

CDO's report for December 2024

Northstowe Community Forums 2024

The last Forum was held on Wednesday 4 December at Western Park Pavilion. It was offered as a hybrid meeting, broadcast live on Microsoft Teams. The presentation slides and notes will be available on the SCDC website on the Northstowe Forum page soon.

Digital Assistance

The Digital Assistance sessions are designed to offer support such as: using/downloading apps, searching information online, email accounts. We have agreed on regular Digital Assistance sessions on the first Wednesday of the month 1-2pm (2nd Wednesday in January due to Bank Holiday). The last session took place on 4 December and the next sessions will take place on: 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 support the most. The service was extended to parents at the local schools.

Menopause Support Group Meetings

The Menopause Group meetings are free and take place monthly on a Wednesday evening. The next meeting will be a social gathering on Wednesday 18 December at the Tap & Social starting at 6pm. Meetings at The Cabin will resume on Wednesday 15 January and will be advertised on Northstowe Facebook pages and community Noticeboards.

Cognitive Training

There will be a gap in this provision in December and January and we will inform everyone as soon as the sessions resume.

Upcycle Christmas Decorations Workshop

We supported a local resident to organise a workshop to make new Christmas decorations out of recycled materials. This took place at The Cabin on 8 December in collaboration with sustainable Northstowe.

Refugee Families

We attended a get together for the refugee families recently relocated to Northstowe. This took place at The Cabin on 14 December and it had participation for various other agencies and organisations with a view to support the new arrivals integrate in their new community and access local services.

Fire Drill

We conducted a fire drill on Tuesday 3 December in the morning where The Cabin was fully evacuated. Going forward, we plan to have regular fire drills to ensure the safety of all our users.

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. Last month Northstowe Arts received funding towards Light Up Northstowe. www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/northstowe/northstowe-community-activation-fund.

Community Networkers

The next Community Networkers meeting is on Wednesday 8 January, a reminder with requests for agenda items will be sent out before and after the Christmas break. Please contact northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk if you would like to know more about the group.

Social Walking Group

The CDOs have been supporting the walks. There will be a family friendly Advent Window Walk on Sunday 22 December starting at The Cabin at 4pm, followed by free refreshments. 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 3 December 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 H5, H12 and H13. Welcome packs were also delivered to Phase 2 residents on the Keepmoat site. We try to engage residents in conversations regarding their new community while also completing the occupation counts.

Hallmaster

All room bookings for The Cabin are 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 \(scambs.gov.uk\)](http://TheCabin-SouthCambsDistrictCouncil.scambs.gov.uk). We often meet residents and organisations to show them around The Cabin and discuss their option for room hire.

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, the next step will be to identify a potential host. We are working with Cllr. Bros Sabria and Sustainable Northstowe towards a grant application to obtain funding for the purchase of a new thermal camera for Northstowe.

Meetings attended with external agencies

- Attending Northstowe Open Space and Landscape monthly meetings
- 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). This month included a Northstowe Place Making Brand creative session.
- 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

- 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.
- Working with Northstowe Table Tennis to support their initial sessions in 2025 at Northstowe Education Centre. This will take place on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings, starting 13 January.

Other work:

- Gave a presentation at the 'Communities Offer Webinar' (28 Nov) on Supporting Community Growth.
- Helped with SCDC's Christmas Market at Cambourne Village College on Saturday 7 December
- 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.
- A 'buddy' to a new member of staff, to help them settle into SCDC
- 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

If you would like to get involved in any projects or activities, or help with other volunteering opportunities please contact us on northstowe.community@scambbs.gov.uk