

Northstowe Community Networkers Minutes Wednesday 18 April 2024

Attendees:

Mari – Northstowe Arts
Stephen – Pathfinder Church
Peter – Northstowe Hub
Beth – Youth Hive
Graeme – Northstowe Hub
Josh - Emmanuel Church
Shola – Town Councillor and Sports and Wellbeing group
Natalie – District Councillor
Roger Hetherington – Longstanton and District Heritage Society
Susan - Friends of Pathfinder School
Kathy – Town Council
Mihaela – SCDC

Apologies:

Petra – Northstowe Town Council
Carla - Town Council
Firouz – County Councillor

Agenda:

1. **Volunteers**
2. **LUN – to discuss who is the leading group/organisation**
3. **Summer Festival**
4. **AOBs:**
 - 3a. **WhatsApp channel**
 - 3b. **Future Events Calendar**
 - 3c. **Mobile Food Hub van**

1. **Volunteers:**

1a. Reminder of contact who manages volunteers who could help out with a one off project: need a group of volunteers for a one-off project? Louisa Hutchinson works for an organisation called Employee Volunteering facilitating groups of people from local businesses eg Astra Zeneca to help out in the local community for a day or two. If you have a project in mind – for example, gardening; painting/decorating; cleaning/maintenance – contact Louisa via louisahutchinson@outlook.com

1b. Students from the Secondary College make pledges throughout the year (for example on the theme of sustainability) and could be available to volunteer as long as there is a DBS checked supervisor to oversee them while attending

- 1.c. **Hindu Samaj volunteers needed for Holi Mela 27 April afternoon**

- volunteers will be needed for stewarding and crowd control and also they will need some help to assign some volunteers to help with the stallholders to set up from about 1 pm. There will also be access to the outside areas from midday so if anyone is free to come along and help there that be good as well.

Please email Neal and Aparna and specify the times when you could help:
hindusamajnorthstowe@gmail.com

2. LUN

Statement, as endorsed by the Events and Markets Committee, Northstowe Town Council regarding the Northstowe Light Switch-On event, Saturday 23rd November 2024;

The Town Council understands that there have been extensive discussions at the January and March Northstowe Community Networkers meetings about the plans for the next Switch-On event. The Events and Markets Committee wishes to reinforce the messages already stated at both meetings by Town Council staff that the Town Council is concerned about the additional much bigger plans for the event that have been proposed.

The Town Council can only manage an event the size it led on in 2023; with the added plans for a parade, stage and performances there is a need for much earlier and more extensive overarching management, with associated additional costs, to ensure timely and safe delivery of the event, something for which the Town Council does not have spare capacity. The Town Council wishes to highlight to all partners involved that it would prefer that the added plans including stage performances and parade are to happen on a different night altogether, allowing the Town Council to safely manage a programme for the Switch-On similar to that in 2023.

If, on the other, hand, all other partner organisations involved wish to have all activities to take place on the same night, the Town Council cannot take control of the overarching management and this is something that another organisation will need to do.

It is imperative that clarity is created on this very soon. The Council will look forward to learning of the outcomes of the decision-making about this at the next Networkers meeting.

Please discuss: – who takes overall responsibility for the event

- Who pays for Phoenix security to attend the event
- Expected attendees and H&S measures taken in case over 500 people will attend

- Mari advised that Northstowe Arts with collaborators will put on this major event
- Update on funding – Northstowe Arts haven't secured all the costs, however about 80% was provided from the National Lottery and will be submitting a new funding application for a different pot soon
- Northstowe Arts liaised with Phoenix Events who will cover the whole event (including the parade) as well as providing first aid. This means that St Johns ambulance will not be required as this will be covered by Phoenix
- The TC can provide the switching on of the lights, the tree and are looking to potentially arrange for Santa to be present
- Ideally 50 volunteers will be available for the event

3. Midsummer Festival Saturday 22 June with set up from 12pm

- Mari will go to SAG on 23 May

- Mihaela following up with Greenbelt for land permissions and will mention the bouncy castle (with generator) to be placed on Greenbelt land too
- Mihaela is also liaising with the internal teams to find out if the bouncy castle could go on SCDC land
- Longstanton and District Heritage Society will take part and will also bring in other groups representing heritage with an Anglo Saxon beer demonstration, Cambridge Archaeological Unit bringing out materials that were excavated and a couple of informal talks, display of materials from archives; Swavesey District Society will be present and possibly Oakington Heritage Society too
- Teddy bears picnic style and a dance routine
- Stardust will provide an interactive dance routine
- Pathfinder School to have some solos and duets from their school production, possibly a choir too
- Secondary College will not attend and there was no reply from Martin Bacon Academy
- The café will be open and an ice cream van was arranged
- No BBQ this time due to capacity, but there will be food trucks: possibly burger
- Phoenix Events were booked
- Emmanuel Church are looking to arrange a bouncy castle – Josh will chase and confirm
- **Action** – Mihaela to inquire if the bouncy castle could be placed on SCDC land grass area
- Youth update on participation – they're enthusiastic but not sure if they'll run anything, love the idea of a music festival
- Beth asked if a connections bus should be present or the van is an option too, though the bus is preferable if funding permits
- Gamers and the Heritage Society will be indoor in the assembly rooms
- Graeme suggested that the Mobile Library should come. Peter believes there won't be enough space for this with the food vans
- Kathy asked if all plans will be ready for the next Northstowe News deadline 1 May
- A new Chess Club was set up – can a table be set up for this indoor or the large floor chess can be used outdoor if purchased in time
- Possibly the table tennis table will go out if we can fit it in
- Performance and participation: 3-8pm
- SCDC to bring their own gazebo to share with the TC – please bring weights too

- Message from Hindu Samaj received via email: 'as this clashes with some of our trustees going away for the summer period we will try and see who's available for the workshop if not we will try and put something together which we can display maybe something like a photo booth or something along those lines'
- Kathy received a quote from The Silent Disco Company as follows:

First Quote:

- Total Price 100x - £250 inc VAT, delivery & collection
 - Total Price 150x - £350 inc VAT, delivery & collection
 - Total Price 200x - £420 inc VAT, delivery & collection
 - Total Price 250x - £520 inc VAT, delivery & collection
- Your package includes:
 LED Premium Wireless Headphones
 2 or 3 Long-Range Transmitters/Channels (We don't charge extra!)
 Set-up Instructions
 Any cables required
 5* Rated Customer Service
 24/7 Technical Support
 No Holding Deposits
 Delivery & Collection by DPD (Inc text with 1 hour delivery slot)

Second quote:

Total Price - £1,895 + VAT

Your package includes:

- 250 LED Premium Wireless Headphones
- 2 or 3 Long Range Transmitters
- + DJ Services (Up to 4 Hours)
- + 2x Moving Head Lights on Truss Plinths
- + 2x LED Light Bars
- + Playlists for 2nd & 3rd Channel Provided
- + PA Sound System
- + DJ Booth & Equipment
- + 1x Member of Staff
- + Haze Machine
- Travel & Accommodation
- **Action:** Mari to follow up on the Silent Disco

- **4. AOBs**

4a. Reminder: when planning events and applying for funding, please include advertising and promotion and some of that should come to Northstowe News please

- **4b.** Reminder: if you haven't done so already, please text Chloe on WhatsApp to become an admin to the WhatsApp channel Northstowe Events: 07786316328
- Here is the link to share with friends and family who'd like to start following the channel: <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaaYjYdFCCoVVZZdih3O>

- Please note, the channel cannot be found via the search bar as there would be a fee associated with this, however once you've accessed it, it will show under your list of channels. Chloe's phone number not to be shared with anybody outside this mailing list

4c. Future Events Calendar – proposal to have a calendar where groups can pencil in future events which are not ready to be shared with the community. This will also avoid clashing

- Graeme offered to create a google doc with a spreadsheet which everyone can access and update. This is ready for everyone to start populating:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-ZFCesCUUf5F2mELGBoPRyBLkXUKI3qwyTtGBR0pDbk/edit?usp=sharing)

[ZFCesCUUf5F2mELGBoPRyBLkXUKI3qwyTtGBR0pDbk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-ZFCesCUUf5F2mELGBoPRyBLkXUKI3qwyTtGBR0pDbk/edit?usp=sharing)

4d. Message received from Town Councillor Cllr Bros Sabria via email: 'Councillors within the Town Council had been discussing the possibility to bring to Northstowe the Mobile Food Hub van by HOPE CIC, to help with the cost of living crisis, and close the gap with lack of retail and fresh produce in Northstowe. Initially, the idea was to have this as part of market development (i.e. on Sunday mornings). However, after further discussions and input from the market manager, it seems that it would be best to have it (if at all) separate from the market, on a different date/timing. It would be most useful if we could gather some input from the networkers members on the following:

- Do they think that would be a good thing for the people and community of Northstowe
- If so, what dates/times it would be most beneficial to maximise the outreach of the project

c) Contribution – funding: we are having conversations together with Foodies on partnering up to bring/ this project. Are there other organisations that feel they would want to contribute

- would it be possible to circulate the questions above with the minutes email to receive input from partners?

- Note that the Town Council has not formally discussed a proposal for Town Council involvement in this yet, conversations are taking place on this at the moment (this discussion is part of that information-gathering), with the intention to bring a motion to the Town Council in due course..

- all groups were positive about the initiative

- proposal regarding timing:

- Avoid Wednesdays – due to the Food Bank

- Friday afternoon would be a good time when the Library Van is on The Green

- Thursday evening was proposed to coincide with the Community Lounge

- Sustainable Northstowe now have a full committee which was created at their last AGM

- It was decided that no Networkers meeting will be necessary on 15 May as this is forum month.

Next meeting: 12 June