

## **CDO's report for November 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. The details on how to join the online meeting will be available on the SCDC website on the Northstowe Forum page.

### 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 have agreed on a regular Digital Assistance session on the first Wednesday of the month 1-2pm (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in January). The next sessions will take place on: 4 December, 8 January, 5 February. We are also 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. The service was extended to parents at the local schools

### Menopause Meetings

The Menopause Group meetings are free and take place monthly on a Wednesday evening. The last meeting was on 20 November, the guest speaker was Katherine Mellanby, a British Menopause Specialist. The next meeting will be a social gathering and will be advertised on Northstowe Facebook pages and community Noticeboards.

### 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 10-11 a.m.

### Afro-Caribbean Group

African Heritage Event: this was held on Sunday 10 November with support from Northstowe Hub. They had a successful first event and moving on with that momentum, they are aiming for a spring/summer festival where they are able to use the outdoors to showcase their cultural heritage through dance, art and music. Around October 2025, they are aiming to commemorate Black History month where they can host events potentially with guest speakers with a goal to promote education, cultural pride and leadership especially amongst the youth.

### 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. This month Northstowe Arts received funding towards Light Up Northstowe. [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).

### Community Networkers

The Community Networkers meeting in November included discussions on, Light Up Northstowe (23 November), a proposed Northstowe Art Exhibition for late 2025 and the Meridian Academies Trust – final art showcase (9 July 2025). For the Beer and Carols event, the brass band has agreed to play before and after the carols. More volunteers are still required, there will be an email sent out in the next couple of weeks. The Food Bank volunteers are interested in having a table at events so they can tell people about their work for the community.

We are looking to keep a list of people who would be happy to translate for us. This may be for information relating to using the foodbank (especially for refugees), an event, activities and support groups at The Cabin in Northstowe. We are looking for the biggest range of languages possible, please email [northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk) if you are happy for us to have your name, language/s spoken and written and the level of translation i.e. basic, fluent.

### Social Walking Group

The CDOs have been supporting the walks. The last social walk was on Friday 22 November. There will be an Advent Window walk on Sunday 22 December starting at The Cabin at 4pm. Future walking dates, routes and themes will be advertised on the Northstowe Community Facebook pages and the noticeboards at The Cabin and Western Park Pavilion.

### Drop In Session with the CDOs

On Tuesday 5 November 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.

### New Volunteers

This month we were approached by three new residents who would like to get involved in voluntary work. We met with each of them and advised of all volunteering opportunities in our community based on their personal interests.

### Welcome Pack Delivery

We delivered welcome packs to residents in parcels H5, H12 and H13. 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 \(scamb.gov.uk\)](https://www.scamb.gov.uk). We often meet residents and organisations to show them around The Cabin and discuss their option for room hire.

### SCDC and Northstowe Hub Gardening Session

The final part of the grant from Keepmoat was used to purchase a selection of spring bulbs for the raised beds at the back of the Cabin. These have now been planted, and hopefully will bring some colour to the garden in the springtime.

### Thermal Cameras

We had some initial conversations with Cambridge Carbon Footprint to discuss the option of having a thermal camera available for Northstowe residents on site. While discussions are still in progress, we have invited the CCF team to have a stall at the Light Up Northstowe event to raise awareness of this free offer to residents as well as to try and recruit a potential host.

### Nursery Visit

On Wednesday 20 November we had a visit to the new Nursery at the Northstowe Education Campus. Their Ofsted inspection has been successful, and they are currently taking bookings for 2 – 4 year olds. There will be places available for children from 9 months from January 2025.

### HOPE CIC Christmas Hampers

You have the opportunity to nominate a South Cambs resident who would benefit from a free Christmas hamper delivered to their door this Christmas. Complete the form on this link by 8 December: <https://hopeagainst.org/christmas-hampers>

### Meetings attended with external agencies

- Attending Northstowe Open Space and Landscape monthly meetings
- Supported Greenbelt with their drop in session
- We attended an event in Cambourne which looked at the design of skate parks/BMX tracks, community engagement, planning and insurance.
- We had a meeting with the Director of the Let's Cook Project to discuss the plans for an event to be held in February 2025 with Primary School children
- Liaising with BPHA to support their services in the community
- 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
- We had a tour of the Cambourne Youth Centre which included a discussion on the benefits of the facilities and how they could be improved.
- We attended the Annual Osborn Memorial Event 2024: the role of the creative industries in placemaking which took place on 6 November at The Actors Church, in Covent Garden.
- Quarterly Northstowe Update meeting with Homes England, Northstowe Town Council, Longstanton Parish Council.

#### Meetings with Community Groups

- Supported Northstowe Arts with Light Up Northstowe and volunteered on the day.
- Supporting and promoting the Social Walks through discussions including external agencies.
- Northstowe Sports & Wellbeing Committee meeting.
- Sustainable Northstowe meeting.
- Participating in the Northstowe Youth Partnership, sub-group meeting.

#### 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.
- Part of the SCDC Growth Team meetings.
- 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

If you would like to get involved in any projects or activities, or help with other volunteering opportunities please contact us on

[northstowe.community@scams.gov.uk](mailto:northstowe.community@scams.gov.uk)