

# SprowstonMatters



Sprowston Parish Council Newsletter  
Winter 2011 - Issue 32

www.sprowston-pc.gov.uk

## Community Building for Sprowston

Following negotiations with Norfolk County Council this Council has moved one step closer towards the purchase of the freehold property and associated playing field on School Lane at a cost of £314,000 spread over three years. A lease in kind is also being discussed to allow access to the building for refurbishment prior to completion of the conveyance and transfer.

Thank you for supporting our "Back our Bid" campaign the overall response has been very positive with 98% of those registering an opinion fully supporting the Council's procurement of this building for the benefit of the parish.

The building has tremendous potential and could offer room hire, office space, car parking and both indoor and outdoor recreational activities. The Council is still keen to hear your views on what activities and/or facilities you would like to see provided and welcomes ideas from potential users and organisers of future activities as well as any individual or group interested in hiring these facilities in the future, or as a permanent base. We have already gained a lot of information and the next stage will be to work with this.

Our procurement of this building has safeguarded a premise for Sprowston School Lane Nursery who will continue their occupancy and this Council is looking forward to working with them.

Having secured tenure an open day event will take place in January 2012.



## SPC contacts

**Visitor opening times & tel. enquiries**  
Mon - Fri 9.30am - 1pm & 2pm - 4.30pm  
(After hours answerphone)

### Clerk to the Council

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### Council Offices

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Sprowston, NR7 8EW

## Changes to library opening hours

**Following consultation Sprowston Library has changed its opening hours with effect from 3 October 2011 to the following.**

|           |           |            |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Monday    | Closed    |            |
| Tuesday   | 9am - 1pm | 2pm - 8pm  |
| Wednesday | 9am - 1pm | 2pm - 5pm  |
| Thursday  | 9am - 1pm | 2pm - 5pm  |
| Friday    | 9am - 1pm | 2pm - 5pm  |
| Saturday  |           | 10am - 4pm |

## Public Rights of Way

Norfolk County Council is looking to introduce new assessment criteria with regards to the future maintenance on Public Rights of Ways.

A Public Right of Way is one over which members of the public are legally entitled to pass on foot without needing permission of the land owner.

The Highways Authority and landowners/occupiers have a shared responsibility to ensure Rights of Way are kept clear in accordance with s130 of the 1980 Act. The deeds to a property will indicate if there is a public right of way associated with it.

Rights of Way in Sprowston include Barkers Lane (across Millennium Loke) to Church Lane through the Millennium Woodland, Wroxham Road to the Church, Wroxham Road to Church Lane, Raynes Close and School Lane to Allens Lane (Lushers Loke)

Any enquiries relating to Public Rights of Way should be directed to Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020.

## Dog Gloves

There has been a vast improvement at the Recreation Ground with more people clearing up after their pets since the introduction of dog gloves.

Whilst this Council is pleased with such a positive response the original intention was that gloves would be available for those occasions when owners forgot to bring their own bags. In the last six months 32,000 gloves have been purchased at a cost of £886.

This Council would not like to discourage anyone from cleaning up after their dog but would remind owners to bring their own bags whenever possible.

## Fun at the Fete

Over 1,000 people attended this year's summer fete braving the unpredictable weather and heavy downpours. There were more stallholders than ever offering a wide range of activities, produce and information from jams and chutneys to renewable energy.

Children had great fun in the arena competing in the egg and spoon, sack race and tug of war all urged on by an enthusiastic crowd. Yet again our thanks to the 45th Scouts for the loan of their tug of war rope and hessian sacks.

The Archery instructed and supervised by Feathers and Fletchings proved very popular with would be Robin Hood's and Maid Marion's all trying to get the elusive bull's-eye. There were a few successes.

John and Val Lord gave us an interesting glimpse of Stone Age life with a fascinating demonstration on flint knapping whilst dressed and staged in authentic looking costumes and surroundings. They also had the most secure tent at the fete.

From the historic to the futuristic with our regular supporters Norwich and District Star Wars Club who carried out mock lightsabre duels and posed for many family photographs.

Who can forget the stalwart efforts of the Morris Dancers, who despite slippery conditions and three members already injured, did their best to entertain performing in various locations on the day.

A big thank you to East Coast Truckers who provided and delivered the stage free of charge creating a focal point for announcements and live entertainment, and to Starlight Karaoke with guest DJ Mark James who were very creative and gained fantastic audience participation in the events whilst keeping everyone well informed.

Sprowston Parish Council had their own marquee with an exhibition on future development proposals in the area, the creation of a neighbourhood plan involving residents in local planning decisions and a campaign to obtain the old school building on School Lane for community use.

Preparations for the 2012 fete have already begun. If you would like to be a stallholder please register your interest with the Council office.

## Planning in the Community - make your voice heard

Planning law is changing and under the Governments localism bill the Parish Council is preparing a neighbourhood plan with policies that will influence all future development in Sprowston, including land use.

### How does this affect you?

If successful all applications submitted for planning approval in the parish, whether a small extension to an existing property or large scale new development, will have to adhere to the policies included in the plan. These policies will be formed by the Parish Council who is actively involved in capturing the views and opinions of residents for inclusion in the plan, which will then shape the future of Sprowston and ensure that local decisions are taken by local people.

There is considerable development proposed for in and around the parish with over 6,000 new residential properties together with business premises and associated amenity areas. It is important that existing residents have an input to these proposals. A leaflet was delivered to all households in July advising that changes were taking place and asking for comments. A questionnaire will be delivered in Spring 2012 giving another opportunity for you to inform us of your opinion and have an input to the future of Sprowston.

Your voice in the community matters and is important, help us make it heard.

## on the recreation ground

### Cycle news

Since opening, the new cycle track at the Recreation Ground has been well received and attracted lots of activity. Now well tried and tested riders have asked for some additional design features to be included to enable greater speed without eroding the banks. Work will be carried out later in the year during which time the track will be closed.

Also in this enclosed area the addition of a cantilever pod swing and zip wire has helped to provide a wider range of facilities across the parish. The Council has a rolling programme for improvements to all its play areas and other parks and open spaces will benefit from new equipment in the future.

### Cycle racks

Since its refurbishment the enclosed play area on the Recreation Ground has proved very popular with many young people cycling to it. Despite a restriction most bikes are wheeled inside the play area for safe keeping and it is, at times, hazardous.

With this in mind the Council has erected cycle racks outside the perimeter for this purpose and would encourage parents to ensure their children can secure their cycles by providing a suitable lock.

### Seating arrangements

The deteriorating seating at the Recreation Ground has been replaced and, following a number of requests from parishioners, additional ones strategically placed around the park.

In line with the Council's Environmental Policy these new seats are made from recycled materials which are impervious to weather, cannot be etched and graffiti spray resilient. We also hope you find them more comfortable.



**GAS SAFE** registered  
**WRAS** approved

Installation, Annual Service, Maintenance & Repair

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