

CDO's report for March 2025

Northstowe Community Forums 2024

The next forum will be on Wednesday 4 June at Western Park Pavilion starting with a drop-in at 6:30pm and presentations at 7pm. Agendas are usually advertised the week before and questions can be asked during the evening by attendees as well as submitted in advance to: northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk. The meeting will broadcast live on Microsoft Teams, the link will be available on the forum page in due time.

Community Networkers

There was no Community Networkers' meeting in March as there was a Forum. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 2 April, a week earlier than normal due to the school holidays.

Digital Assistance

The digital sessions now take place on the second Friday of each month at the same time as the Mobile Library. Northstowe residents who are unemployed or of pension age will receive a text message to let them know about the support available. The next session will take place on Friday 4 April.

Northstowe Table Tennis Group

We have been working with this group to discuss future dates and places. Sessions in April will continue on a Monday evenings with a new time from 7pm – 8:30pm. The Saturday morning sessions will not run after the end of March.

Tree Planting

We joined Sustainable Northstowe on 8 March for a Tree Planting event at the Pioneer Park. It was a great day out planting fruit trees which residents had the opportunity to adopt and will look after until maturing.

Drama Group

We are supporting the new Amateur Dramatics group through their application for the Kickstart fund. The group meets every Thursday 7-8:30pm to prepare for their first show at the Midsummer Festival in June.

Menopause Support Group Meetings

The menopause group meetings are free and take place monthly on a Wednesday evening. The meeting on Wednesday 19 March looked at menopause and art; resilience and energy. In April, the meeting will be based around chocolate. Future meetings will be advertised on Northstowe Facebook pages and community noticeboards.

Social Walking Group

The CDOs have been supporting the walks. The walk on Friday 14 March included a rock painting session, these will be used at a family Easter painted rock hunt starting at The Cabin on Saturday 12 April at 2:30pm. Future walking dates, routes and themes will be advertised on the Northstowe Community Facebook pages and the noticeboards at The Cabin and Western Park Pavilion.

Drop-In Session with the CDOs

We offer monthly drop-in sessions for residents, usually on the first Tuesday of the month. No appointment needed, pop in for a chat over a cup of tea at The Cabin, in the café area. We are also available if residents would like to set up a meeting, whether this is within working hours or not. Most people drop in on an ad-hoc basis and we are always happy to make time to see them.

Community Activation Grant Fund

SCDC are administering the Northstowe Community Activation Grant Fund on behalf of Homes England. This month applications have been received from Hindu Samaj Northstowe for their Holi Mela event in April and Northstowe Hub for the Midsummer Festival in June. The panel are currently considering the applications.

More information about the fund can be found on our website.

www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/northstowe/northstowe-community-activation-fund

Cognitive Training for the Elderly

Drop-in sessions for elderly focused on preventing cognitive geriatric illnesses with a local volunteer who has previous experience on the topic of cognitive training. Every Tuesday 10-11am in the café area at The Cabin.

Welcome Pack Delivery

We delivered welcome packs to residents in Phase 1 in parcels H5 and H12. Welcome packs were also delivered to Phase 2 residents at Stirling Fields. We try to engage residents in conversations regarding their new community while also completing the occupation counts.

Hallmaster

All room bookings for The Cabin are made through Hallmaster. If you would like to see room availability, size and capacity or make a booking please go to: [The Cabin - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.scambs.gov.uk). We often meet residents and organisations to show them around The Cabin and discuss their option for room hire.

Meetings attended with external agencies

- Part of the Northstowe Health and Wellbeing Group.
- Attending Northstowe Open Space and Landscape monthly meetings.
- Liaising with BPHA to support their services in the community.
- Part of the Support Refugees Working Group, liaising with various professionals including the Cambridge City Council Cohesion and Resettlement Team with the view of supporting refugees who have been relocated to Northstowe.
- Part of the Northstowe Tenure Integration Group.
- Recurring meetings with Smart Journeys discussing Sustainable Travel Plan.
- Part of the Northstowe Communications Group which promotes Northstowe and events; this includes Henbe Communications (supporting Homes England).
- Participate in the Proactive Neighbourhoods – South Cambs MAF meetings
- Part of the Northstowe Social Value Steering group.
- Part of the Northstowe Spaces Group

- Quarterly Northstowe Update meeting with Homes England, Northstowe Town Council, Longstanton Parish Council.
- Part of the Pathways for Young Parents Group.
- Supporting Voi with their expansion within South Cambridgeshire.
- Community Development Roadshow: The purpose of the meeting is to exchange best practice in Community Development, uniting Community Development workers from Town, District, County, and the private sector in this region.

Meetings with Community Groups

- Supporting and promoting the Social Walks through discussions including external agencies.
- Northstowe Sports & Wellbeing Committee meetings. Next meeting is: 3 April, 6:30pm at Western Park Sports Pavilion.
- Participating in the Northstowe Youth Partnership, sub-group meeting.
- Working with Northstowe Arts on an Art Exhibition to take place in September 2025.

Other work:

- Working with colleagues for the social and economic benefit of the community.
- Assisting with the formation of new community activities.
- Discussing ideas and plans for future events.
- Processing bookings at The Cabin for community groups, individuals and businesses on a daily basis including raising invoices, checking payments and following up requests.
- Part of the SCDC Growth Team meetings and workshops.
- Signing up new keyholders for The Cabin.
- Supporting residents with welfare connections.
- Testing the alarms and emergency lights at The Cabin on a regular basis.
- Part of various community WhatsApp groups i.e. Cabin Keyholders, coordinating out of hours access arrangements for The Cabin.

- Collecting food for the community larder on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and making this available for collection from The Cabin.
- Designing promotional material and updating social media.
- Writing reports and articles for local publication.
- Evening and weekend meetings and events in furtherance of the above.
- Maintenance work at The Cabin – being onsite when work is carried out i.e. 6 monthly lighting test, water testing and Wi-Fi.

Professional Development:

- Social Value in Regeneration – Local Authorities
- New Communities Group, Infrastructure Delivery – TCPA webinar

If you would like to get involved in any projects or activities, or help with other volunteering opportunities please contact us on

northstowe.community@scambs.gov.uk