

Community Networkers – Minutes, Wednesday 8 January 2025, 7pm - 8:30pm

The Cabin, Northstowe

Attendees

Petra – Northstowe Town Council
Graeme – Northstowe Hub
Natalie – District Councillor
Beth – Northstowe Church Network/Youth Hive
Val – Foodbank
Mari – Northstowe Arts
Peter – Northstowe Hub
Ilse - Foodbank
Bethany – Sustainable Northstowe
Michele - SCDC

Apologies – None received

Agenda

1. Actions from November 2024 meeting
 - Recipients of Networkers emails – community group or individual
 - Fulfilling the Aims of the Terms of Reference – are all invested people attending?
2. Review of LUN24
3. Calendar of events for 2025
4. Northstowe Menopause Group – update
5. Northstowe Walking Group – update
6. Amateur Dramatics Group – initial interest

AOB

- Table Tennis Group
- Youth Hive recruitment
- Beer and Carols

Actions from October meeting:

A list of all the Community groups on the Networkers email list was provided for the attendees to look at. It was agreed that the list covered relevant groups, but that Elite Sports should be added.

Action, Michele – to let Elite know they have been added to the list

Terms of Reference – Annual Review. The aims and objectives of the group had been attached to the invite (sent in December) and they were read out during the meeting. Graeme proposed that point 1. ‘To establish’ should be changed to ‘To maintain’ as the group has been active for a few years – this was agreed by all those present at the meeting.

Action, Michele - to send amendment to Comms and have the date changed to January 2025

2. Review of LUN24

Mari provided a review with feedback and evaluation, which has been attached to the email, it covers the need to reschedule due to bad weather, the lantern workshops, all the activities that were part of the event and marketing. At the end of the document there is feedback from the community under ‘lovely comments’ and evaluation under ‘comments to consider for future events’. There is also a call-out if anyone would like to be involved in LUN25.

Petra - the Christmas tree contract needs to be renewed. Northstowe Town Council will look to get quotes for costings for a Christmas Tree. An update will be provided once it has been presented at a Full Town Council meeting, where a decision will be made and the outcome shared.

Graeme, the decision to serve the free hot chocolate inside, worked well, and brought more people indoors for the toy swap.

3. Calendar of Events 2025

Month	Date	Event	Group
March	2	Pancake Party	Northstowe Church
April	27	Northstowe Half Marathon	Northstowe Running Group
June	7	Great Big Green Week – Skip Day. Including litter pick	Sustainable Northstowe
June	21	Midsummer Festival, 12noon – 8pm	Northstowe Arts and Northstowe Hub, plus community groups
June	25		Youth Hive
July	4	Pathfinder Summer Fair	Pathfinder School
July	20	Gospel Choir, afternoon tea – date to TBC	Northstowe Church
August	30	Northstowe Running Festival	Northstowe Running Group
September	26/27	Northstowe Art Exhibition	SCDC and Northstowe Arts
November	9	Remembrance Sunday - Civic Service	Northstowe Church

November	29	LUN25 (plus workshops – dates TBC)	Northstowe Arts
December		Advents Windows and workshops	Northstowe Church
December	19	Beer and Carols	Northstowe Church

Photographs from the 2024 Advent Windows can be found on Facebook by typing Northstowe Advent Windows or clicking on [\(1\) Northstowe Advent Windows | Facebook](#)

Action, Michele – to contact community groups that were not present at the meeting. groups in Northstowe.

4. Northstowe Menopause Support Group

The group has asked for their events to be publicised/mentioned where possible by the other community groups in and local to Northstowe. They held a very successful session in October with a Menopause specialist, their speaker for January is from Over Power, in February they will be having a talk from a skin specialist.

Action All – if you know someone who would like to talk to the group, please email northstowe.community@scamb.gov.uk

5. Northstowe Walking Group

They have been meeting once a month on a Friday morning using varied routes around Northstowe and Longstanton. The uptake has been quite low for some of the walks, and they would like some feedback.

Action all - Please can you promote the walks to your groups. A poster is attached to the email.

6. Amateur Dramatics Group

A resident has been in contact with Northstowe Arts and the Community Development Officers about starting an Amateur Dramatics group in Northstowe. It is aimed at adults, but productions will be geared towards children. More information will be shared when available. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact: mari@northstowearts.co.uk

AOB

Table Tennis

The Northstowe Table Tennis group is resuming on Monday 13 January at the Secondary College. It is being run by Ioana with support from Bahman. Future dates are Mondays 7pm – 9pm and Saturdays 10am – 12noon. Flyers were delivered to all houses in Northstowe, with advertising also on Facebook, Northstowe News and noticeboards.

Youth Hive Recruitment

Northstowe Youth Hive are about to start recruiting both individual adult members and organizational members – so if your community group has a youth focus within in, please get in touch.

We are planning a youth-hosted BBQ in June when the youth members will share an issue that is important to them with others who might want to get involved in working together to find a way forward. More to follow!

Beer and Carols

Beer and Carols was another great collaborative event. Hosted by the Northstowe Church Network, the Carols were led by a 13 piece brass band. Local residents came together as a pop up singing group. Community figures read poems and parts of the Christmas Story. The Food trucks proved popular again, including Tap and Social's first pop up bar. And the free hot chocolate from Northstowe Hub was very well received. This year, indoor space for pre carols eating and drinking was a good addition. More next year on the Friday before Christmas: Friday 19th Dec. Save the date, and talk to Beth if you want to help shape it.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 12 February, 7pm – 8:30pm, The Cabin, Northstowe