

## Northstowe Support Partnership - Town Council Report December 2023

*The **Northstowe Support Partnership** was established in 2014 and is a multiagency group which aims to have good representation across all the sectors.*

*Recognising that new communities often benefit from additional support during the early phases of their development, the partnership focuses on bringing together all the Public Service providers including those in the Voluntary / Community sector to work collaboratively around prevention and creating early intervention opportunities. Whilst Northstowe remains a fantastic place to live for many, this work is in keeping with Cambridgeshire County Councils [Supporting New Communities Strategy](#) with an aim to avoid trends seen in other new developments.*

*The Support Partnership meets every two months, each meeting will look at the following agenda items:*

- **Emerging issues** – where any concerns can be raised this might be from intelligence collected at an organisational/ sector level or because of feedback from the community.
- **Northstowe Projects** – Where the partnership can design, resource, and monitor the delivery of projects targeting specific issues
- **S106 Place Making Fund** – The Partnership has the oversight of the projects and work funded by this money.

*The meeting is chaired and administered by the Communities Service at Cambridgeshire County Council and links into the South Cambridgeshire District Council led Community Safety Partnership acting as a Priority Area PSG (Problem Solving Group)*

### **Development and Community Updates**

- Phase 1 Sports Pavilion Lease agreement has been signed and sealed. Just waiting for the contract to be returned and then the keys will be handed to Elite Sports UK. Elite Sports UK aiming for building and pitches to be open first week in January.
- Planning permission for Permanent Community Building has been approved.
- Phase 1 Occupations now 1333, Phase 2 43

### **Arts and Minds – Report on activity funded through S106 Professionally led Activity fund**

- Arts and Minds is 12-week arts prescribing project. Usually led by an artist and a councillor. 12-week programme has just been completed in Northstowe. Arts and Minds wanted to come to Northstowe knowing the high no. of mental health challenges there are in new communities.
- Programme was open to up to 12 participants, 9 registered – 2 didn't start. Programme is for adults with mild to moderate mental health. 1 participant registered with a Northstowe address. Others came from Huntingdon, Cambs City and other South Cambs villages.
- Feedback from attendees was positive. Most were unpaid carers for family members and were there for a break and to something specifically for themselves, so the 2 session leaders focused on that.

- Learning for Northstowe Arts/Arts and Minds - Setting up this type of activity takes time and it's even harder in new communities. Need to take more time at the beginning of programmes to establish promotion.
- Request if there is any information on the costs per participant v costs savings are. Appreciate the costs to run these programmes are high per participant but if we can understand what cost savings may have been made this would be very helpful. **Action: for this to be reported back**

### Menopause Café

- Partnership member approached by a couple of women recently who are experiencing symptoms of pre-menopausal and would benefit from some peer and NHS support.
- Learning from Menopause café in Melbourn, they have a health coach and GP attend and they are held monthly. They enable women to share stories and have a Q&A session with the GP.
- 2 different models – a community led model and a more primary coach approach where health coaches/social prescriber can attend.
- This project can also feed into the Health and Wellbeing Sub-Group **Action – Group set to work on Menopause café.**

### Learning / Skills

- Cambridgeshire Skills sit aside Libraries and Communities. Offer functioning skills for those who haven't received them at school. They are run them online, in libraries, community centres. As well as course in English, Maths, IT offer awards in counselling and a variety of ESOL course.
- Partnering with Northstowe Horticultural Association regarding a practical course in the year, helping residents look after their allotments.
- Courses are for 19+, young parent 16+, Armed Forces (spouse or every served),
- Difference between Cambridgeshire Skills and WEA. WEA were previously funded by Cambridgeshire Skills but are now separate. WEA are a bit more creative what they deliver, niche courses.
- Digital Buddy offer – library users have access to a 'learn my way' course. Have volunteer Digital Buddies in Bar Hill/Willingham. Recruit new volunteers. In libraries they have the public computers, could be offered alongside pop-up events.
- One of the Community Development Officers is aware of a couple of residents who would benefit from a Digital Buddy but would struggle to get to Bar Hill. Discussion around what provision could be provided in Northstowe. Car share could be possible but potentially could try and set up a scheme in Northstowe, depending on volunteers. A discussion was also had around having a bank of laptops which could be loaned out. During COVID many residents donated old laptops they had for schools.
- **Action: Agreed CDOs to understand how much need there is for this service.** If there is a need look at sourcing some laptops, but these would need clearing, may be some residents who could assist with this and then look to find volunteers who may also be able to be Digital Buddies. If the need was high enough Cambs Skills could potentially also run a Beginners IT course.

- Libraries at home – service for people who can not get to a library (criteria applies). Volunteers will visit them at home and bring books. No overdue fees and up to 25 items can be borrowed. Volunteer also able to chat if user wishes. Can self-refer or be referred to service. Potential volunteers also welcome. More information – customers and potential volunteers please phone 0345 045 5225.

Email – [volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Visit our website – [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/libraries/library-at-home-service](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/libraries/library-at-home-service)

**Action – for the email address for Northstowe News be shared for consideration of an article on Library at home.**

### **Health and Wellbeing Subgroup**

- Set up by coordinator from How are You?
- To discuss Health and Wellbeing within Northstowe and projects which will fit within this remit such as the Menopause Café going forward.
- Will now link into the NSP and run a week before the NSP every 2 months so can report back.

### **Youth Sub-Group**

- Bringing everyone together who is involved in Youth Work. Met end of November, focused on what we will be working on. Main aim to find sustainable funds for Youth worker position to continue. Also thinking about if there are projects established such as a sports project could there be a youth element.
- Looking set up a meeting with the Town Council in January to discuss any funding toward youth worker position. Romsey Mill also making some applications.
- In the recent Quality of Life report in South Cambridgeshire 31% of parents say their child has experienced mental health problems this year. [Quality of life survey 2023 - Cambridgeshire County Council Quality of Life Survey - District Report - December 2023 \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk). The more opportunities young people can be involved in the better.

### **Community Safety Partnership**

- The Community Safety Partnership is a requirement of every District Council, all partners attend including police, fire and rescue, health, local authorities, NHS who work together to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour issues.
- A strategic assessment is commissioned each year and where there are high areas of ASB these generate the high priority areas. Northstowe is high priority area.
- 2 Problem Solving Groups take place each month (1 on Families and 1 on adults) to discuss cases to resolve, schools are invites and Northstowe Secondary College actively attend.
- Challenges – Can offer find funding to deliver programmes but unable to fund the individual to deliver the programme. Police have their own

challenges, short staffed and need react based on threat to life. Reporting is also often limited so the biggest message is report, report, report.

- Please don't work in silo, share anything with the Community Safety Partnership Team. [communitysafety@scamb.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@scamb.gov.uk)
- Mental health is challenging, if they move into criminality police can interfere but support limited if it not meeting criteria. There is a very high bar set for intervention.
- There are some free online courses which are available for residents to do online such as safeguarding. Will share these so they can be shared with groups who may come into contact with vulnerable residents such as Foodbank. (**Shared as attachment with minutes**)

### **S106 Funding**

- No further updates but if anyone has any suggestions on how the funding could be spent, the suggestion can be put to the relative service at the County Council to whom the funding is allocated.

### **Terms of Reference**

- Needs updating draft copy will be share with partnership in new year for comments before going through County Council's governance.