

Northstowe Faith Strategy Group Meeting, 20 September 2023

Present:

Revd Steven Dove, Pathfinder Church (Church of England)

Josh Monteiro, Pastor, Emmanuel Church Northstowe

Clare Gibbons, Growth Manager, SCDC

Apologies:

Ellen Gibbons, SCDC

Revd Beth Cope, Pathfinder Church

1. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and agreed as accurate.

It was noted that SD was the only representative present at the last meeting, but the minutes would be accepted as a true record.

2. Update on the webpage and bidding process.

CG reported that the bidding process was still planned to open in January.

The webpage to hold documentation already approved and in the public realm has been prepared but will remain unpublished, until such time as one outstanding technicality has been resolved.

3. Planning update

CG reported that the [planning application for the permanent community building for Phase 1 has been submitted by South Cambridgeshire District Council](#) to the Greater Cambridge Share Planning Service. The window for public consultation remains open, with the deadline for comments being Friday 22 September. If groups wish to comment regarding whether the facility will cater for faith needs in operational terms and as a venue for faith based events and activities, submissions can be made via the [planning portal](#), using planning reference number, 23/03248/REM.

4. Remembrance Day service, 12 November 2023

SD reported that, as per the document previously circulated by Revd Beth

Cope, plans were well developed for a Remembrance Day Service to be held

by the bridge over Bug Hunter Waters. If groups wished to be involved with this ceremony, contributing a reading, or laying a wreath, can they please contact Rev Dr Beth Cope [beth.cope@northstowe.church](mailto:beth.cope@northstowe.church)

5. Inter-faith litter pick

SD reported that Pathfinder Church have been liaising with Sustainable Northstowe with a view to arranging a litter picking event to fall within Inter-faith week, potentially with the theme of “Care for Creation”, with the date 18 November suggested. If other groups would be interested in collaborating with this, please contact Stephen Dove [stephen.dove@northstowe.church](mailto:stephen.dove@northstowe.church)

6. Forthcoming events, festivals and further opportunities for joint working

SD and JM both expressed an interest in the potential to providing additional content to the light switch on event 25 November. Since no representatives from Northstowe Town Council or Hindu Sumaj Northstowe were present, no real discussion was possible, beyond a general willingness to support the event. It was understood both that Northstowe Town Council would be leading the actual switch on and that this was likely to be discussed at the forthcoming town council meeting, 26 September. **ACTION CG**, SCDC to reach out to other members of the Faith Strategy Group to ascertain interest in meeting to discuss ideas to support the light switch on event, Monday 25 September.

7. Welcome letter to residents.

SD asked that SCDC share the contact details provided within the Welcome Pack, made available to new residents, in order that groups can check whether contact details are accurate. These were to be provided with the minutes of the meeting, **ACTION CG**, see below. Please send any updates to [Northstowe.Community@scams.gov.uk](mailto:Northstowe.Community@scams.gov.uk)

**Faith Groups**

Emmanuel Church	<a href="https://www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org/">https://www.emmanuelchurchnorthstowe.org/</a>
Hindu Samaj	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/hindusamajnorthstowe">https://www.facebook.com/hindusamajnorthstowe</a>

Northstowe Muslims	<a href="https://northstowemuslims.org/">https://northstowemuslims.org/</a>
Pathfinder Church	<a href="https://www.northstowe.church/">https://www.northstowe.church/</a>

8. SD reported that the Pathfinder R.E. teacher, Mrs Charlie Phillips, was interested in involving representatives from Hindu and Muslim groups in the curriculum activities relating to Diwali and Aqiqah, which are both on the syllabus for this term. Please contact [cphillips@pathfinderschool.org.uk](mailto:cphillips@pathfinderschool.org.uk) to find out more.

9. Future meetings

It was suggested that the next meeting (October) should be focused on a visit to [Cambridge Central Mosque](#). ACTION: SCDC to enquire regarding arrangements.

The November meeting will be a formal meeting, to be held in person 17:30-19:00 Weds 15 November at the Temporary Community Centre.