

Faith Steering Group – 17 July 2024

Attendees

Clare Gibbons – SCDC

Rev'd Stephen Dove – Northstowe Church Network

Aparna Nigam Saxena– Hindu Samaj Northstowe

Nachiket Achar – Hindu Samaj Northstowe

Jeetendra Bhattad – representative of the Jain community

Cllr Pradeep Susurla – Northstowe Town Council

Cllr Balagi Kinnera – Northstowe Town Council

Josh Monterio – Emmanuel Church

Mari O'Neil – Northstowe Arts

Phase 1 Faith Land allocation

- CG stated that the SCDC Communities team had received no further feedback on the Design Brief prepared by SCDC Urban Design team to guide development of the Phase 1 Faith Land. Therefore, the latest version as held on the Northstowe Community Forum webpage is unchanged.
- CG confirmed that Greater Cambridge Shared Planning has accepted the service corridor and junction details proposed by L&Q; L&Q have agreed to raise the level of power supply to the parcel to reflect the demand likely to be made by a building of the scale suggested by the design brief.
- CG stated that the next step will be to obtain an independent valuation of the land, which will inform the course of the decision process at SCDC.
- CG suggested that the site will need to be surveyed before and after and only after a site survey is undertaken will it be discovered if piling is required.
- CG said the aim was to have a decision taken by SCDC to allow the bidding round to open in the Autumn.

Site Visit

- JM's previous suggestion of a visit to the Cambridge College chapels was reviewed – interest from the group was expressed in this visit to explore the city's Christian heritage – Saturday October 12 was suggested as a possible

date. Action all: confirm with Northstowe.Community@scambs.gov.uk availability of this date to allow a booking to be made.

Shared Arts project

- At the previous meeting JM had suggested an arts project might provide an option for a shared activity, to bring faith groups together. To follow up on this suggestion Mari O'Neil had been invited to explore options with the Faith Strategy Group.
- Mari introduced herself and outlined the activities undertaken by Northstowe Arts. Discussion followed as to whether a project which brought faith groups together or that allowed faith groups to host separate activities around a uniting theme would be preferable. The group decided that, if a project was to be delivered in the short term, then finding an activity on which all could collaborate would be more problematic, meaning the latter was more realistic.
- Furthermore, it was considered to be easier to add value to an existing proposal (given that the Northstowe calendar is already quite full) rather than set up an entirely new and separate event.
- Opportunities concerning the Midsummer Festival were briefly discussed but the focus soon turned to the Light up Northstowe event. Mari stressed that this event was essentially secular in nature, although key religious festivals happen in close proximity. The following was proposed:
- That each religious group could host a lantern making activity that could serve a dual purpose – offering both a creative expression which connects with the beliefs of the faith group but also an opportunity to share with workshop participants insights into the beliefs and practices of the faith group concerned. See additional information provided by Northstowe Arts.
- Longer term, the Midsummer Festival could offer an opportunity to showcase musical performances from faith groups, as part of the wider programme.

AOB

- **Hindu Samaj Northstowe** is hosting a Sunday breakfast event 08 September, for which there is an open invitation.
- **The Pathfinder Primary School** are aiming to run a series of special assemblies where different faiths can share information and insights into

their religious practices – it would be useful to link these with important festivals. Please contact Revd Stephen Dove, who is putting together the programme, via stephen.dove@northstowe.church

DRAFT