

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

### Northstowe Community Forums 2024

The next Forum will be held on Wednesday 4 December at Western Park Pavilion. Based on the success of the last hybrid meeting, we are proposing to do this again and broadcast live on Microsoft Teams.

### Engaging New and Emerging Communities Conference

We helped organise a partnership event with colleagues from Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, and the developers Urban & Civic, which took place on Saturday 5 October. The lead speaker was Cormac Russell from Nurture Development. It was good to meet planners, developers, urban designers, landscape architects, youth engagement officers and community development officers and making new connections.

### 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 already referred a Northstowe resident to the programme and they continue to receive multi agency support adapted to their needs. We also continue to work on supporting the residents and attend regular MAF meetings.

### Digital Buddies

Following a series of digital support drop-in sessions provided by Cambridgeshire Libraries, the Citizens Advice and Connecting Cambridgeshire, three local volunteers have come forward to train as Digital Buddies. 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 and we are in the process of arranging training for the volunteers. The aim is to create leaflets to be delivered to all households to reach those who need the support the most.

### Menopause Meetings

The Menopause Group meetings are free and take place monthly on a Wednesday evening. The next meeting is on October 23 and will be craft based. The guest speaker for the following meeting on 20 November is Katherine Mellanby, a British Menopause Specialist. Future meetings will be advertised on Northstowe Facebook pages and community Noticeboards. Please contact us if you would like to help run the group.

### Cognitive Training

We are supporting a local resident with a background in social working to set up a new initiative which supports elderly people to prevent cognitive decline. This is offered as a drop in session on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday a.m.

### Afro-Caribbean Group

We are supporting the setup of a new Afro-Caribbean community group who would like to introduce and share their culture through music, art, language, food etc.

### Community Activation Grant Fund

SCDC are administering the Northstowe Community Activation Grant Fund on behalf of Homes England. Some applications have already been received previously and have been successful [www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/northstowe/northstowe-community-activation-fund](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/northstowe/northstowe-community-activation-fund). There are no funded applications this month.

### Kickstart Fund

- ✓ Northstowe Karate Club have been successful in their application for the Kickstart Fund. The group meets on a Wednesday at 6:30pm at the Cabin.
- ✓ The Bowls club have had the remaining money from their Kickstart application approved, this will be used for an extra set of junior bowls and to cover printing costs for certificates.

### Community Networkers

The Community Networkers meeting in October included discussions on, Light Up Northstowe (23 November), Remembrance Sunday (10 November), Food Bank - they are asking for donations of new personal hygiene products, Time Banking and an introduction to a new Afro-Caribbean group that is looking for members.

### Social Walking Group

The CDOs have been supporting the walks. There was a very successful walk on Friday 4 July with lots of people joining in. Please look out for future walking dates, routes and themes on the Northstowe Community Facebook pages and the noticeboards at The Cabin and Western Park Pavilion.

### Drop In Session with the CDOs

On Tuesday 1 October we offered a drop-in session for residents with a chat over a cup of tea. Even though nobody attended, we reminded residents that we are available if anybody wanted to set up a meeting, whether this is within working hours or not. Most people drop in on an ad-hoc basis and we always make time to see them.

### Welcome Pack Delivery

We delivered welcome packs to residents in parcels H12, H13 and one household occupied by refugees on Wellington Road. Welcome packs were also delivered to Phase 2 residents on the Keepmoat site. We try to engage them in conversations regarding their new community, while also completing the occupation counts.

### 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 \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.scambs.gov.uk). We often meet residents and organisations to show them around The Cabin and discuss their option for room hire.

### SCDC Gardening Session

Over a morning in October, our team decided to tidy up the grass area at the front of The Cabin. This is still work in progress. We also weeded the raised beds in the back garden at The Cabin.

### Food Bank

We supported the Food Bank with a call for new donations. A crate is now available in the café area at The Cabin for people to place their donations, this was widely advertised on social media.

### Meetings attended with external agencies

- Attending Northstowe Open Space and Landscape monthly meetings
- Springstead Village – part of the focus group which looked at the planning application design, hosted by Bellway Latimer Cherry Hinton LLP
- Let's Cook, working on an event to be held in February 2025
- Working with the Family Liaison Officer at Pathfinder School to share opportunities which will benefit students and their families
- Attended the Capital and Centric recent drop in session at Tap and Social
- Time banking meeting
- Supported Hope CIC with making new connections
- Liaising with the Cambridge City Council Cohesion and Resettlement Team with the view of supporting refugees who have been relocated to 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
- Quarterly Northstowe Update meeting with Homes England, Northstowe Town Council, Longstanton Parish Council

### Meetings with Community Groups

- Supporting and promoting the Social Walks through discussions including external agencies
- Northstowe Sports & Wellbeing Committee meeting
- Participating in the Northstowe Youth Partnership, sub-group meeting
- Assisting and reviewing applications for the Kickstart Fund
- Met the chair of ShedIt and discussed a potential future collaboration with Northstowe

### Other work:

- 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
- Signing up new keyholders for The Cabin
- Supporting Residents with welfare connections
- Testing the alarms and lights on a weekly basis
- 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

### CPD

- Attended a two-part course: Carbon Literacy Training
- Webinar: Let's Talk about Hate Crime
- Attended a course on Understanding Autism

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)