

Faith Strategy Group – 3 September
Update on the Faith Land Allocation

Attendees

Clare Gibbons – SCDC

Ellen Cox – SCDC

Rev'd Beth Cope – Northstowe Church Network

Rev'd Stephen Dove – Northstowe Church Network

Aparna Nigam Saxena – Hindu Samaj Northstowe

Cllr Pradeep Susurla – Northstowe Town Council

Cllr Shola Delip – Northstowe Town Council

Apologies

Josh Monterio – Emmanuel Church

Mohammad Waris Abdullah – Northstowe Muslims

- Minutes from the last meeting approved

Faith Land Allocation

- The purpose for the meeting was to update the group on the faith land allocation process including land transfer to SCDC.
- L&Q Estates have recently been acquired by Urban&Civic.
- The faith land timeline has changed and as result Urban&Civic will not be in position to transfer the land to SCDC until Jan 2026.
- SCDC are looking to take a pragmatic approach – have asked Urban&Civic for access to conduct a survey on the land and have asked for reassurance that the transfer of the land will happen at the start of the 2026 at the very latest. Urban&Civic will provide best endeavours, SCDC looking to strengthen that.
- Previously the preference was to open the bidding process post land transfer. SCDC are now looking for a Cabinet decision (to be taken in November) to open the bidding process prior to land transfer. **Action:** All faith groups to provide feedback on this suggestion Northstowe.Community@scambs.gov.uk

- CG confirmed that the service corridor has now been agreed.
- BC asked if the plan is to still provide a 999-year lease. CG explained we need to ascertain what rental income the Council could derive from the land given the constrained development potential of the site so we can calculate the extent of the income foregone and if a decision by the Secretary of State is required.
- **Action:** All groups to provide CG with what the minimum lease period faith groups would need.

AOB

- Hindu Samaj Ganesh Utsav Fri 6th Sept – Sun 8th September Western Park Pavilion all invited.
- Northstowe Muslims' Foundation Day 15th September Western Park Pavilion https://northstowemuslims.org/upcoming_events/nm-foundation-day. All invited.
- Saturday October 12 still a possible date to visit the Cambridge College chapels. **Action:** Confirm with Northstowe.commmunity@scambs.gov.uk availability to allow a booking to be made.