

Northstowe Support Partnership - Town Council Report May 2024

*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

- Permanent community building – Kier have been appointed as the contractor. Timelines currently designing the services and plan to start on site autumn 2024.
- L&Q about to embark on the final elements of work including all the final road/foot/cycleways which need to be completed before handing over to CCC.
- SCDC Communities team have been working with colleagues to design and prepare a development brief for the first faith/community land allocation. Phase 1 has an allocation of 0.25ha – faith land. More information can be found in Northstowe Community Forum May meeting [Northstowe Community Forum - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](#)
- Homes England have launched the Community Activation Fund for projects which further improve the quality of life in Northstowe and contribute to community vibrancy and enable opportunities for participation. £120k available between 2024-2029. Anticipated up to £20k per annum will be made available. Maximum award is £10k in a single financial year. SCDC will be administering the grants. More information [Northstowe Community Activation Fund - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](#)
- Question raised regarding shops. Homes England are looking to bring forward some space in Spring 2025 and this could host a pop-up shop if someone wished to set this up. SCDC have purchased the local centre and Enterprise zone. Whilst the community building is built large parts of

the local centre will be a construction site. Investment colleagues are also looking at different options with regards to Enterprise Zone.

Terms of reference

- Following feedback at the last meeting some minor amendments have been made. Now agreed for the year.

S106 Placemaking Spending Plan

Mental Health Project

- Provided a detail of the project at the last meeting but now looking to commission a 3rd party who will recruit residents to deliver projects.
- This video from All in [Introducing the All In Community Team for Braintree \(youtube.com\)](#) shows how the project was developed in Braintree.
- Request for partners to volunteer to be part of selection panel.
- All present in partnership meeting were in favour of the proposal. Email comments invited until the end of the week on the project for those absent.

Heritage Annex Worker Post

Update from Natural & Historic Environment head of service at Cambridgeshire County Council

- Agreement in principle to develop a community engagement programme around an amended exhibition that was originally planned for the (now cancelled) heritage facility. This would comprise displays in eight local buildings, all connected by a common theme to encourage people to move between them. The work is scoping out the involvement of a community heritage officer to work to promote this and also to make more use of the physical and virtual archaeological resources available to promote heritage and archaeology across the communities in the area.
- A proposal will be created in the next few weeks to go to all parties for comment and refinement.

Kickstart Fund (funded through Phase 2 S106)

- Chess Club – funding released for an outdoor chess set to be stored at Western Park Pavilion. Can be used at Community events.

Youth Work update from Romsey Mill

- Youth Worker spends 3 days supporting young Northstowe residents. She has a base at Northstowe Secondary College. Provides 121 support to many young people as well as running the youth club on a Wednesday afternoon and also does detached work, going out into the community to spaces where young people socialise.
- Lot of pupil support required at NSC and a second worker employed on a Monday to help through the school.
- Each year young people are asked to do a survey. One thing which young people say they want somewhere that is comfortable and that is their space – Discussion on how to make the shared space used work in this way.

- Question Time was discussed, regarding a question about youth provision was raised. Since this the youth worker with support of the Youth Hive, have been sharing information about the youth provision which does take place.
- Plans needed to think about how to sustain the current and increase the youth work. Romsey Mill have made a successful application for youth work specific for children with autism but are in mainstream education. They have also been successful in receiving Inspiring Future funding for work in new communities over 3 years. It won't meet the full need and ideally need to provide match funding so now need to look at what may be possible. Have begun conversations with the Town Council.
- Integrated Neighbours reminded the group of an unsuccessful application to Healthy Futures for funding for a space for young people to focus on their mental wellbeing. This wasn't successful but through the funding Captain Tom raised during COVID-19 some of this funding was utilised and there is now an opportunity to bid for some of this remaining funding. This would be funding for youth work as well as infrastructure.

Community Safety Partnership

- Problem Solving Group meets monthly and predominately covers ASB. BPHA bring cases to meeting to Northstowe are regularly discussion. BPHA/Police are involved.
- Holding an 'Ivision' session in Cambourne for parents and the community. The evening includes supporting parents to be aware of the signs to look out for if a young person (YP) you know could be vulnerable to criminal exploitation, a parent's lived experience, and where to get support if you have concerns for the YP. Potentially could hold something similar in Northstowe if people felt this would be beneficial. This is also a preventative session aimed at helping parents to know what to look for, not because their young person is involved.
- Aware of the anti-social driving around Bug Hunter Waters, Unity Lake, and the New Access Road. Police have received reports, and it is priority, and they will do patrols.
- Serious Violence Duty Projects via SCDC and the OPCC fund. Northstowe identified as an area where the project would be beneficial - not because of knife crime but more to do with ASB reports. Projects will work to engage young people in positive activities, whilst also raising the awareness of knife crime, ensuring young people are aware of the dangers, how to feedback if they are aware of issues, how to keep safe and the consequences of carrying a knife, and also how we can share this message with other young people. It's a supportive, preventative piece of work with young people in the community.

Community Hub and Village Agents

- 15 community hubs affiliated with Cambridgeshire ACRE.
- Address health inequalities.
- Work with Northstowe Town Council who are leading on Community Lounge

- They also take referrals for residents who made need access to community transport, support accessing benefits, cost of living support, foodbank vouchers.
- Feedback from the village agents will then provide insight into the service needs for the community.
- Suggestion was made to potentially attend Northstowe Hub's Café on a Wednesday morning runs 9am-12.30pm.

Menopause Café

- First session was well attended (14 people). There was lots of lighthearted discussions and a chance for women to share their experiences
- 3 more dates have been agreed – 22 May, 19 June, 17 July
- Funded through the Phase 2 S106 – Professionally led activity fund

Sub-Group Reports

Youth

- Youth Hive are now days away from their CIC registration.
- Looking at various funding options who reviewing which organising would be best to applying depending on the funding.

Health and Wellbeing

- Group felt is valuable and will continue
- Cambridgeshire Acorn Project Family Wellbeing Support Hub is under attended and requires help to promote. It is a valuable resource and many agencies signpost residents to the group but it takes place Thursday mornings which may affect attendance.
- Citizens Advice Bureau sessions during foodbank can be accessed at all.
- Wellbeing event being looked into, possible at new Northstowe Tap and Social. Space available for exercise and meetings.