

Northstowe Community Networkers – minutes Wednesday 8 November 2023

Attendees

Mari – Northstowe Arts
Stephen – Pathfinder Church
Beth – Youth Group and Pathfinder Church
Graeme – Northstowe Hub
Neal – Hindu Samaj
Shola – Northstowe Town Council and Sports and Wellbeing
Maria – Sustainable Northstowe
Petra – Northstowe Town Council
Jawad – Northstowe Muslims
Anne – Open Mic
Michele – South Cambridgeshire District Council

Apologies for absence

Josh – Emmanuel Church
Marcin – Northstowe Sport & Wellbeing Group
Natalie – District Councillor
Kathy – Social walking group

Agenda

1. Introducing: Open Mic Sessions
2. Winter Festival
3. Kickstart Fund
4. Next Community Litter Picking
5. Groups Update
6. AOB

1. Open Mic

Sessions will take place fortnightly, they started on 28 October run by local resident Anne Jenkins, who has experience of being in a band and running karaoke sessions. The first session had 3 performers and six people in the audience, she is hoping it will grow with time. It takes place in the Cabin from 6:30pm – 9pm. Information on dates will be on the Open Mic Facebook Page.

2. Winter Festival

Northstowe Switch-On: This is being led by Northstowe Town Council. The event will take place on Saturday 25 November, on The Green from 5pm – 8pm. There will be Christmassy songs starting at 5pm which lead up to the countdown of The Light Switch-on by the Town Mayor at 6pm. Northstowe Foodies have arranged for food and drinks vans to be available from 5pm – 8pm. Northstowe Hub will be serving free hot chocolate from 5pm – 7pm. For more information, please go to: northstowetowncouncil.gov.uk

Pathfinder Church, Remembrance Day Service – information can be found on Northstowe.Church/Remembrance. Uniformed organisations will walk around the lake to meet residents. There will be a two minute silence at 11am. People will then share stories from Northstowe, these are on the website. If the weather is bad, it is suggested that the shared stories are read from the website at home.

Northstowe Arts, Lighting up the Longest Night – people are being asked to display lanterns/lights etc. on 21st December and there will be a competition for most creative display. In advance, we are collaborating with various community groups and organisations including Pathfinder Church, the schools and Northstowe Hub to offer opportunities for members of the community to make lanterns – Pathfinder Church’s workshop was during their Afternoon Tea on Sunday 12th. More info at <https://www.northstowearts.co.uk/projects/light-up-longest-night>

Northstowe Arts will also be running a signage project which will take place around the lakes with workshops planned for January 2024.

Northstowe Community Cinema – the next event will be in February and linked to valentine’s Day (14 February).

Open Mic – Anne will be singing Christmas songs at 5pm on the 25 November for an hour before the Tree Lighting at 6pm.

Hindu Samaj, Diwali – Dance workshop at Pathfinder School. They will also be doing food tasting, crafts and a lantern workshop with the Community Lounge. The Hindu Samaj group have been using a venue in Milton as their events have attracted between 250 – 350 people.

Sustainable Northstowe - are having a Toy Swap on Sunday 10 December at the market.

Pathfinder Church

- **Advent Windows** – the theme is Festive Heroes and Villains. This is open to individuals and groups, they still need 7/8 more windows, now Halloween is over, they are hoping that more people will be interested in decorating a window. For more information will go to www.northstowe.church/adventwindows
- **Friday 15th December:**
 - **7-7.45pm: Northstowe’s Beer and Carols led by a local Brass Band** around the Christmas Tree on The Green, with Northstowe Foodies’ Food and Drink trucks (5-8pm), and free Hot Chocolate from Northstowe Hub Café before the carols (6.30-7.30pm)
- **Longest Night (21st December):**
 - **From Dusk: #LightUpLongestNight** Join us and others as we display lanterns or light up windows all over Northstowe.
 - **8-8.30pm, Campfire Compline:** acknowledging that things can still feel dark even in this season of light. Outside Church House, 6 Woodpecker Close
- **Christmas Eve (24th December)**
 - **3.30-4.30pm Scratch Nativity** - Come dressed as a Nativity character to The Pathfinder CofE Primary School Hall

- **11.40pm-12.20am Midnight Campfire Communion** outside The Pathfinder CofE Primary School [inside if wet]
- **Christmas Day (25th December)**
- **9.30-10.30am Christmas Celebration** with pastries, carols, and storytelling in The Pathfinder CofE Primary School Hall

Northstowe Hub – partnering with local groups.

- An additional opening of the café this Saturday from 2pm – 4pm. They are the hosts for the Winter Festival website.
- They are going to be the lead for the Mother Language Day on February 21 or 22, they are looking for guest speakers.

Northstowe Muslims – this is a quiet period for them, they are enjoying other groups' events and will support them where possible.

Youth Group – they will not be advertising anything as they are full to capacity at the moment.

Town Council – Christmas themed market on Sunday 17 December, there will be a Father Christmas Grotto with elves in The Cabin from 10am – 2pm

3. **Kickstart fund** - Next closing date will be 3rd Jan for applicants, there is a new form available. There are no new applications at the moment. An application for Touch Rugby has been approved, this is due to start in April with promotions from January onwards. The application for Table Tennis is waiting for more information on room hire/storage at the Sports Pavilion.
4. **Next Community Litter Picking** – in conjunction with Sustainable Northstowe. It was decided that monthly litter picking was not needed and that an occasional big litter pick would be best. It was decided to have the next one on Sunday 17 March, which also happens to be St Patrick's Day, and is going to be called 'Spring Clean in Green', Northstowe Hub will also be involved. It was suggested to hold the event from 11am – 3pm so that Pathfinder Church and Emmanuel Church could both be involved.

5. **Groups update**

Emmanuel Church: Christmas plans include an advent pack with daily video on Facebook, wreath making (1 Dec), Crafts and carols (10 Dec), traditional carol service (17 Dec) and Christmas around the world (24 Dec).

Northstowe Town Council Update: We have some great news from NTC as it was approved to continue with weekly Sunday markets, and monthly full markets on the 4th week of the month, all from 10am – 2pm. On weeks when there is no monthly market, a table in the Café has been allocated for community groups to have a stall or run a small activity. In addition, the Community Lounge will also continue on Thursdays 6pm – 8pm.

These two projects have the community at its core and are very much interlinked with local partners such as Northstowe Hub and other community groups. For any ideas of activities or to join the community lounge, contact cllr.delip@northstowetowncouncil.gov.uk . For community group/charities or ideas for a stall during weekly markets on a Sunday, please email cllr.brossabria@northstowetowncouncil.gov.uk

Social Walking in Northstowe: These have been taking place on a Friday morning starting at 10:15am from The Cabin. The last one was around the newly opened lake, future dates will be advertised on the local Facebook pages and the noticeboard on The Green.

6. AOBs

- Recycling/rubbish bins at The Cabin, the bins are being used incorrectly on a daily basis
 - Purple bin** – for recycling of clean cardboard, paper, cans, glass bottles, plastic and clean empty plastic bags.
 - Blue bin** – for general waste, and cardboard, paper etc. which is no longer clean due to food waste, glue/glitter etc. (different to the use of domestic bins supplied to households)
 - Brown bin** – food waste.
- Would it be possible for Sustainable Northstowe to arrange for real Christmas trees to be sold at one of the Sunday Markets. Shola and Maria to looking into this for Sunday 3 December.
- Town council – due to the weather at this time of the year, the markets are going to be inside from November to March and possibly April. Some stall holders still want to remain outside, due to the size of their stands.
- There is a bike repair this Sunday, 12 November, alongside the market.
- Volunteers, more are needed for the Community Lounge, Café and ParkPlay.
- Northstowe Hub have sold 740 drinks since they started, with an average of 40 people attending the café on a Wednesdays and Sundays.
- Youth Group – the Café is making the youth feel very grown up. They need more volunteers for a new group hoping to start on a Monday evening for Years 10, 11, 12, 13.
- The Northstowe Hub Trustees are in the process of updating their DBSs.

Coat rails – there was a request for a coat rail in Assembly room 1 and 2 and the café, as the weather is getting worse, people will need somewhere to hang their coats whilst attend an event/activity etc.

Next meeting:

Wednesday 13 December – to include CCVS

Wednesday 10 January – to discuss events/activities for 2024