

Northstowe Community Networkers – minutes Wednesday 10 January 2024

Attendees

Mari – Northstowe Arts
Stephen – Pathfinder Church
Graeme – Northstowe Hub
Peter – Northstowe Hub
Aparna – Hindu Samaj
Neal – Hindu Samaj
Petra – Northstowe Town Council
Kathy – Emmanuel Church
Alan- Emmanuel Church
Susan - Friends of Pathfinder School
Ellen – South Cambridgeshire District Council
Michele – South Cambridgeshire District Council

Apologies for absence

Firouz – County Councillor

Agenda

1. Calendar 2024 – community group events
2. Light Switch On event
3. Feedback forms from Christmas Events
4. Permissions for events

Introductions

By all attendees, useful people attending the first time and as a reminder

1. **Calendar 2024 – community group events and**
2. **Light Switch On event**

Hindu Samaj

- Have created a calendar for 2024, kept Light Switch On date free from their events
- Diwali Light Festival – 15 and 16 November, they would also like to join in with Light Switch on.
- Would like to collaborate with other groups for outreach activities
- Would like other faith/community groups to experience their events

Action: Peter to add January and February events to the Winter Festival Calendar

Northstowe Hub

Mother Languages Day celebration 24 February.

Action: Graeme has reached out to different community groups and asks that anyone willing to teach a few words or phrases (from 3-5pm) contact him at graeme@northstowehub.org or via FB/WhatsApp +447447379944

Does the group want a Northstowe Day on Tuesday 7 May or around the longest day/solstice June 21 or 22 *, to include a picnic and cinema (cinema information to be provided by Mari). To make sure the event does not clash with other events. June date would be after school exams, and the Solstice is celebrated by a lot of faiths. It will take place at The Cabin and on The Green, the cinema may need to be at a different location - see more information below under Northstowe Arts. Northstowe Hub are happy to lead or be coordinator, need other groups to help plan and shape the day.

*Subsequent meeting with Northstowe Arts/Cinema group means Solstice event will be on Saturday 22 June 2024 but without cinema (due to light evenings). Northstowe Arts still partnering.

What do other groups want to bring to it, Northstowe Arts - Street dance or flash mob with Stardust and Hindu Samaj; Bollywood dance. SCDC, Emmanuel Church to be involved in some way, Pathfinder Church to feed back.

Action: Peter and Mari - working group to be formed.

Hindu Samaj

September event (Ganesh Utsav) plus café, to be discussed. They have made a flyer for all their events in 2024, to be discussed at future meetings.

Emmanuel Church

January Blues: jazz and Pudding evening, Friday 12 January, Josh to update on further events.

Pathfinder

Feb afternoon tea. Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, 13 February. Good Friday 29 March, 3:30 – 5pm afternoon tea.

Beer and Carols date to be decided

Friends of Pathfinder School

They will be in the Tesco blue coins at Bar Hill for 3 months. No other event dates to give at the moment.

Northstowe Arts

Two signs being designed for two of the lakes (one each), workshop on 23 March open to everyone. 17 March launch for the Unity Lake sign possibly collaborating with a litter pick with Northstowe Hub. End of May event for the second sign

24 Feb, Cinema – family film in the afternoon, early evening older audience, outline planning for May and Oct half terms.

Joining in with Solstice and big event for Light up Northstowe, parade, school choirs, would like to work with all community groups present, would like to start planning this now

Whilst it would be possible to do an open-air screening, because sunset is so late, they would be looking at either a late start (9.30pm?) or hiring significantly more expensive equipment (LED screen). They may talk to Marcin about having the cinema at the Running Festival in September instead.

They are still keen to progress the idea of the dance/green spaces activation for the solstice event – thinking Saturday could work better than the Friday from their point of view.

Mari will progress Solstice event plans with Northstowe Hub.

Town Council

Discussed Light Switch On event at the Market and Events meeting on 9 January. Would like to have the food trucks, to work in partnerships with other groups, they will do the Christmas tree/lights and foodies.

Upgrade Santa's outfit, but there is no budget for the staging. Potential music licence, stewarding – 6 stewards needed. Date reserved is 23 November 2024, this has been out on the Northstowe Google calendar

Review of Xmas 23 from meeting held 09/01- The Councillors that were present all agreed that they felt Xmas 23 went well and it would be good to continue in the same vein for Xmas 24 as we did for Xmas 23. Food and Drinks Van, Stewarding from Phoenix, maybe a surprise Visit from Santa, but maybe not advertised as it was last year. We will be looking into maybe purchasing a different Santa outfit. The tree is also to be organised by us. It was discussed last night that we maybe run a Market inside in the assembly rooms on the evening of the 23rd November also and make it festive. But this will be discussed further by the Working Group.

Mark received only positive comments and photos were also sent in from a couple of residents that attended on the evening, and the article from the Journalist from Cambridge Live reflected how well received it was by all on the Light Switch on event.

There was a comment regarding the sound from the PA system, and that it could not be heard in certain places on the Green, however, the amount of people there would have also, potentially drowned out some of the volume. 350-400 people attended.

As this will not be Councillor lead and Officer lead event, and will be the same again this year, there is only a limited amount time that can be dedicated by the officers, so it would be good to have other community groups also involved if that is what is agreed.

There were comments also last night about how good it was to have different events. happening throughout December, and it would be good to see this happen again in 24. If there is anything else I can help with, please let me know.

Action: Peter to get working party to discuss summer and Christmas event, plus Community Development Officers. Email info@northstowehub@gmail.com if you want to be involved.

N. arts , national lottery funding for light up northstowe, funding for some staging – looking for more funding. Parade up to Light Switch On.

Sustainable Northstowe. 15 June skip day. Great big Green Week 8-16 June 2024
Northstowe Muslims not represented at the meeting.

Feedback forms from Christmas Events

We had a request to get feedback from the Christmas events, the group discussed this, all feedback received so far had been positive. It was also agreed that there were no reason to have a survey or definite questions that needed answering, therefore it was decided that no additional survey should take place. Food truck feedback was good. See Town Council section for feedback.

Mari to engage Homes England in future conversations.

Permissions for events

If community groups would like to hold an event, they will need to contact the organisation that manages the land:

- The Green is managed is Greenbelt,
- The Sports Pavilion has been handed over to Elite Sports,
- SCDC have only taken ownership of the sports pitches recently the lease arrangement is with Elite Sports. However, Greenbelt still have ownership of the areas between pitches. Speak to Elite first for availability then Greenbelt for confirmation of use.
- Park Play land use has been discussed with Elite Sports. ParkPlay are having a pause until the spring, they will still be able to use the facilities. Any feedback on sports pitch use can be given to Elite and raised at the Management board meeting.
- The Lake in Phase 1 is managed by Anglia Water.
- The lake in Phase 2 is managed by Homes England.
- No one is allowed to enter the water in either lake.