There will be an advice session on ‘Exhibiting your artwork’ on Thursday 17 July at 11am at The Cabin, with an evening session to be announced.

- 5.) Conference, Let’s Talk Tables, Creating Cohesion in New Communities, Saturday 19 July, Northstowe Secondary College, 9am – 1pm. Discussions on building cohesion in new communities, focusing on migration, housing tenure and the experiences of people from diverse ages and backgrounds.

See attached poster for an invite link/QR code or register here -

<https://forms.office.com/e/qtH0bHCbws>

6.) Town Council – Market Update

On Tuesday 24th of June, the Town Council deliberated on the market and unanimously decided to temporarily pause any market activity in order to take stock and reevaluate the situation. A dedicated market working group was set up tasked to look at any future opportunities for local traders to showcase their offers, e.g. at Festivals, Events or other occasions.

The Town Council has invested significantly in setting up and running the market. However, the attendance numbers from residents and traders were not as promising as we had hoped. As the market did not seem to bring the community added value the Council envisaged, Councillors felt that this was the right decision for both residents and traders operating in the market, for the time being.

We would like to thank all traders, volunteers and residents supporting the market, and hope that in the near future we will come up with a renewed initiative that is fit for our growing and vibrant town.

We will soon reach out to the wider community for your valuable insights on the markets you have attended and any suggestions for the future. Residents or businesses with an interest in the market are also welcome to join the market working group discussions. Please contact our team at:

markets@northstowetowncouncil.gov.uk"

- 7.) 60+ 'Come and say hello'. The group has got off to lovely start with information being shared on arts and crafts, hobbies, travels to Europe, Scandinavia and Africa, gardening tips, family and friend visits, and book recommendations. The group meets every couple of weeks on a Thursday morning and is open to residents from Northstowe, the surrounding villages and anyone interested in finding out more about the area. Future dates will be advertised on community noticeboards and Northstowe Facebook pages. Please can groups also share this information through 'word of mouth', as not all people will be on social media.

8.) Community Development Officer update

From July, Mihaela started splitting her time between Northstowe and Marleigh, a new development on the edge of the city with a view to sharing learning and best practice between the two sites. Mihaela will join Michele at The Cabin every Thursday.

9.) AOB

- Northstowe Church Network would like to offer an invitation to anyone interested in Remembrance Sunday to mark their diary with Sunday 9th November 2025, and to drop Beth a message now (but she won't actually give it any more though until September!)
- Youth Hive, have their AGM on Wednesday 16th July and (by 9th) all organisational and individual members will have received the full paperwork. But, if your organisation has not yet signed up and would like to come and share in a BBQ with some of the young people between 4 and 5.30pm, then please get in touch as soon as possible. (visitor lanyards will be provided for those on the guestlist, and appropriate safeguarding protocols are in place: guests are reminded they must stay with the main group). Chair Northstowe Youth Hive chair@youth.northstowe.info People will not be able to attend unless they are registered prior to the event.
- Northstowe News: as a lot of people will be away over the summer, please could community groups submit their articles towards the end of August and not leave them until the deadline date of 1 September (Oct/Nov issue). Please also start thinking about the 1 November deadline as The Winter Festival season information will be needed for the Dec/Jan issue.
- Hindu Samaj Northstowe will be celebrating Ganesh Utsav on Sunday 31 August at Western Park Pavilion, from 10-4, as always they encourage the community to come and experience the festival. There will be a procession through Northstowe for those that can't attend but wish to experience from home, the route will be announced nearer the time.

Winter Sharad Utsav will be on Sat 4 October, the group are trying to bring the festival back to Northstowe by booking Northstowe Secondary College, this will be open to the community with inclusion from local schools etc.

- Light Up Northstowe – scheduled for Saturday 29 November, more information to follow.
- The Café at The Cabin will be closed in August.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13 July 2025