

## Community Networkers - 4 September 7pm

### **Attendees**

Mari – Northstowe Arts  
Beth – Northstowe Church Network/Youth Hive  
Stephen – Northstowe Church Network  
Petra – Northstowe Town Council  
Peter – Northstowe Hub  
Maria – Sustainable Northstowe  
Alex – Northstowe Tap and Social

### **Apologies**

Neil – Hindu Samaj Northstowe  
Aparna – Hindu Samaj Northstowe  
Michele - SCDC  
Mihaela - SCDC

#### 1. Midsummer Festival

- Mari had previously shared a report evaluating the Midsummer Festival. Any further feedback to be shared with Mari. Northstowe Arts/Hub looking at repeating Midsummer festival next year – 21 June 2025, potentially extending the timings 12-8pm. This will increase the programme without needing additional space.
- Location to be considered: Conclusion between Northstowe Arts and Hub is that having a visible location (on The Green) for this event is more important than more space. Willingham Wolves will be holding their annual tournament during the morning. Next year they are looking at having more of a community angle. Aim is for the organisations to help promote each other's event rather than combine. Willingham Wolves event will enable a sport focus with Midsummer Festival more of an art focus.
- A discussion was had about funding, Northstowe Arts received no donations and Northstowe Hub only received a very small amount. There is limited understanding with the community of how much these events cost Mari hoping to publish a small report which would include some of the costings.
- Will be seeking business sponsorship to support next year's event.

- Volunteers – could have done with some more stewards – thinking how we incentivise in the future – potentially through a food van voucher. Will liaise with the uniformed services for next year.

## 2. Light Up Northstowe 23 November

- Plan is for a similar event to 2 years ago. The lantern parade will finish at The Green ready for the light switch on. Prime Brass will lead the parade. Lantern workshops will be held in weeks building up to the event.
- Working with NTC/Foodies/Northstowe Hub. NTC organising the tree, Foodies organising food vans and Northstowe Hub will run the café and looking at offering a free offer, probably hot chocolate again.
- There will be a raised cover stage, professional sound and lighting – school choirs/bands will perform. **Action: EC to share proposed location with colleagues given the construction of the community building.**
- Sustainable Northstowe will hold a toy swap in The Cabin and NA are also looking at having a small ecofriendly market – will be putting a call out for ecofriendly local makers.
- Pathfinder Church hope to launch the maps of the advent window. EC encouraged Pathfinder Church to contact Western Park Pavilion. Alex at Tap and Social very keen to have a window too.
- Any groups keen to be involved in LUN get in touch with Mari [mari@northstowearts.co.uk](mailto:mari@northstowearts.co.uk)
- There will be no marked on Sunday 24 November.

## 3. Northstowe Tap & Social Christmas Market – 16 November

- Alex from Northstowe Tap and Social attended the meeting. Tap and Social are very keen to get involved in community events.
- Arranging a Christmas Makers/Craft Market 16 November so will include ceramics/illustrations/craft gifts. Looking at having some carol singers. **Action: Beth to provide some contacts.**
- Timings tbc.
- Free for the stall holders as it is the first one.

#### 4. Winter Festival

- A discussion was had regarding the future of the Winter Festival. It was previously set up to attract new audiences, help as a communication channel and also assist in promotion when there wasn't The Wing or Cabin.
- Those at the meeting felt that there are a lot more communication channels and community groups have their own websites too where they promote their events so is this just duplication?
- Groups are still encouraged to organise activities/events over the winter period but those at the meeting did not feel there was an added benefit using the logo or website to promote the events. If anyone is very interested in coordinating the Winter Festival website contact [peter@northstowehub.org](mailto:peter@northstowehub.org)
- A reminder for groups to use the clash calendar held on Northstowe Hub's website when considering planning events. Enables groups to see what events others are looking to organise  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-ZFCesCUUf5F2mELGBoPRyBLkXUKI3qwyTtGBR0pDbk/edit?usp=sharing>

#### 5. AOBs

- Remembrance Sunday 10 November – Bug Hunter Waters
- If faith groups wish to tell a story, please contact [beth.cope@northstowe.church](mailto:beth.cope@northstowe.church)