

SPROWSTON GROW YOUR COMMUNITY NETWORK

Notes of meeting held at 9.30 am, Tuesday, 2nd April 2019 in the Council Chamber, Sprowston
Town Council

Present : Ken Lashley – Sprowston Senior Citizens Club
Margaret Young – Sprowston Dementia Friendly group
Clare Lincoln – Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP)
Mike Ellard – Sprowston Community Greenhouse Project
Teresa Chapman – The Hub
Kirsty Deary – Sprowston Methodist Church
Martin Callam – Sprowston Methodist Church
Andy Bunter - St Mary and St Margaret, and St Cuthbert
Claire Sharland – Library manager for Sprowston, Wroxham and St. Williams Way
John Ward – Norfolk County, Broadland District and Sprowston Town Councillor
Judy Leggett – Broadland District and Sprowston Town Councillor
Barbara Lashley - Sprowston Town Councillor
Bill Couzens – Sprowston Town Councillor
Guy Ranaweera – Town Clerk designate, Sprowston

Apologies :
There were no apologies.

1. Welcome and introductions.

Ken Lashley chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Notes of meeting held on 2nd April 2019 and matters arising.

The notes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2019 were agreed and there were no matters arising.

3. Updates.

(a) SYEP update – Clare Lincoln.

SYEP is currently reaching about 40 young people a week in Sprowston and 20 to 25 in Old Catton.

9 young people regularly take part in the Monday greenhouse sessions and an organising group has a planning meeting every month,

There are 2 football teams – U14 and U16 – sponsored by Clarion Housing. Training for the new season will start again in May. A young volunteers programme is underway and those taking part are visiting Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind (NNAB).

SYEP is supporting the provision of the sensory garden at the library. A group of young people will be visiting the gardens at East Ruston Old Vicarage to research suitable plants in preparation for helping with planting up the raised beds and planters. The same artist who worked with SYEP on their WW1 project will be helping with designing and painting murals.

A ‘Get to know your green space’ day in Clover Road on 16th April which the group is organising will feature a free barbecue, plant sale, face-painting, a juggler and ‘Wild Touch’ – an opportunity to get up close to some living nature.

From 18th to 20th April, a group of youngsters will be taking part in an adventure weekend. This will include mountain climbing and other activities – all of which offer confidence building opportunities.

As part of the greenhouse project, they will be having a plant stall at the Blue Boar Club fun day. They had also taken part in a police Open day but Clare could not remember where.

Clare is currently working with Horsford for 6 months as a consultant to help them determine what sort of youth provision they want to set up.

SYEP is sourcing funding for the second year of the three-year business plan. Working with partners, it is hoped to set up Wednesday and Saturday drop-in sessions for older young people.

Referrals from the High School currently number 10 – it could be many more but SYEP does not have the capacity.

(b) Greenhouse/ intergenerational projects – Mike Ellard

They are trying to ‘organise’ the greenhouses into areas at present and are trying to provide young people with individual beds so they can decide what they want to grow. The greenhouse group are getting more and more requests for help from charities, provide BDC with plants etc.

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) are supporting the provision of plants for the sensory garden. Carpentry help will be needed for the raised beds and they will need to look at ways of paying the cost of materials. The planting will be seasonal. Claire S. said there had been a lot of interest and compliments about the tyre planters outside the library. People are asking where they can get them! Mike explained the tyres have wood in the base.

At the greenhouses, a group of BDC volunteers will be coming to clean up an outside corner – Mike has obtained a free skip for the day. This will enable them to fence the area and stop people fly-tipping. John Ward advised that BDC would be able to provide ‘no fly-tipping’ signs.

Mike advised that there was a need to have a firm ‘contract’ so that they knew how long they had the greenhouses for etc.. There was a need to clarify a lease – at a peppercorn rent – and to formalise the arrangements for provision of water, electricity etc. .

(c) Library – Claire Sharland

A computer buddy is available every other Tuesday from 10 am to 12 noon who can help with smart phones, tablets and computers. Anyone who needs to get started or is underway but needs some digital support is welcome.

The Norfolk Reading Pathway helps to develop reading skills. It was initially set up with funding from the Arts Council but Norfolk is now carrying on ‘alone’. Anyone needing support works one-to-one with a volunteer through a workbook designed for the purpose. It has proved successful with some great resulting ‘stories’.

RVS volunteers provide a service to those who are unable to get to the library by visiting them to find out the sorts of things they like to read, then choosing books and delivering them – these can include audio books and large-print ones.

John Ward noted that small businesses have to submit their tax returns online and asked if the library would be able to help people do this. Claire said it was a good thought and would look into it.

The sensory garden fundraising day had been really successful and the total raised was over £400. There had been plant and cake stalls, raffle, sunflower competition etc. and the Broadbeat choir entertained.

On 16th May, Clarion Futures would be coming along to deliver the planters they were donating. On Monday 25th February there had been a meeting of the general sensory garden committee. Setting up a ‘Friends’ group was currently a stumbling block as no-one was prepared to be chairperson or treasurer – it is necessary to have such group properly constituted to apply for funds. Please be on the lookout for volunteers! The next meetings for both groups would be on Tues 30th April at 7 pm.

(d) Community orchard – Mike Ellard

Members had looked at the orchard after our last meeting.

Mike reported that the trees were now being trimmed – they are being grown with a ‘central leader’ rather than ‘open’ trees because of space. They are about to be labelled – one of them is quite rare – there are only three of them in the country. One of the trees is looking a bit sad at present as the graft hasn’t taken very well, but next year will be re-grafted. Some trees are flowering and there will hopefully be some fruit this year.

(e) Dementia Friendly Community and Café – Margaret Young

The café had been slightly down on numbers recently, but it fluctuates for all sorts of reasons. We have a very good band of volunteers. We’re planning another outing this summer on the Southern Comfort – café members make a nominal contribution towards the cost.

At our March café, we were visited by the children from Cecil Gowing school and in April we made Easter baskets. The café provides an ‘all-round’ service and its effect isn’t limited to a Thursday morning.

Margaret circulated the list of Sprowston activities as promised. She and Sandra Hughes had met with Amelia Worley from Norfolk ‘Better Together’ campaign about organising a Voluntary Norfolk ‘event’ on the green outside the Co-op on Cannerby Lane. This will be held on 13th July from 10 am to 3 pm. It will be an opportunity for community groups to advertise themselves. The next planning meeting for this would be at the library on 3rd June at 4.30 pm. Any organisation which would like to have a stall is asked to contact Amelia Worley at amelia.worley@bettertogethernorfolk.org.uk

Martin Callam said there would be a community fun day at Wroxham Road Methodist Church on 8th June. Free entertainment and burgers.

Andy Bunter said he had moved into the Manor Park estate last week. Churches Together have some plans underway and he will update us next time. Ken noted that Andy needed to be added to our mailing list.

4. Future projects.

Teresa asked if anyone knew of some-one who could help with woodwork/carpentry at the Hub. Members suggested a name she could contact.

Kirsty advised that this would be her last meeting as her contract at the Methodist church was ending. Ken thanked her for all her input and help and said she was still welcome to come along.

Andy said that, hopefully, Praise in the Park was going ahead.

5. Any other business.

There was no other business.

6. Date, time and place of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday 25th June 2019 at the Sprowston Town Council office on the recreation ground.

BJL