

Northstowe Community Networkers Minutes Wednesday 13 March 2024

Attendees:

Mari – Northstowe Arts
Stephen – Pathfinder Church
Petra – Northstowe Town Council
Firouz – County Councillor
Mihaela – SCDC
Peter – Northstowe Hub
Beth – Youth Hive
Michelle – Northstowe News
Graeme – Northstowe Hub
Josh - Emmanuel Church

Apologies:

Shola – Town Councillor and Sports and Wellbeing group
Natalie – District Councillor

Agenda:

1. **Summer Solstice/ Midsummer Festival**
2. **Light Up Northstowe**
3. **WhatsApp Channel for Events**
4. **Northstowe News finances**
5. **AOBs**
 - 5.a. **Sustainable Northstowe call for members**
 - 5.b. **Park Play**

Northstowe Foodies update

- post on Northstowe Foodies page on 10 February to propose a Food Fest on the last Saturday of the month with suggestions for a silent disco, pub and other options. The proposal is to have a festival similar to the one in Alconbury on 13 July with the addition of bouncy castles, silent disco for youth
- suggestion to join the Summer Solstice instead

1. Summer Solstice/ Northstowe Day/ Midsummer Festival

- SCDC permission granted to use The Green 12pm – 10:30pm (including tidy up time) – permission to close the area to traffic and to have a stage
- Permission from Greenbelt – **Mihaela to contact Greenbelt once all green locations around Phase 1 are known. Mari to liaise with Mihaela to inform of locations**

- Mari has approached Greenbelt to ask for additional funding
- Complementary events from Homes England: art unveiling – the art piece that local artist Chloe is preparing for the lake in phase 2 – suggestion by Mari not to include this as part of Midsummer Festival as it is quite far. Instead, have it around May Day and have a smaller event
- Chloe's sign for Unity Lake is a wreath and it is seen as a maypole so residents can dress the wreath and start a Northstowe tradition. Mari to meet Homes England on Monday to discuss this further
- Jack – dance producer will have a less central role than thought before
- Community picnic and the café or some refreshments at low cost/free and coordinate that with a community celebration in addition to Northstowe Arts' idea to activate green spaces
- Northstowe Arts to have a performance/workshop dance from various groups, schools, performances of various types
- Jack to lead a promenade dance with groups from Pathfinder Primary School and Northstowe Secondary College around various green corners in Phase 1
- Food trucks throughout the event – **Firouz to organise this**
- Silent disco - proposed locations are: the field behind The Cabin Garden, The Cabin's back garden or on the square (The Green). **Firouz to look into costings for renting equipment, find DJ.** The potential of some youth being able to get involved to act as DJ in the future
- Suggestion to call the event **Midsummer Festival** so it doesn't sound pagan. All agreed
- Suggestion to have a Saturday market instead of Sunday as the market had no footfall the Sunday after LUN – **Petra to speak to Roz to liaise with Foodies and the event organisers (Northstowe Arts, Northstowe Hub) UPDATE: Roz has corresponded to Mari and Peter to advise there will be no Saturday market**
- Phoenix to act as contractor for security and first aiders
- Emmanuel Church will get involved: craft activity and potentially a bouncy castle – **permission from Greenbelt to go on their land on The Green (grass area) – Mihaela**
- Organisers to officially involve local groups
- Northstowe gamers, chess and other games

2. Light Up Northstowe on 23 November

- Petra already liaised last year with Longstanton Parish Council to let them know of the date chosen

- Beer and Carols booked on 20 December by Pathfinder Church with brass band
 - Beth to book food trucks with Foodies asap
- TC to book food trucks via Foodies asap
- TC will provide the tree and the market to be discussed, Santa Claus TBC
- Hot chocolate by Northstowe Hub
- Lantern parade organised by Mari and still deciding where the stage will go but there is funding for that already: staging, lighting, sound equipment and someone to operate everything too. Start for the parade: suggestion to start at The Pavilion which will provide shelter and warmth
- Phoenix to provide security and first aid – Mari liaising with the company
- Volunteers needed: 10, allowing for sickness + extra volunteers for the parade
- Expected attendees: up to 500
- Mari/ Peter will contact the schools for singing
- Additional black bins to be sorted by the TC for LUN – TC to get quote

3. **WhatsApp Channel for Events** – proposal from a resident to create a WhatsApp channel where all future events can be advertised. Please see further details in the attached proposal from Chloe
- All groups to have a representative as admin – there can be up to 16 admins.
 - All positive and supportive
 - It was agreed that in order to reach those residents who are not online so they sign up to the channel, fliers would be best and a team of volunteers could deliver
 - could Kickstart sponsor this for delivery and printing? Northstowe Hub can apply for Kickstart funding. Mihaela will put Northstowe Hub and Chloe in touch to discuss further
 - suggestion to advertise the Digital Assistance programme on the other side of the flier
 - suggestion for Tap and Social to advertise the new WhatsApp channel on the other side of their flier, though not sure they are planning one

4. **Northstowe News finances**

- Suggestion that groups could contribute a donation
- Printing costs £1500 for printing and delivery every time and this is the cheapest in the country
- Only £1000 worth of ads, though lots of work was put into getting more businesses to advertise. This came down to £400 in December

- Grant received from Homes England via SCDC to cover the next issues but this will cover a limited time only
- Northstowe Hub are happy to make a regular contribution
- TC could consider to factor this into their budget as long as Northstowe News follow the process and apply before September as stated by the Town Clerk in previous conversations
- Northstowe News has also been recommended to apply to the TC grant scheme
- It was suggested that in order to future proof Northstowe News and to make it more sustainable, a pdf via Whats App or Facebook could be shared instead and have some hard copies in strategic places such as The Cabin, The Pavilion, the schools
- Everyone will continue to get a column, but if groups have a budget it would be really appreciated if they could support Northstowe News
- Proposal to create a group of reliable volunteers to deliver every other month. A volunteer coordinator will be needed
- Additional two volunteers would be needed to contact businesses to chase up payment as this is currently costly
- CCVS volunteer bank was suggested, however Northstowe Hub have not been successful in getting volunteers via this channel, though this is different as people could do the work from home

5. AOBs

5a. Sustainable Northstowe needs members to create a full committee in order to be able to continue with the group

4b. Park Play

- Relunched on Saturday and had about 20-25 people turn up. Please continue to spread the word
- the school newsletter was suggested to spread the word – Park Play to pursue

Next meetings: 17 April, 15 May