

Sustainable Northstowe Meeting

Monday 18th March 2024

Attendees: Maria, Chris, Tarek, Mihaela, Maria, Yan, Bethany

1. AGM

New date of 27th March has been advertised – 2 to 3 members confirmed plus one non-member. We need 7 members to be quorum.

If we cannot get enough members, we will need to move it to May (as Maria is unavailable to Chair it in April). If May does not go ahead, we will need to organise a public meeting to close the group.

2. Past Events

- a. Litter pick in partnership with Pathfinder Church- 17th March. This was well attended. Partnered with the Scouts so we had numerous groups picking around Northstowe. Met at the Cabin at the end to drop off bags of rubbish and claim free hot chocolate. We also did a brand audit alongside the litter pick.

3. Upcoming Events

- a. Food Waste Action Week- social media posts have been scheduled for the week.
- b. Annual Town Meeting – 30th April- all community groups have been offered a 5-minute slot to present their work to the community.
Beth is available to do this as long as it is after 8pm.
ACTION- To email Mark re. Bethany available from 8pm.
- c. GBGW Skip Day – 15th June. Skips will be on site early for a few hours.
 - i. Could we also organise a Toy Swap- could get younger people available with an SCDC officer that is DBS checked looking after them. Beth also happy to help if we can get her DBS checked.
ACTION - Book space for toy swap in the Cabin
ACTION - Advertise for volunteers for clothes swap and toy swap
ACTION - Speak to Hub about whether they can be open
- d. Markets – Seed swap on 24th March. NHA Committee volunteers will be helping out! Bethany will also doing upcycling stall.

4. Community Pantry

- a. Need someone to cover whilst I'm away on holiday- main task will be to call Co-op if a collection is unable to be made and to be point of contact.
 ACTION - speak to pantry volunteers about cover
- b. Wednesdays are very busy so 2nd volunteer collections to start
 ACTION volunteers to be spoken to about 2nd collection

5. Plastic Free Longstanton & Northstowe

- a. Big Plastic Count – we have been promoting this on social media -
<https://thebigplasticcount.com/>
- b. Surfers Against Sewage update- there are some new staff on the team so they are doing a check-in with teams/leaders.
 ➤ Mass unwraps still to be done but no update yet on when this will restart.
- c. Plastic Free Sign Ups-
 - i. Food vans – slow to get any more to sign up. Perhaps a push on the newer vans.
 ACTION to contact Foodies to ask for a renewed push.
 - ii. Northstowe Tap & Social – to be contacted once open
 - iii. Sports Pavillon – to be contacted once open.
 - iv. The Cabin is also asking bookings to be aware of single-use plastic and to use alternatives where possible.

6. Community Clothes Rail- the winter clothing was a hit. Mihaela reported that many clothes were dropped off and also taken. The clothes rail is now nearly empty so would be a good time to start a new theme. Baby & Toddler clothes is the preferred choice, and also maternity wear if there is room.

7. AOB.

- a. WhatsApp Channels- a new WhatsApp channel is being created for events around Northstowe. Users details are kept anonymous and only admins can post/comment. Maria to join as admin on behalf of Sustainable Northstowe.
- b. Park run coming soon! This is a great opportunity for people to get out in nature, as the trail will be around the lakes!