

Northstowe Faith Strategy Group Meeting 19 April 2023

Present:

SCDC: Clare Gibbons (CG, Growth Manager), Ellen Bridges (EB, Development Officer)

Representing Northstowe Muslims: Saadia Ashraf (SA)/ Mohammed Waris Abdullah (MWA) had to leave.

Representing Hindu Samaj Northstowe: Lokesh Korapati (LK), Aparna Nigam (AN), Kruti Neema Faldu (KNF)

Representing Emmanuel Church, Northstowe: Josh Monteiro (Pastor) (JM)

Representing Pathfinder Church/Anglican Church Pioneer Ministers Rev'd Dr Beth Cope (BC) and Rev'd Stephen Dove (SD)

Representing Cambridge Hindu Forum: Arun

Apologies

Northstowe Town Council: Mark Nokkert

1.0 Bidding Process

- Some discussion around the optimal time of the first bidding process.
- Homes England are also considering our request for the construction vehicles of the winning bid to use the Phase 2 haul roads.
- Faith groups have previously asked if they could have an understanding of what Lot 2 is prior to the bidding process opening.
- We have received a request for site plan of the site. To ensure all faith groups and community groups received the information at the same time a webpage is to be set up on SCDC's website.
- AN asked what have neighbouring houses been informed of? CG stated that it is down to the house builders to inform potential buyers the land is allocated for faith/community uses but house buyers' solicitors should also pick this up in their checks during the conveyancing process.
- It was suggested and agreed by the group that information about the uses intended for the Phase 1 land should be made known through social media

posts (Northstowe Community Facebook page) and by promotion at forthcoming Community Forums.

2.0 Respect and Tolerance

- A discussion was had regarding respect for faith groups.
- A discussion was also had about how the faith groups could work with the school and potentially invite the RE teacher at Pathfinder and the Ethics teacher at Northstowe Secondary College to subsequent meetings so faith groups can understand what is currently taught within the curriculum and how faith groups can support. **Action: BC to put EB in contact with the teachers.**
- EB also updated the faith groups of Mihaela Stan's (Community Development Officer) plans to establish a Cultural Exchange series, one which could be led by the faith groups to help residents learn and understand more about the different faiths as well as encourage residents of no faith to come and learn more and potentially find new faith groups within the Northstowe community. **Action: EB to invite Mihaela to the next meeting so she can update the group further.**

AOB:

- KNF enquired about the temporary facility and the booking process. SCDC is currently finalising the booking process but will inform the community when enquiries can start to be made. There will be a booking link and information on our website in due course.