



The Council has been pleased to support the Grow Your Community Network, a group of residents and organisations, including Broadland District Council, who work together to improve health and social care of residents aged 60 plus. We have held various events including a slipper exchange, distributed articles of clothing to help residents to keep well and warm and have a dedicated page on our website informing of activities in the area.

As to Administration, Councillors have undergone relevant training and attended various workshops, seminars and meetings. A new appraisal process has been introduced and all staff appraisements have been completed with development plans in place for the forthcoming year. To keep up with constant changes in legislation and the need for Council's to become more transparent in their activities a raft of new policies have been implemented and available on our website.

Council at the forefront of best practice

Moving on to financial matters, the Town Council set its budget for 2016/2017 at the Council Meeting held on 18 November 2015 where it was agreed that to meet the Council's funding requirements cemetery and memorials fees relating to adults would increase by 3%, sports hire fees by 3% and allotment rent increased by £2 per annum. Room hire fees at Sprowston Diamond Centre and the Pavilion were maintained at 2015/16 rates and the precept was set at £547,332. The cost of the Town Council's services to the average band D property is £109.47 per year an increase of 2.7%.

The Town Council continues to use its powers to help local voluntary organisations which serve our community, providing activities for all ages.

I wish to express thanks on behalf of this Council to the dedicated people who run our many organisations. Grants awarded in 2015/16 included:

- Age UK Norfolk - £250
- Magpas Helimedix - £250
- Norfolk Citizens Advise Bureau - £250
- Sprowston Youth Engagement Project - £250
- Royal British Legion - £250
- Norwich Door to Door - £250
- Cruse Bereavement Care - £150
- East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) - £100

It is always good to end a report on a high note and it gives me great pleasure to announce that following a submission to the National Association of Local Council's Quality Award Scheme, Sprowston Town Council has been awarded Quality Gold, the first in Norfolk.

This recognises that this Council is at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence in governance, community leadership and council development. Whilst we have always valued our staff this achievement only confirms their hard work and commitment to this Council.

Finally, I would like to thank all Town Councillors for their unstinting commitment to Sprowston and the Town Clerk and her team for being an ever-present frontline face for the public.



Ian Moncur
Chairman of Sprowston
Town Council

Talking money

What does the Town Council need the budget for?

Sprowston Town Council is committed to ensuring that current community facilities are refurbished and maintained for future generations in particular Sprowston Diamond Centre and Pavilion.

In setting the 2016/17 Budget and Precept the Town Council is mindful of the financial resources required to meet the ambitions of the Council.

Where does Sprowston Town Council get its money from?

The Town Council's income is generated from:

1. The Precept paid by Sprowston local council tax payers.
2. Income generating activities eg. sports pitches, cemetery and room hire.
3. Service Level Agreements - providing services for other organisations.
4. Lease of buildings.

Continued overleaf...

Talking money - continued

- 5. Obtaining external grants - for Capital Investment.
- 6. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - for Capital Investment.

Sproston Town Council does not receive any portion of the Business Rates but does receive, on a decreasing basis, an element of the Council Tax Transitional Grant.

Sproston Town Council’s precept for the Financial Year 2016/17 is £547.332 which equates to the average Band D house in Sproston paying £109.47 per year or approximately £2.10 per week.

The Council holds earmarked reserves which is funding held for a particular purpose, for instance financing future capital spending. We put money aside for future spending now, rather than find it all at once when we need to pay it. This is particularly the case with street lighting column renewal, play equipment and development of Sproston Diamond Centre.

How will the budget be spent?

The Town Council’s budget is spent under the main categories as seen below.

How the budget will be spent

Function	Precept	Income	Expenditure	Transfer from Reserves	Transfer to Reserves
Administration	£139,280	£22,495	£160,009		£1,766
Allotments	£4,803	£3,956	£6,931		£1,828
Cemetery	£32,658	£104,597	£342,461	£205,206	
Grants to Community Groups	£961	£2,839	£1,650		£2,150
Sproston Diamond Centre	£169,986	£60,214	£156,198		£74,002
Parks and Open Spaces	£117,186	£141,692	£320,868	£61,990	
Streetlights, Dog/Litter Bins	£47,066	£1,934	£42,399		£6,601
	£511,940	£337,727	£1030,516	£267,196	£86,347

Residents are welcome to inspect the Council’s accounts.
Please contact this office to make an appointment.

Facilities and functions provided by Sproston Town Council

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| Allotments | Millennium Loke |
| Bus Shelters | Sproston Recreation Ground |
| Consultees (Planning, Highways etc.) | Sparhawk Park |
| Grants to Local Organisations | Cranes Croft Playground |
| Sproston Cemetery | Halls Wood Playground |
| Post Mill Close Open Space | Sproston Pavilion |
| Litter Bins | Bowls Pavilion |
| Neighbourhood Development Plan | Civic Functions |
| Public Seats | Dog Bins/Gloves on Council Property |
| Sproston Diamond Centre | Sports Pitches/Tennis Courts |
| Street Lighting | Millennium Woodland |
| Verge Cutting as a delegated function | Barkers Lane Open Space |
| Windsor Park Gardens Open Space and Playground | Wilks Farm Drive Open Space and Playgrounds |