



NSCG VISION & VALUES

MISSION STATEMENT

The North Stoneham Community Group exists to

- 1) To further or benefit the residents of North Stoneham and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.
- 2) The advancement of citizenship and community development through the promotion of volunteering opportunities for events and initiatives which are in the interests of social welfare, support community cohesion and relieve social isolation thus improving the conditions of life for the community of North Stoneham and the neighbourhood.
- 3) The advancement of environmental protection and improvement through the promotion of sustainability, recycling, and sustainable waste management, through projects such as the community fridge, community gardening and community exchange events for the public benefit of those in North Stoneham and the neighbourhood.

(Constitution February 2024)

'We're like secret agents who bring the community together.'

(NSCG Trustee January'23)

VALUES

The values of NSCG have emerged from our journey together and we expect them to continue to do so.

Family

The NSCG trustees want to model in their relationships with each other as a group what they would love to see more broadly in North Stoneham. The approach taken by the NSCG is a relational one. This extends to how they treat each other as trustees and others in the wider community. A family is a microcosm of community where ideally members support, encourage and care for one another. NSCG trustees aim to feel connected to each other like family and to be a microcosm of the community they want to nurture.

Inclusion

North Stoneham is a diverse community, and the aim is for NSCG trustees to reflect this. The NSCG aims to include where possible and reasonable. This applies to trustees, project groups and to the events and initiatives carried out by the NSCG. How accessible is this event/initiative is a key question we ask as a group.

Thankfulness

Being thankful means not taking for granted the time, skills and contribution of trustees/volunteers, being intentional and authentic about thanking all partners, stakeholders, supporters and adopting a positive, can do, thankful attitude. Being thankful is part of the NSCG relational approach.

Mutuality

The NSCG aims to work with the North Stoneham community rather than to or for, responding to needs and ideas that arise from the community and facilitating involvement from people in the community who then become part of the solution. Mutuality is about valuing the 'other' and respect.

Sustainability

The NSCG aims for both the operational side of the trustees to be sustainable and the life of the community itself. Thus, sustainability means the NSCG adopting processes that make its operation sustainable as well as carrying out events and initiatives in as environmentally sustainable way as is reasonably possible. Both these aspects are combined in the life of the community where the aim is for sustainability to assist the development of a culture of community exchange, engagement and mutuality which will foster community wellbeing and flourishing as people are given agency and confidence grows.

NSCG VISION

The NSCG mission statement is to, “Develop, support, and strengthen community cohesion at North Stoneham and the surrounding areas through events and initiatives.’ The NSCG delivers through the values of family, inclusion, thankfulness, mutuality and sustainability.

Why? What might this look like?

A Flourishing Community

The NSCG aims to nurture community in North Stoneham. North Stoneham includes North Stoneham Park, a new estate where being new together, particularly during a pandemic, means we recognize an existing embryonic sense of mutual support e.g., posts on the community Facebook group where members use skills and resources to help each other. The NSCG wants to embrace and extend this.

Community is about ‘we’ not ‘me’. ‘We’ is only possible when people become known to each other. The aim of NSCG events is to create opportunities for people in North Stoneham to get to know each other.

A community that is about ‘we’ not ‘me’ and where people know each other creates the potential for mutual support. In the context of a society and culture where national, established, and centralized institutions are under strain, increasingly the answers will need to be local. Developing community in North Stoneham also creates the potential for the community to be the solution to some of its challenges. The aim of developing initiatives as a NSCG is to provide local support and solutions from the community, for the community. At present this is focused around food and school uniform but in the future could extend to a community garden, community nursing and a community skills exchange. As such NSCG becomes an agency for community organizing which gives local people a voice and encourages them to be part of the solution which has been shown to build confidence, positivity, and wellbeing.

Where a community is looking to the ‘we’ not ‘me’ and is empowered to provide solutions to some of the daily challenges of life, people flourish. Flourishing is about wellbeing, confidence, a sense of identity, purpose, agency, the ability to make a positive contribution and to have a voice. In an area like North Stoneham there will be many people who are stuck in the national, centralized systems that are under strain. This can lead to feelings of powerlessness. The NSCG through its initiatives and

relational, mutual approach, aims to give local people a voice and empower them to be the solution to some of their everyday issues and challenges.

The Language of Community Exchange

The NSCG do not want to exclude anyone or label anyone. The NSCG approach is with rather than 'for or to' which is why mutuality is one of our values. Therefore, no one will be targeted because of a challenge, instead the language used will be of 'exchange' where each person gives and does what they can to help the whole, the community, the 'we'. As individuals, as 'me' I might not have all the resources I need; but as a community, as 'we' resources are shared. This community exchange will include everything from toys and Christmas jumpers to school uniform, food, and skills.

A Sustainable Community

The language of exchange will help North Stoneham to become a more sustainable community. As people's confidence and sense of agency grows, we hope they will become willing to use their skills to get involved in supporting the community and thus the events and initiatives become more sustainable. As more is exchanged in terms of food, clothes, and skills so the community becomes more environmentally sustainable too.

NSCG STRATEGY

Events

Create opportunities for people to get to know each other and the NSCG, they break down the 'me' and open people up to the 'we', creating a context where trust and confidence can be built.

Initiatives

These longer-term projects respond to the needs that emerge from the North Stoneham community to promote wellbeing and community flourishing. As such they provide a context where relationships can deepen, engagement, skills and confidence can grow.

With the Community/Mutuality

The NSCG aims to foster relationships with North Stoneham Park residents and community stakeholders to engage people and organisations with its aims, grow confidence, contributions and therefore resource to the community.

IN 2024

Events

Easter Egg Hunt – an opportunity for North Stoneham neighbours to:

- Have fun and get to know each other as they solve clues and hunt for eggs.
- Find out more about NSCG
- Develop relationships with our partners – Scouts, St Nic's, YMCA, Craft Group.
- Encourage people to explore the North Stoneham outdoor environment, enhancing wellbeing.
- Use the Action Bound App and so promote more trails exploring the history and environment.

Time to Talk Cafes 2024

- Offer a café style space that supports and encourages wellbeing.
- Trial three in 2024 where one is general, one has a menopause and women's health focus and another targets men's health.

Stoneham Festival Summer 2024

- Build relationships with neighbours.
- Engage with community events and find out about other initiatives.
- Enjoy the North Stoneham outdoor environment promoting wellbeing.
- Food focus linked to the community fridge, gardening and 'feed a family' initiatives.
- Link with exchange events by hosting the uniform exchange.

Halloween Supper Trail

- Build relationships with neighbours.
- Develop relationships with partners.
- Provide an opportunity for members of the community to engage and volunteer.
- Encourage families to trick or treat together and to promote a positive and safe atmosphere.

Remembrance Trail and Commemoration

- Build relationships with partners e.g. YMCA, Scouts, St Nic's, Craft Group.
- Promote greater understanding of the history of North Stoneham, particularly the road names and the war shrine.
- Provide an opportunity for the community to remember and pay their respects.

Christmas Lights Switch on and Community Market

- Build relationships with neighbours through a fun, free, Christmas celebration.
- Develop relationships with partners e.g. YMCA, Highwood, Vivd, Scouts, Craft Group, St Nic's Eastleigh FC, Rotary.
- Develop awareness of NSCG activities.
- Provide an opportunity for members of the community to engage with NSCG and volunteer.
- Promote sustainability through community stalls and the toy/jumper exchange.

Christmas Carols

- Build relationships with neighbours through an opportunity to sing Christmas carols and share experiences of Christmas together.
- Develop relationships with partners e.g. YMCA, St Nic's.

Initiatives

Sustainable Stoneham – Community Fridge, North Stoneham Community Gardening, and School Uniform Exchange

Develop our sustainability and mutuality aims, as well as our language of exchange through the development of a community fridge and associated activities such as a uniform exchange.

Working with partners such as the YMCA, Eastleigh FC, St Nic's and the Craft Group this initiative will raise awareness of NSCG, engage people in North Stoneham and help NSCG continue to understand and respond to community needs.

Mutuality

Undertake baseline stakeholder mapping to analyse the skills and resources available to NSCG locally.

This will enhance our partnerships, engagement, and the resource base available to NSCG.

Sustainability

Operational sustainability through the adoption of administrative and operational processes that will facilitate the effective working of the NSCG and trustees. (See NSCG Operations and Communication)

Community sustainability through the 'Sustainable Stoneham' initiative

Financial sustainability through grants and donations so that we are less reliant on the EBC community development worker's budget.

BEYOND 2024

A network of NSCG project groups which drive forward the values, vision and strategy.

Increased involvement from people in the North Stoneham community supported by the Volunteering Project Group.

A continuing conversation with stakeholders so that new events and initiatives are always in response to the community.

Increased local partnerships as we seek to bring in expert resources which can't be sourced from the community itself e.g. debt advice, community nursing, coaching.

Training as initiatives emerge to meet the needs of the community.