

SprowstonMatters



Sprowston Parish Council Newsletter
Spring 2011 - Issue 30

www.sprowston-pc.gov.uk

New play equipment at Rec.



Work to refurbish the cycle track is now nearing completion and has benefitted from the addition of the very popular Zip-Wire and Bird's Nest Pod Swing. The new track is designed to be more challenging and exciting for BMX riders yet still be suitable for younger cyclists.

The enclosed children's play area has also been re-equipped with a variety of new apparatus including witches climbing hat, birds nest swing, slide incorporating climbing activity,

train drivers cab and three person variation of the see-saw amongst other activities, creating an interesting and safe place to play.

As this is a very popular park this new equipment will broaden the range and improve the facilities on offer to the residents of Sprowston.

As part of the Council's rolling plan to improve amenities throughout the parish the next area for consideration is the small play area at Wilks Farm Drive, followed by the larger play area. Comments and ideas, which you feel could be incorporated into any future improvements in this area, are very welcome and should be directed to the Clerk to the Council at the Council office.

Grass verges

Despite having a number of grass verges reinstated around Sprowston last year many have since been churned up by cars parking on them, in some cases creating deep ruts. This makes it very difficult for our grounds staff to cut the grass as the machinery can not cope with such uneven surfaces. Consideration should also be given to the utilities that run underneath the verges, roadways are built to withstand heavy traffic and protect our services this is not necessarily the case off road.

With Spring just around the corner and this seasons cutting soon to begin we would ask residents and their visitors to avoid parking on verges allowing cutting to take place and preventing further damage.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The date of this year's Annual Parish Meeting is 27 April 2011 commencing 7pm and to be held in the Council Office, Recreation Ground Road. This is your opportunity to ask questions and raise issues relating to the parish. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Schedule of Council Meetings 2011/2012

8 June 2011
29 June 2011
20 July 2011
10 August 2011
31 August 2011
21 September 2011
12 October 2011
2 November 2011
23 November 2011
7 December 2011 (Precept/Planning)
14 December 2011
11 January 2012
1 February 2012
22 February 2012
14 March 2012
4 April 2012
25 April 2012 (Annual Parish Meeting - 7pm) (Council Meeting to be held on the rising of the Annual Parish Meeting)
16 May 2012 (Annual Council Meeting)



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COUNCIL

As with the Annual Parish meeting members of the public are welcome to attend, and there is an opportunity for residents to ask questions on any matters concerning the Parish of Sprowston. Copies of the agenda and minutes for each meeting are available free of charge either on request from the Council Office when they are published or at the meeting. Other background papers and reports can also be viewed or copies supplied on payment of a small charge.

contacts

Visitor opening times & telephone enquiries

Monday - Friday 9.30am - 1pm
& 2pm - 4.30pm

(After hours answerphone)

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Council Offices

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Sparhawk Avenue telecommunications mast

Having recently been consulted on a planning application for the erection of a 12.5m high telecommunications mast and associated equipment at Sparhawk Avenue, the Parish Council objected to the proposal on the grounds that it was an inappropriate location being adjacent to a park, close to a school and residential properties. This application has since been refused by Broadland District Council.

Cemetery extended

After five years of negotiations the Council has finally been able to purchase 2.4 hectares of land north of St Marys Grove to extend the cemetery, which has since been fenced. A planning application with layout for the new cemetery was made to Broadland District Council and refers to landscaping incorporating surface water drainage lagoons, trees, shrubs and hedging, roadway and construction of maintenance building to accommodate cemetery equipment. Having obtained planning permission this Council is now considering how to progress this scheme, which also includes improvements to the existing cemetery.

Temporary access for works traffic will be via the allotment site and gates have been erected for this purpose however, on completion of the preparation work a new access will be created through the cemetery and link the two areas.

No decision has yet been made as to whether the extension will be for traditional burial only or also provide for woodland burials.

Council Elections

Notification has been given that elections are due to take place on 5 May for District and Parish Councillors and the proposed Referendum on the voting system.

Polling Stations in Sprowston will be located at White Woman Lane Junior School, Sprowston Senior Citizens Club, Sprowston Sports and Social Club and Falcon Junior School.

White Woman Lane Junior School Parent Governors wanted

School governors are people who want to make a positive contribution to children's education.

The governing body has a key role in the development and oversight of the school. It is governors who hold the main responsibility for finance in schools, and who work with the head teacher to make the tough decisions about balancing resources. The governing body does not get involved with the day to day running of the school which is the responsibility of the Head.

We have six meetings a year and some governors also attend committee meetings eg. regarding curriculum or finance. Training is available both introductory and for more specialised topics.

We have two vacancies for parent governors. If you are a parent of a pupil at the school, would you like to know more about the role? To help you I will be pleased to explain the role in greater detail or to invite you to attend a governing body meeting as an observer, the next meeting is Tuesday 15 March at 7pm.

Please contact Judy Leggett - Chair of White Woman Lane School governing body E-mail: j-leggett@old-catton.fsnet.co.uk
Tel: 01603 429986

inbrief...

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The 2011 Parish Fete is to be held on Saturday 18 June at the Recreation Ground from 1pm - 5pm. If you would like to be a stallholder please contact the Council Office for an application form or download one from the Council's website.

GRIT BINS

Numerous requests for grit bins to be placed across the parish have been received this winter and whilst the Council is sympathetic to residents concerns every application is considered on its merits and against the criteria set by Norfolk County Council, being on an incline and bend. However, as many requests did not meet the criteria and to help parishioners in the event of future extreme snow conditions, as recently experienced, the Council is exploring the possibility of gritting those pavements in Sprowston where a need has been identified.

TRAVEL

Applications for bus passes are no longer being processed by the Parish Council and should be made to Norfolk County Council in future. Railcards can still be obtained from the Council office, the current cost to Broadland residents being £19.50 giving a £6.50 discount.

Post Mill Close open space

The wall surrounding the open space at Post Mill Close suffered severe frost damage this winter and the structure became unsafe and failed. This has led to the project to improve this area being brought forward and having previously surveyed residents for their ideas an informal open space will be created with planting and seating. The brick rubble and debris has already been cleared and work is underway to lay a new tarmac surface, rebuild the wall incorporating flower planters and to provide seating, dog bin and litter bin. Work will commence late spring.

Windsor Park Gardens

The Council is talking to Broadland District Council with regard to taking over responsibility, from the developer, for the play equipment and open space at Windsor Park Gardens. At present no date for this has been fixed.

The Council is aware there is a need for refurbishment, including resurfacing of the pathways, drainage to the play area, wetpour under the swings and spinner, removal of netting and tree guards, planting and replacement of additional trees and shrubs and reinstatement of the fence to the back of the site. In addition to this a knee rail fence will be investigated to prevent vehicle access onto the open space and grass areas.