

Sprowston Matters



A call to residents... help shape the future of Sprowston

The Town Council is progressing with a **Neighbourhood Plan** to guide the future development of Sprowston. As one of the first steps in finding out what the **needs of the community** are, the Town Council is inviting residents to attend an **open evening on 17th January 2012**, starting at 18:45, at **Sprowston Diamond Centre** (formally known as the Youth and Community Centre), School Lane.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

The Government has introduced the right to do neighbourhood planning through the Localism Act. Neighbourhood planning is a new way in which communities can help to decide the future of the places where they live and work.

In Sprowston, we will be able to set out policies in a Neighbourhood Plan that will guide the future development of the area. For example, policies may highlight sites for future development of a particular type, and special areas that need to be protected. These policies will need to be in general conformity with the adopted strategy for development in the area.

“ If Sprowston’s Neighbourhood Plan is approved following an examination and a community referendum, then it will be adopted within Broadland District Council’s planning framework and will carry real, legal weight.

Although the Town Council is leading this project we need as many people as possible to put forward their views so that we capture the opinions of the community for inclusion in the plan. To collect your ideas we have already sent out flyers to every household and staged a display at the summer fete where there was an opportunity for residents to comment.

Continued overleaf...

*“We wish all
Sprowston Residents
and Businesses a
Happy New Year”*



**Sprowston becomes
a Town - see overleaf...**

Newsletter - Issue 33



www.sprowston-pc.gov.uk

Opening times & tel. enquiries

Mon - Fri 9.30am - 1pm
& 2pm - 4.30pm
(After hours answerphone)

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Sprowston, NR7 8EW

Concessionary Bus Passes

We have received a number of enquiries regarding the re-issue of concessionary bus passes which are due to expire. Norfolk County Council, who are responsible for the issue of new and replacement passes, have advised that passes will be automatically updated. However, should you not receive your pass before the expiry date please contact them on tel: 0344 800 8020 or email: ConcessionaryTravel@norfolk.gov.uk

Grit Bins

In response to the unprecedented number of requests received last winter for grit bins to be provided around Sprowston it is this Council’s policy for 2011/12 to arrange for gritting of footpaths when considered necessary, and not provide any additional bins to those ones already in-situ.

Neighbourhood planning event in January 2012

A three day neighbourhood planning event in January will continue our work on the Neighbourhood Plan. It will begin with an open public meeting on **17 January 2012**. This will be an opportunity to find out about neighbourhood planning and what the project is trying to achieve in Sprowston. You will also be able to share your concerns and aspirations for the neighbourhood and feed into the design brief for the Neighbourhood Plan.

This will be followed by a stakeholder workshop on **18 January 2012**, which will involve representatives of community groups, Town and District Council elected members and officers, relevant landowners, developers, and technical advisers, to understand in more detail the issues and aspirations for the neighbourhood and how they can be translated into proposals for change. Attendance at this event is by invitation only, but if you are involved with a local group that would like to be represented, please contact the Town Council office.

The event will finish with another evening public open meeting on **19 January 2012**, starting at 18:45 at Sprowston Diamond Centre, School Lane which will be an opportunity to hear about and comment on the event's outcomes and recommendations, including proposed key design elements of the neighbourhood plan.

The event will be facilitated by The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, which is funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government to help neighbourhoods like ours develop plans for their area.

“ If you wish to play a part in shaping the future of Sprowston, please do come along to the open evening at the Sprowston Diamond Centre, School Lane on 17th January, starting at 18.45 and join the discussion.

Sprowston becomes a Town

Following public consultation, where a majority of those people who responded supported changing from a parish to a town, Councillors unanimously voted to implement this change giving Sprowston a very separate and distinct identity from Norwich City.

With over 15,000 residents, and likely to increase with further development, it was felt that town status better reflected the urban and diverse community Sprowston has become.

There will be minimal cost in making this change as it will be carried out over a period of time as and when consumables and equipment are upgraded and replaced. We hope you like the new logo which has been designed by Cog Media Group who is also designing a logo for Sprowston Diamond Centre, the name chosen for the building on School Lane which the Council is in the process of occupying and purchasing, previously known as the Youth and Community Centre.

By Election for Town Councillor

An election is to be held on 26 January 2012 at Falcon Junior School for the office of Town Councillor - Sprowston South East Ward.

Urban Foxes

More and more foxes are being seen in and around Sprowston, increasingly during the day, and several residents have contacted us for advice. According to Natural England, the Government's nature conservation advisor, foxes are now established residents of many urban areas and are likely to remain so. They are attracted to gardens by the food and shelter that they offer. Furthermore, some people enjoy seeing foxes in their gardens and actively encourage them by providing food. This may cause problems, and the interests of neighbours should be considered.

Dealing with fox problems is the responsibility of the owner or occupier of the property where the problem occurs.

To discourage foxes do not feed them, either intentionally or unintentionally. Ensure that foxes cannot access food put out for other wildlife or pets. Make bird tables inaccessible for foxes to climb onto, for example, by erecting a covered table at a height of at least 1.5m (5ft).

Always clear away spilt food from under any bird feeder. Store rubbish, especially food waste (including composted waste) in fox-proof containers made of materials such as metal or plastic, and clear away wind fallen fruit.

Further information on dealing with fox problems, as well as problems caused by other mammals and birds can be obtained by contacting Wildlife Management and Licensing at: Natural England, Wildlife Licensing Unit, First Floor, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6EB
tel: 0845 601 4523 (local rate)
e-mail: wildlife@naturalengland.org.uk

Senior Rail Cards

Senior rail cards are available to those aged 60 or over and entitle the holder to a third off most rail fares on the National Rail Network. If you live in the Broadland area you can purchase a senior rail card for just £21 instead of the standard price of £28.

As from 1 April 2012 rail cards will no longer be available from the Sprowston Town Council Office and all applications following this date should be made to Broadland District Council, Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Norwich.
Tel: (01603) 431133
e-mail: reception@broadland.gov.uk