

Community Networkers – Minutes, Wednesday 14 May 2025, 7pm - 8:30pm The Cabin, Northstowe

Attendees

Graeme – Northstowe Hub, Town Council
Mari – Northstowe Arts
Aparna – Hindu Samaj Northstowe
George – LEL
Jawad – Northstowe Muslims/ N. Hub
Ian – Oakington Air Cadets
Dan – Oakington Air Cadets
Michele - SCDC
Anita – Cambridge University Hospitals, Integrated Neighbourhood Programme Manager

Apologies

Petra – Northstowe Town Council
Beth – Northstowe Church Network/Youth Hive

Agenda

1. Actions from April meeting
2. LEL (London Edinburgh London) cycle ride.
3. Holi Mela
4. Midsummer Festival
5. 60+ group, 'Come and Say Hello'
6. Health and Wellbeing -

1.) Actions from April Meeting

- Fire extinguisher training: the latest daytime session the company can offer is 3:30pm – 5:30pm. To justify costs all 15 places would need to be filled.
- Defib training: Shola to discuss with Ellen. Michele to feed back to the group at the next meeting. Jawad to provide names from the Northstowe Muslim group, but feels the time is too difficult as not after work.
- Northstowe Health and Wellbeing Survey: Anita to present ideas at this meeting and answer questions
- Timebanking/CamLETS – Graeme said the Community Lounge group had an in-depth look at what each brought to the table. Timebanking was not accessible because of costs to individual. CamLETS is a clunky and outdated online system, but functional and offers products and services (Timebanking is just services). CamLETS are keen to come out to Northstowe. Following

feedback, Northstowe Hub agrees to pay the annual fee for first 20 members as a trial.

- Action – Graeme, to prepare a plan and make an announcement

2.) LEL (London Edinburgh London) cycle ride 3-8 August 2025

George reminded the group that this is Britain's biggest endurance cycle ride which started 1989 and has approximately 2000 riders. This year most will start in Writtle with some in London. There are 21 control points (at 14 different venues), riders need to get a stamp at each stop. Northstowe is the first stop on the route, but also the last, the base will be at Northstowe Secondary School where there will be beds, toilets, showers and food.

Volunteers are needed at all points on the ride, they have 1000 volunteers already but really need local volunteers to take pressure off the people working night shifts.

Dan – asked if Air cadets to volunteer, George said they would be very welcome, especially on the Sunday as it would be very busy.

The road works would not affect the riders as they are used to various surfaces.

George is in contact with Urban and Civic and Homes England.

More information can be found at: [London Edinburgh London 2025](#)

3.) Holi Mela

Northstowe Holi Mela

Aparna kindly gave feedback from the event: 'on 26th April Hindu Samaj Northstowe celebrated Holi Mela, more than 500 people registered and attended, which made the event feel really lively and full of joy. It was a great example of how our community can come together. We had families, children, and people from all backgrounds joining in to celebrate with colours, music, and dance. Many local businesses were part of the event, and community groups like Northstowe Arts and Northstowe HUB, ParkPlay also supported and collaborated with us. We are very thankful to Homes England for their support through the Northstowe Community Activation Fund, it really helped make this event happen. The atmosphere was very inclusive and welcoming, and we received so many positive comments from guests. We are already looking forward to doing it again next year!'

Aparna mentioned that £52 from the funding was used for promotions in Northstowe News.

Hindustani Vocal Recital on 30th May

Aparna said the Hindu Samaj Northstowe Group were excited to invite everyone to a special Hindustani Classical Vocal Recital happening on 30th May at Northstowe Secondary College. They will be welcoming the renowned maestro Pandit Gokulotsavji Maharaj, a legendary figure in Indian classical music. This is a unique opportunity to experience the depth and beauty of Hindustani music

right here in our town. The event is open to all so please join them for an unforgettable evening of soulful music and culture!

4.) Midsummer Festival

Mari said that lots of community groups/organisations are involved, they have plans for the stage area, information sections and activity stands, she will be in contact with people/groups that would like to be involved. If you are interested please:

Contact Mari at: mari@northstowearts.co.uk

or [All About Creativity - Midsummer Festival](#)

or [Northstowe Arts & Northstowe Hub: Midsummer Festival Event Team](#)

They would still like help from First Aiders and stewards. They will be two teams of helpers covering 12noon – 8pm.

Graeme - there will be a Northstowe Hub stall with 'What people love most about Northstowe' and activities.

5.) Northstowe 60+ group, 'Come and Say Hello'

The first gathering was on Thursday 8 May, the second one is on Thursday 22 May at 10am. It is hoped that more people will hear about it through 'word of mouth' and be interested to come along. It is also being promoted via social media and posters. It is open to all local residents.

6.) Health and Wellbeing discussions for Town Hub

Anita spoke to the group about the proposed Northstowe Town Hub and wanted to hear ideas on the interior layout of the building. She wants to make sure it does not follow out of date specifications, thinks about current demographics and the need for the community now, in two years, five years and 10 years' time. She wants to get a really good understanding of what residents want through connections starting with community groups, especially from people who don't fill in questionnaires.

Action – Anita, to provide some open ended questions to get conversations started.

Important to get the voices of Northstowe residents plus surrounding areas.

Dan asked if the Air Cadets could have a QR code and fill in a form at their leisure.

The group were worried about residents who feel there have been too many surveys in the last few years.

Graeme said that Northstowe Hub will be engaging with community, they are having an appreciative enquiry stand at the Midsummer Festival. There could be another stand which is separate to this for a Town Hub Health stand.

Mari said that they could talk to people during the Make and Mingle sessions, people could draw their thoughts.

Younger people including the Air Cadets could interview their grandparents. In Northstowe there is still only a small number of people over the age of 60.

persons demographic missing. Digital conversations and alternative therapies will also be taken into consideration, they want to hear the voice of the community. It is important that all faiths, cultures and housing association groups are heard. Creating northstowe – Graeme mentioned how good it was taking information, moving forward with it and shaping into conversations.

AOB

Graeme had reported the Enterprise Car as no longer being available. The response from Smart Journeys was, 'the Nissan Leaf was removed as it had come to the end of its lifespan for them to rent. They have a Vauxhall Mokka EV due to come into the location within the next couple of weeks. Their original plan was to replace it at the same time as the removal of Nissan, but a delay in the next vehicle being available has caused this delay in replacement. They have apologised for any inconvenience caused.' Smart Journeys will provide an update when the replacement car is in place.

Next meeting Wednesday 9 July 7pm, The Cabin, Northstowe.

There will be no meeting in June as there is a Community Forum in June.