

Community Networkers Meeting 08/02/2023

Attendees:

Ellen Bridges- SCDC

Mihaela Stan- SCDC

Cllr Natalie Warren-Green - South Cambridgeshire District Council District Councillor

John Fuller – Neighbourhood Watch Regional Coordinator

Mark Nokkert – Town Clerk

Cllr Shola Delip - Northstowe Town Council, Hindu Samaj and Sport & Wellbeing

Cllr Paul Littlemore – Deputy Mayor, Northstowe Town Council

Josh Monteiro – Emmanuel Church

Rev'd Stephen Dove - Pathfinder Church

Rev'd Dr Beth Cope- Pathfinder Church

Mari O'Neil - Northstowe Arts

Marcin - Northstowe Running Festival and Sport & Wellbeing

Peter Cope – Northstowe Hub

Ed – Friends of Pathfinder School and Mahjong

Dushyanth– Neighbourhood Watch

Aparna – Hindu Samaj

Apologies:

Carla – Sustainable Northstowe

Maria – Sustainable Northstowe

Cllr. Tom Bygott – South Cambridgeshire District Council District Councillor

Cllr. Firouz Thompson – County Councillor and Northstowe Foodies

Agenda Items:

- 1. Neighbourhood Watch for groups and local organisations**
- 2. Upcoming Events: a. Northstowe Day and Coronation**
 - b. Hindu Samaj Celebration**
- 3. New Project: Language Exchange**
- 4. Kickstart Fund**
- 5. Volunteers needed for the TC Market**
- 6. Support charities at future events**
- 7. Formation of a working group to purchase a stage for events in Northstowe**
- 8. Northstowe Hub transition**
- 9. AOB**

1. Neighbourhood Watch for groups and local organisations

- John Fuller/ NHW Regional Coordinator joined the meeting to advise of the benefits of NHW: working closely with the police, making it legitimate for neighbours to talk to each other, residents coming together when dealing with common issues (eg. ASB), better communication.
- One scheme needs to be created which can be a street, a village etc but schemes need a coordinator. Nationally, anyone can join as a member/resident, however a coordinator is needed to be part of a scheme.
- There are only 2 schemes in Northstowe, one of them comprising Flude Way + Parr Close led by local resident Dushi. When the scheme was initially launched in Northstowe a few years ago, it didn't take off.
- Community Safety Charter was introduced, this is scheme for groups/organisations/constituents to sign up to improve the wellbeing of their community: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/charter>
- NHW Facebook page – Lorraine was looking for someone to take over, however nobody did. It would be great if a volunteer came forward who wanted to manage the page as this is a good way to take the message out to the community.
- It would be good to have a community member to build NHW bit by bit.
- Useful websites: www.cnwa.org.uk and www.ourwatch.org.uk – put your post code in and register to join while you can see what schemes are available

2. Upcoming Events: a. Northstowe Day and Coronation

Northstowe Day

- NTC won't be leading on Northstowe Day but are happy to support the groups
- Suggestion to postpone N Day to coincide with the opening of the Interim Community Facility. Given we need to wait for a Planning Committee decision and even then, if the outcome is successful, it will be hard to confirm a date initially it was agreed that Northstowe Day would not be celebrated in the same way as last year but instead the opening of the temporary facility and other facilities such as the Heritage Annex and Sports Pavilion can be celebrated as they are open.

Coronation

- NTC haven't had any discussions regarding Coronation yet, however by the time the Events and Marketing committee will meet again in March there won't be enough time to organise anything anymore.
- Call for community groups if they'd like to lead or organise any events over that weekend, TC will support.
- Pathfinder Church advised about the suggestion from the Royal House on Coronation: watch the Coronation on TV on Saturday with your neighbours and friends and have a street party on Sunday; on Monday: The Big Help Out - get involved in Social Projects together.

- It was agreed that residents will be encouraged to host individual road celebrations.
- Northstowe Arts are planning a decoration making workshop for families and will consider collaborating with BPHA to support their residents

Actions:

- In view of the successful Community Day at the Allotments this last weekend, Mihaela will speak to the NHA to repeat the event on Monday 8th May
- Ellen will pick up with Cllr Thompson and will follow up with CCC regarding guidance for street parties.

'The Coronation of King Charles III and the Queen Consort will take place on the morning of 6 May. On 7 May, a Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle will showcase the country's diverse cultural heritage in music, theatre and dance. One of the highlights will be "Lighting up the Nation", in which iconic locations across the UK will be lit up with projections, lasers, drone displays and illuminations. Throughout the UK, Coronation Big Lunches will bring communities together on 7 May with street parties also taking place across the weekend. The weekend of celebrations will end with the Big Help Out on 8 May, which will highlight the impact of volunteering. This will encourage people to get involved with activities run by local community groups, organisations and charities and volunteer-involving organisations wanting to join in can sign up here: <https://thebighelpout.org.uk/>

b. Hindu Samaj and Emmanuel Church Celebrations

- On Saturday 29th April Emmanuel Church will celebrate their 5 year anniversary and will plan a celebration
- 30th April the Hindu Samaj group are planning a big celebration: Holi Mela Festival. Everyone is invited and there will be music, Bollywood dancing, powder colour, Asian flavour vans, cultural workshops, handcraft. The groups are looking at permissions already and the preferred location is Western Park. They'd love to celebrate with other groups, please get in touch if you'd like to get involved. FOTW offered their 2 gazebos.

3. New Project: Language Exchange

- Mihaela will lead on a new initiative to celebrate the town's diversity. This will launch on Thursday 16th February 6-8pm and will continue every Wednesday and Thursday during the Warm Hub. The project aims to celebrate the town's cultural diversity and to bring residents together to share their knowledge and love of languages. All levels and abilities are welcome and there will be people who are hoping to improve their English who will appreciate conversations with native speakers.

- Northstowe Hub are interested in potentially taking the project under their umbrella and would like to continue conversations, especially as Graham, one of the new trustees, has expressed interest in getting involved as he is passionate about inclusivity and has a great linguistic background

4. Kickstart Fund

- There is a broad criteria of application and new projects are encouraged to team up with existing groups, supporting the co-production idea. For example, Northstowe Gamers or Sports and Wellbeing could apply with the aim of establishing some of the new initiatives: Chess Club, Mahjong.
- Ed will join the Sports and Wellbeing meeting on 9th February to discuss his idea around bringing Mahjong to the community.
- The fund is available until it runs out.

5. Volunteers needed for the TC Market: 26th February & 26th March 8am – 1:30pm

- Around 700 people attended last time and it is expected that the double number of stands will be available next time (20)
- The suggestion of changing the post calling for volunteers was taken on board. As such, it will be made clear that volunteers are needed for various jobs on the day such as setting up/down and it is not limited to those that have a 1st aid qualification. Volunteers can also offer to cover shifts and not necessarily the whole day. Please contact markets@northstowetowncouncil.gov.uk if you can help on the day

6. Support charities at future events

- Groups will have to decide if they'd like to support charities nationally or locally.
- We have a few local charities at Northstowe: Friends of Pathfinder School, Northstowe Scouts, Pathfinder Church.
- **Action: Ellen to follow up with L&Q and Greenbelt regarding permissions.**
- Sports and Wellbeing have previously raised money online and donated to local charities, they have a preference for supporting local over national.
- Proposal for a fundraiser to fund our big event – potentially a car boot sale to benefit Light Up Northstowe – debate whether who should lead on this

7. Formation of a working group to purchase a stage for events in Northstowe

- Every event has a performance element and this would be especially useful for children's performances.
- Hiring is more expensive and many groups cannot afford to do this on their own.

- Northstowe foodies have offered a donation towards purchasing a stage and lighting but it is not enough.
- Discussions were being had around setting up a working group to join forces with the aim to purchase a stage for community use.
- A few points need to be considered: storage costs, safety, staff for setting up, a contractor will be needed to make sure it's safe.
- NTC could be an interested party to benefit from this in the future and possible could contribute some funding. Sports and Wellbeing are also interested in coming on board.
- **Action: Shola to speak to Mari after the meeting to share information about Shola's previous interaction with developers who could sponsor and to look at potential costing.**
- **Mari to look at terms of the Foodies donation.**

8. Northstowe Hub transition

- Northstowe Hub transition is going very well with 8 really good trustees on board who are right for the job.
- AGM on 22nd February to move things forward and it is hoped it will be set up by the time the temporary facility is ready.

9. AOB

Warm Hub Update:

- Thursday 23rd February Michele and Lawrence will come along to discuss idea applications for Kickstart.
- Hannah from Stardust dance will deliver a dance workshop for children on Wednesday half term from 10am.
- Chess on 9th & 23rd Feb.
- Knitting and board games every week.
- Language café launch on 16th Feb.
- Table tennis launch on 23rd Feb. Salsa and Bollywood dance sessions scheduled for March,
- Sustainability talk on 23rd March. NTC are considering the continuity of the project past 23rd of March given its success and are looking at options for funding.

Friends of Pathfinder School intend to hold the Summer Fete this year and are considering holding this on Friday 16th June. They're open to input from everyone as to what they'd like to see

Sustainable Northstowe update:

- Planning the Great Big Green Week 10th -18th June with a Community Day planned for 17th June when recycling skips will be available for residents on The Green. Calling all groups and organisations if they want to co- organise an activity together to get in touch (e.g. wellbeing wildlife walk from last year).
- Info point - AGM to be held next week, looking for committee members.
- Project lead Sarah stepped down, so the Community Pantry needs someone to take over - either 1 person or group of volunteers. The food is currently distributed via the Olio app and at the Warm Hub on Wednesdays but it will be available at the Interim Community Facility again, once this opens

Youth Hive:

- The bus was damaged by mice, please spread the word that we're now at NSC
- There are plans for a pop up youth café in the area where the café will be located at NSC. This will take place on Monday afternoon and volunteers are needed, please contact Emma or Beth if you can help.
- Youth Hive also need a treasurer
- Youth Hive also keen to collaborate with any organisation working with young people, who may be able to provide activities over the summer. Please get in touch with Beth for potential collaborations

Running Festival:

- Decision to have the Running Festival on 1 day only on Saturday 2nd September due to cost and attendance. Planning takes 1 year. All community groups are invited to come along and promote themselves, contact Marcin with your ideas.
- Half Marathon 23rd April will be strictly a sports event, food vans will be invited too.
- This year's events support Scouts, looking to buy camping equipment.

Next meeting: 8th March