

CDO's Report for May 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

The meeting on Wednesday 14 May was chaired by a CDO, the agenda covered: the London, Edinburgh, London cycle ride, Holi Mela, Midsummer Festival, a new group for the over 60's, and Health and Wellbeing. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 9 July.

60+ Group

This new group met on Thursday 8 and 22 May in the café area at The Cabin (community centre on Pathfinder Way). They were open to all local residents aged 60 and over, the first sessions was about getting to know each other. New dates will be advertised on Facebook pages and noticeboards.

Digital Assistance

The digital sessions now take place on the first Wednesday of each month at the same time as the Food Bank. We are looking to recruit a new volunteer to run the sessions. The next session will take place on Wednesday 4 June.

Drama Group

The group were awarded the kickstart fund to support their initial set up. They meet every Thursday evening at The Cabin from 7pm - 9pm. They are preparing for their first show, Alice in Wonderland, 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 21 May had a Clinical Aromatherapist as a guest speaker. Future meetings will be advertised on Northstowe Facebook pages and community noticeboards.

Social Walking Group

The CDOs have been supporting the walks. The last walk around Northstowe was on Friday 23 May, the next walks are Friday 13 June and Friday 18 July. 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.

Kickstart Fund

Northstowe Hub have submitted an application for the kickstart enabler fund (a smaller fund within the kickstart fund) to initiate some café sessions at Northstowe Secondary College.

SCDC are administering the Northstowe Community Activation Grant Fund on behalf of Homes England. This month an application was received from Northstowe Arts to hold an Arts Exhibition in September.

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 on Wednesday 21. Where possible, we engage residents in conversations regarding their new community, ask how they are settling in, and provide information on up-coming events.

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 \(scambbs.gov.uk\)](https://scambbs.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

- Attending and contributing to the Northstowe Support Partnership meeting.
- 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 Partners 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.

- Northstowe & Longstanton Heritage Stakeholder Group Quarterly Meeting
- 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

- Attended the Community Development Roadshow in Cambourne
- Supporting and promoting the Social Walks through discussions including external agencies, social media and promotional event materials.
- Northstowe Sports & Wellbeing Committee meetings. Next meeting: 8 May, 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. The project has received an award from the Kickstart Fund which also includes workshops and advice sessions.

Other work:

- Meetings with stakeholders to discuss green space and water use.
- 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

UDL: Virtual Site Visit to New Neighbourhoods in Cambridge, 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