

SCHOOL LANE PRE-SCHOOL

School Lane Pre-School provides a modern, fully accessible purpose-built setting at the Diamond Centre. We have two open-plan activity rooms, a secure enclosed outdoor play area and a kitchen with a recent five-star food hygiene rating. We opened a new extension in 2016, increasing our capacity to 48 children. Funded places are available for 3 and 4 year olds and eligible 2 year olds. We are open 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday during term time.

At School Lane Pre-School we aim to create an atmosphere where the child feels happy and secure within a friendly environment. Children are given the opportunity and are encouraged to experience many activities in all areas of the Early Years Foundation stage. Your child will learn a lot from playing, especially if they are happy in the group. Whatever a child creates, it is the doing that provides them with both pleasure and fun.



Please get in touch to arrange a visit and join us for a session with hands-on experience.
The Diamond Centre t: 01603 416181 www.schoollanepre-school.co.uk

Fires at Harrison's Wood

It has recently been noted that unauthorised fires have been taking place in Harrison's Wood. This is of real concern to all those who use and enjoy this wonderful woodland. This is because of the potential for unattended, uncontrolled fires within a coniferous woodland to develop into wildfires. Although uncommon, wildfires do occur in the UK and are particularly destructive during hot and dry times of the year (Forestry Commission, 2014).

Coniferous trees, like many of those in Harrison's Wood, have a large amount of sap in their branches. Sap is flammable and burns very quickly. Because many coniferous trees are planted closely together, this can further the risk of fire spreading from tree to tree. In some instances, controlled fires may take place within woodlands as part of ongoing conservation works.

However, in such instances, signs will be erected, fires are always extinguished fully, and the local fire services are always notified.

If you see a fire within Harrison's Wood please contact a member of the Fringe Project who will arrange for the fire to be properly extinguished. Alternatively you can contact Norfolk Fire services via 01603 810351. The Fringe Project (who currently manage Harrison's Woods) can be contacted via 01603 423303.

It's a short wait for an allotment

Allotments are a great hobby you get exercise without having to pay for gym membership, lots of fresh air and healthy fruit and vegetables to eat when they are at their best. However, running an allotment can be a big commitment and requires time and hard work, but if you put in the effort you will reap the health and wellbeing benefits, and save money on your weekly shop.

We have 92 allotment gardens at our Church Lane site located adjacent to Sprowston cemetery. Whilst all plots are tenanted at the moment there is a short waiting list, so if you are interested in becoming a future allotment holder with all the health benefits this activity offers please contact the Council office.

Schedule of Town Council Meetings

All meetings are held at Sprowston Diamond Centre, School Lane, Sprowston, commencing 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

- 28 June 2017
- 19 July 2017
- 9 August 2017
- 30 August 2017
- 13 September 2017
- 18 October 2017
- 8 November 2017
- 29 November 2017
- 13 December 2017 (Precept/Planning)
- 20 December 2017
- 10 January 2018
- 31 January 2018
- 21 February 2018
- 14 March 2018
- 04 April 2018
- 25 April 2018 (Council Meeting to be held on the rising of the Annual Town Council Meeting)
- 16 May 2018 (Annual Town Council Meeting)

All meetings of the Council are open to the public, who are welcome to attend, and there is an opportunity for residents to ask questions on any matters concerning the Town 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.



Sprowston Matters

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME QUALITY GOLD



Issue 47

www.sprowston-tc.gov.uk

Community Speed Watch

The police are keen to support existing Community Speed Watch schemes as well as create new ones. Put simply, speed monitoring is carried out by trained volunteers from the community, with follow-up work on education and enforcement by Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership, Norfolk Police and your Local Authority.

Initially, letters are sent to registered keepers of offending vehicles asking for their assistance in keeping speeds down in your community, with persistent offenders targeted for police enforcement. Local Authority Road Safety staff can help with supporting initiatives, including the use of Speed Awareness Messaging Devices (SAMs).

There should be a minimum of six volunteers in the scheme, each willing to contribute a minimum of one hour per week. Small communities who are unable to reach this figure are encouraged to link with other interested local councils/groups, with a view to joining together for a wider-area scheme and sharing the equipment. Volunteers must be over 18 years of age and will be subject to a vetting procedure. Volunteers who do not wish to be involved in speed monitoring may assist with administrative support, and each scheme must include at least one person in this category. Some volunteers may, of course, be able to do both.

The Parish or local Council must support the scheme. The locations for monitoring are chosen by the community, based on their experience and knowledge of the area. Supporting data may be available from the police or local authority. Risk assessments will be carried out by a trained officer, who will approve the nearest safe site to that chosen. All sites must be within 30 mph or 40 mph limits. Training for volunteers will include use of the equipment, and health and safety issues both general and site-specific. This training may be cascaded to new volunteers by scheme members but direct approval must be given by Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership following vetting.

Anyone interested in setting up a new scheme can contact PC Andy Mason at Sprowston Police Station on 101 to find out more.



Grass verges

Sprowston Town Council cuts the majority of grass verges on behalf of Norfolk County Council, however there are some areas maintained by Broadland District Council and the Clarion Housing Group particularly around Harrison's Drive and Lowry Cole Road. If you are unsure who cuts the grass near you please contact us on 01603 408063 or email: townclerk@sprowston-tc.gov.uk

You may notice that clippings have been left after we have cut the grass. This is because we do not collect clippings.

Residents have expressed concern about grass clippings blocking drainage gullies. This is no different to autumn when thousands of trees shed leaves onto the highway and end up in the same place. The debris from grass cuttings and trees is washed into the gullies and either trapped in the sump of the gully or the sump of the first downstream chamber, which are designed for that very purpose. Cyclic cleansing of the drainage system then removes this detritus.

Strimming is not carried out with every cut.

Parking on verges does cause us difficulty when cutting as access is restricted and our machinery is unable to cope with the ruts and uneven surfaces often created.

Repairs to verges are carried out by Norfolk County Council who can be contacted on 0344 800 8020. However any problems identified by our grounds staff when cutting are referred to Norfolk County Council for reinstatement

As a Town Council we have no legal powers to prevent the parking of, or the selling of vehicles on the verges.

Mr C L Noble



It is with great sadness that in March 2017 Chris Noble a serving member of the Council died at the age of 65. Mr Noble represented the residents of Sprowston South East Ward for a total of 17 years, two as chairman. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Sprowston's youth and keen to provide them with as many facilities as he had ideas.

The vacancy left by Mr Noble was filled on 7 June 2017 by the co-option of Mr Barrie Osborne.

Office opening times and tel. enquiries Mon - Fri 9.30am - 1pm & 2pm - 4.30pm (after hours answerphone)

Town Clerk: June Hunt t: (01603) 408063 e: townclerk@sprowston-tc.gov.uk

'Sprowston Matters' Editor: Evelyn Elliot t: (01603) 408063 e: evelyn.elliott@sprowston-tc.gov.uk

Town Council Offices: Sprowston Diamond Centre, School Lane, Sprowston, NR7 8TR.

Sprowston Town Council annual report and accounts – see inside...

The Chairman of Sprowston Town Council Mr Ian Moncur, presented the Annual Report of the Council for the year ending 31 March 2017

Whilst it gives me great pleasure to present the annual report of Sprowston Town Council for the year 2016-17 it is tinged with sadness as two of our serving Members, Mr John Bracey and Mr Christopher Noble both died in hospital following health complications.

Mr Bracey, the oldest serving member of the Council represented the residents of Sprowston on both the District and Town Council and was also a member of the Broadland Older People's Partnership, History Group and Senior Citizens Welfare Committee.

Mr Noble served on the Council for 18 years two as Chairman. Chris had a particular interest in the development of Sprowston Diamond Centre for community use, was an ardent supporter for additional youth facilities including a skate park, and was a keen member of the working group responsible for organising many parish fetes. Both will be greatly missed by all that knew them.

On a brighter note I am pleased to welcome Councillor Samantha England who was elected to represent Sprowston South East Ward.

As to the work of the Council a £1.5m loan has been secured from the Public Loans Board and Phase 4 development plans for Sprowston Diamond Centre submitted to the Planning Authority. Tenders are currently being sought for work to commence this summer. Business will continue to operate as usual with disruption to our users kept to a minimum. The Diamond Field opposite the building will be opened for additional parking during building works.

Still with Sprowston Diamond Centre the construction of a £152,795 extension to the School Lane Pre-School was completed in time for the start of the summer term, doubling the amount of places available for 2 to 3 year olds. This scheme was supported by £6,000 in grants to the pre-school from The Geoffrey Watling Charity and Broadland District Council.

Continuing with buildings, following entry into Broadland District Council's 2016 Enhancement Awards I was pleased to accept a Certificate of Commendation on behalf of the Council in recognition of the work to extend Sprowston Pavilion to provide additional changing and shower facilities.

The Pavilion has since undergone further development with the removal of an internal wall to create a more spacious hall which has also had new flooring. As this building, with its enclosed outside play area, is ideally suited to children's parties the Council recently purchased appropriately sized tables and chairs for 3 - 7 years olds and will be actively promoting hire of this facility.

Additional maintenance work on the windows and veranda is programmed for later this financial year.

To give further protection to our tenants and workforce additional safety call points and fire alarm have been installed at the Council's leased building and groundsmen's storage unit.

To identify efficiency and environmental savings a full engineering survey and assessment of the hot water heating and water supply services at Sprowston Recreation Ground and Sparhawk Park has been commissioned and work to implement the recommended improvements will be prioritised and carried out.

Moving on to our parks and open spaces, for safety reasons double yellow lines, speed humps, and a clear pedestrian walkway

have been painted along the driveway into the Recreation Ground, and a large sign erected requesting motorists not to park in the driveway. Bays in the car park have also been relined to encourage more organised parking.

The Edwards Road car park has had the central island trees removed and the area levelled to provide additional parking, the drains cleared and car park resurfaced and lined at cost of £29,520.00 plus VAT.

Last summer we experienced an unprecedented amount of vandalism with damage to the Pavilion, Barkers Lane shelter, play equipment at various locations and the toilets at Sparhawk Park. Repair costs have been in excess of £9,500 and resulted in the installation of CCTV at the Pavilion which also monitors the groundsmen's storage unit and Bowls Pavilion.

Dog fouling continues to be a problem across the parish and the Council is trying to raise awareness by encouraging dog owners to clean up and keep public spaces foul free. It has already been agreed that if there is no significant improvement at Sprowston Recreation Ground the only option will be to introduce a control order requiring dogs to be kept on a lead.

On a more positive note the Council is consulting with residents regarding suitable play equipment for the refurbishment of the play area to the rear of Wilks Farm Drive. A number of suggestions have been received including a slide, roundabout, zip wire and fencing. It is hoped to have a scheme in place by late summer.

As part of our ongoing tree maintenance program arboreal work was carried out at the Millennium Loke and Wilks Farm Drive to remove unsafe and damaged boughs; over 100 whips planted to infill hedges on the splays at the Wroxham Road/Blue Boar Lane roundabout and damaged trees replaced with saplings at Sprowston Recreation Ground.

The waiting list for an allotment garden is the shortest it has been in many years with current tenants being offered additional plots, subject to satisfactory cultivation of their existing allotment. If there are any residents interested in becoming a tenant please contact the Council office.

The cemetery continues to be maintained to a high standard and improved signage has been erected at the gates to clarify opening/closing times for vehicular access. Work to refurbish the railings will resume as the weather improves. Whilst we rarely incur damage at the cemetery unfortunately four memorials were demolished earlier this year following a vehicular accident. Relatives have been informed and further details are awaited.

As to delegated functions the Council continues to cut the verges on behalf of Norfolk County Council and have expanded the area to include the Wroxham Road/Blue Boar Lane roundabout and the verge outside numbers 299 - 303.

With regards to street lighting the Council maintains 842 columns and has received 137 fault reports, which have generally been repaired within the target of ten working days, and had one knockdown at Roundtree Way.

Following concerns regarding inadequate street lighting on Falcon Road adjacent to the woodland area the Council has had the lamps changed to LED at a cost of £1,860 plus VAT.

On a more general theme the Dementia café, which runs every third Thursday of the month at Sprowston Diamond Centre, has proved so successful that there has been an opportunity for a smaller group to explore the possibilities of a dementia town. This would involve contacting businesses and local groups to help make their premises more dementia friendly. The Town Council is to become part of this Dementia Friendly Community and Councillors will undergo Dementia Friends training in June, which will also be rolled out to all staff.

Now to financial matters, the Town Council has set its budget for 2017/18 and to meet its funding requirements has increased cemetery, memorial and sports hire fees by 3% and set the precept at £590,000. The cost of the Town Council's services to a band D property is £112.51 per year, an increase of 2.8%.

The Council has given £500 in grant aid to various organisations which serve the community including: East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH), Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau and The British Legion.

Just as a note of interest the names of roadways on the new housing developments adjacent to Blue Boar Lane were chosen as subjects synonymous with the City of Norwich and surrounding Broadland area. The three themes suggested were wild fowl birds, Bolton and Paul and the shoe industry. The History Group kindly researched the archives and submitted a list of names including Mallard, Shelduck, Atlantic, Bobolink, Ellis, Towler and Southall to name but a few.

Finally, I offer my sincere thanks to all my fellow Councillors and the Sprowston Town Council staff for all their advice, support and work on behalf of the town and the Council.

Income & expenditure year ended 31 March 2017

Function	Precept	Income	Expenditure	Transfer from reserves	Transfer to reserves
Administration	£153,382	£3,000	£181,965	£25,583	
Allotments	£5,289	£3,800	£9,095	£6	
Cemetery	£35,966	£75,200	£98,900		£12,266
Grant to community groups	£3,500	£0	£3,500		
Sprowston Diamond Centre	£187,199	£37,000	£1,689,580	£1,465,381	
Parks & open space	£152,831	£34,452	£295,775	£108,492	
Streetlights, dog & litter bins	£51,833	£0	£52,400	£567	
Total	£590,000	£153,452	£2,331,215	£1,600,029	£12,266



Ian Moncur
Chairman of
Sprowston Town Council

Sprowston - a Dementia Friendly Community

In February 2017 the decision was made during the Grow Your Own Community meeting for Sprowston to work towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Community. A small steering group was formed consisting of local dementia champions, town councillors, and representatives from both the police and the church. We all share a passion for Sprowston and an interest in supporting those with Dementia and are allied with the Broadland Dementia Action Alliance.

With the ever rising rates of Dementia within our communities, our aim is to raise awareness, which in turn will allow people living with dementia in our town to feel safe, supported and valued. Local businesses and community groups are invited to attend and hold free dementia awareness and information sessions, and we would also welcome pledges of support from them. We are currently working on exciting projects with both the Town Council and Sprowston Youth Engagement Project.



We have also set up and will continue to run the Sprowston Community Dementia Café which offers friendly peer support along with professional advice from occasional speakers. Our leader Hayley from Norfolk Day Care services is usually on hand to offer more personal advice. It is said that for every person who receives a diagnosis of dementia that at least three other people are affected. A dementia café can provide an invaluable lifeline for families. Carers are welcome to attend either with or without their loved ones, free refreshments are provided and there are always plenty of volunteers on hand to help out although we do not provide personal care. During our March meeting several of our carers, volunteers and members of the public attended a dementia awareness session which you can see in the photograph. As you can see from the accompanying picture everyone had a good time here with activities such as sports and reminiscence therapies available. The café runs on the third Thursday of every month between 10 and 12 am at the Diamond Centre, which offers disabled access and plenty of free parking.

If you are a small business such as a mobile hairdresser or window cleaner or a larger employer, a local community organisation such as a school, WI or book club, or an individual who would like to know more or become involved then please contact us via Facebook or Twitter, or pop into our café. We can visit your premises or arrange for you to attend one of our information and awareness sessions which last about an hour and are completely free.