

Council funds Outreach Worker

Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) is a community supported youth group based in Sprowston which has evolved since its launch in 2013.

Now running two youth cafes, a football club and a community garden project it has organised many events from tea dances to most recently a 'recycled plastic' sculpture trail highlighting the plight of sea creatures, all led by young people.

Going forward, part of SYEP's vision for the future is to continue to build relationships and partnerships with the wider community, develop positive activity programmes and support young people in all areas of their lives.

Being very aware of residents' concerns about anti-social behaviour; unreported crimes; bike storms and youth violence, SYEP have identified a need for Community Outreach in Sprowston.

What could Community Outreach offer to address these concerns?

- an outreach presence in hotspots for anti-social behaviour
- drop-ins weekdays and weekends for young people
- link in with Sprowston Community Academy personal development education
- link with safer neighbourhood priorities and beat officers
- create co-designed events for the wider community such as family fun days, summer fete etc
- and if additional funding could be secured; develop youth activity holiday programmes.

There would however be a funding requirement for such a programme.

Given the benefit this programme could offer Sprowston's young people and the wider community, Councillors agreed a £10,000 grant to fund a SYEP Community Outreach worker. The new grant is in addition to the £5,000 donation already made to support the work of SYEP and its young members.

Schedule of Town Council Meetings

Since April 2020 meetings have been held remotely, online via Zoom. This is likely to continue into the New Year.

06 January 2021	21 April 2021 (Annual Town Meeting 7.00pm)
27 January 2021	
17 February 2021	21 April 2021 (Council Meeting to be held on the rising of the Annual Town Meeting)
10 March 2021	
31 March 2021	12 May 2021 Annual Council Meeting

All Council meetings (including online) 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 on Council's website www.sprowston-tc.gov.uk, or on request from the Council Office. Other background papers and reports can also be viewed online or copies supplied on payment of a small charge.

Details on how to join remote meetings are advertised on the Council's website and noticeboard located outside the Council office. Meetings commence at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Office opening times for tel. enquiries Mon - Fri 9.30am - 1pm & 2pm - 4.30pm (after hours answerphone)
 Town Clerk: Guy Ranaweera 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: Recreation Ground Road, Sprowston, Norwich, NR7 8EW

 Sprowston Town Council and Sprowston Diamond Centre

Pathway Repairs at St. Mary and St. Margarets

Over £1,700 has been spent on repairing and resurfacing the pathway from the cemetery, through the churchyard to the north door of St. Mary and St. Margarets church.

This well used route was considered a potential health and safety hazard for visitors; particularly wheelchair users or those with mobility difficulties.

Repairs included resurfacing with tarmac and wooden edging.

A £500 contribution towards the cost was made by the Parochial Church Council.

New Bus Shelter for busy stop

Having listened to concerns from residents regarding the bus stop on North Walsham Road, opposite Pioneer Road, a new shelter has been installed at a cost of £6,950.00.

We were advised that some residents found it difficult to stand for long periods of time and the shelter did not offer any protection from the elements. The new shelter is enclosed, incorporates a bench seat and has been sited further back from the main road to enable access for wheelchair and mobility scooters.

The Edwards Road / North Walsham Road bus shelter has also had a bench seat installed for residents' comfort.

Sprowston Matters

Help us provide the facilities you want

Included in this edition of Sprowston Matters is a short survey about existing and future recreational facilities in Sprowston.

The survey asks some basic questions about your household, which recreational facilities you visit most often, and what future recreational facilities you would like to have in Sprowston.

It is completely anonymous and will only take a few minutes to complete.

This information will help us understand how residents use Sprowston's existing amenities and will inform our decision making regarding what new recreational facilities may be desirable in the future.

Why now?

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge introduced by the Government through the Planning Act 2008. It allows local planning authorities to raise funds from developers and individuals who are undertaking building projects in their area. It ensures all relevant development contributes towards the new infrastructure and leisure facilities needed to support population growth.

As the Council has adopted a Neighbourhood Plan, we are entitled to receive a percentage of CIL monies to spend on recreational amenities.

With such large-scale development in Sprowston and increased population we will soon have an opportunity to improve our existing facilities and provide new ones across the town.

As the majority of land in Sprowston is already allocated for housing development it is unlikely we will be able to purchase additional land for recreational use. Therefore, we are limited to providing facilities on the land we currently own or will adopt as part of a housing development. Development land that we will adopt in future includes: Harrisons Wood, the open space behind White House Farm School and the site of the skate park between Blue Boar Lane and Kingfisher Road.

Town Mayor John Ward said: "It is really important that local people tell us what they think about Sprowston's existing facilities, what we can do to improve them and ideas for future recreational provision.

Recent events have highlighted the value of our parks and open spaces and I would encourage everyone to spare a few minutes and complete the survey.

If possible, please complete the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/858TNV3> or scan the QR code. Alternatively, fill in the paper survey and return in the pre-paid envelope provided. Answers are completely anonymous and cannot be used to identify individuals.

Please respond by 5pm on 18 December 2020.



How do I report a Crime?

There are a number of ways you can get in touch with Norfolk Constabulary depending on the urgency and type of request.

For non-emergencies or anti-social behaviour contact the police by dialling 101.

Non-emergency crimes can also be reported on-line to sntsprowstonspaxworth@norfolk.pnn.police.uk or via norfolk.police.uk.

For emergencies always dial 999.

It is quite natural for victims or witnesses of crimes or anti-social behaviour to post about their experiences on Facebook, but do you know that the police can only take action if the crime is reported to them directly?

New Payment System

As a Council we are constantly looking for ways to improve the service we offer to our residents and have installed a card payment machine in the office. Payments can still be made by cheque or bank transfer but now with the additional facility to pay over the phone.



Scan this QR code to complete the survey on-line

Council support for Local Coronavirus Help

The Sprowston Coronavirus Help Group was founded by local resident Carol Pennycook at the very beginning of the pandemic to help vulnerable people in Sprowston. Carol and the group tirelessly supported those residents self-isolating or shielding with various services from collecting shopping and prescriptions to befriending phone calls.

To pre-empt concerns about payments and to give residents and volunteers confidence to use the service, the Town Council stepped in to act as financial go-between. Volunteers purchased the items required and contacted the Council for reimbursement. The vulnerable person paid the Council on receipt

of their items, thus protecting both parties.

As of 21 October 2020, the Town Council had acted as facilitator for 522 financial transactions for shopping and other key services between vulnerable residents and volunteers, with £17,144.72 conducted.

The Council also applied for a grant from Norfolk Community Foundation and was successful in procuring £1000 to fund local Coronavirus volunteer groups. This money was used to defray costs incurred by volunteers such as petrol, printer consumables and leaflet printing. It was also used to purchase hand sanitiser, disposable

gloves and fund the setup and running costs of the community switchboard telephone number. Additionally:

- £100.00 was given to the Church Food Bank.
- 50 Active Norfolk Home Exercise kits were given to Sprowston Senior Citizens Club and the Sprowston Coronavirus Help Group to distribute to residents who may benefit.
- Councillors assisted with answering phones, administration work, co-ordinating volunteers and shopping.

The Council is committed to supporting the service offered by the help group (now called Sprowston Supporting Our Community Together) until they are able to formalise and register their own governance and banking arrangements.

Residents requiring assistance during the pandemic can contact the help group on 0333 335 5410



Consecration at Church Lane Cemetery

On Wednesday 23 September 2020 part our new cemetery extension at Church Lane was consecrated by the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher in preparation for interments to take place.

Consecration is the setting aside of land or buildings for sacred use in perpetuity. The consecration of a church or a burial ground can only be undertaken by a Bishop.

The Bishop blesses the water and proceeds to each corner of the ground to be consecrated and as he does so he will sprinkle holy water on the earth. At each corner of the land to be consecrated the Bishop, using his staff, will mark the ground with a sign of the cross and blesses the ground.

The church or burial ground becomes legally consecrated upon the Bishop signing a document called a Sentence of Consecration, which was performed at the end of the consecration ceremony.

Due to COVID precautions the ceremony was low-key, attended by Sprowston Mayor John Ward, Reverend Canon Simon Stokes, Reverend Canon Sally Theakston, Assistant Curate Philp Harvey, and the Town Clerk Guy Ranaweera.

The extension will not be opened for interments or pre-paid plots until sections 11 and 12 of the existing cemetery are full but will continue to be managed and landscaped.

Players wanted

If you are looking for some gentle exercise why not join one of the bowls teams who play at Sprowston Recreation Ground.

New members are always welcome at both Sprowston Recreation Ground Bowls Club and Sprowston Senior Citizens Bowls Club.

There is ample free parking and an excellent green with bowls pavilion, for that all-important cup of tea.

The bowls season runs from mid-April to mid-September.

Sprowston Recreation Ground Club plays Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6pm - 8.00pm (arrive at 5.30pm) and Saturday afternoons 2pm - 5.00pm (arrive 1.30pm). For further details contact: June Felekkis on 01603 491410 or Trevan Tye on 01603 413227.

Sprowston Senior Citizens Bowls Club plays Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons 2.00pm - 4.30pm. For further details contact: Bob James on 01603410200 / 07799 403355 or Barbara Lashley on 01603 466007.

Sprowston Diamond Centre re-opened

Having been closed for over three months Sprowston Diamond Centre re-opened in July welcoming a gradual return of customers.

Restrictions were implemented to make it a COVID-Secure building including zoned areas, limited room capacities, separate entrances, sanitising stations, additional cleaning between customers, closure of kitchens and changing rooms and the mandatory wearing of face coverings in communal areas.

However, following the Government's announcement we had to close again, to most customers, at the beginning of November.

As soon as restrictions are eased the centre will once again welcome the return of our regular hirers and new ones. Details will be publicised on our Website and Facebook pages.

Classes usually running at the centre include:

- ATP Health and Fitness - Exercise classes are suitable for all ages and most levels of fitness.
- Bliss Yoga - a gentle class suitable for all levels
- Dynamic Dance - A fun and friendly dance school with classes held in Street Dance
- Inna Borisova - Fitness Classes for all Ages and Fitness
- Laura Newbury - Pilates Back to Health
- Little Glow - Relaxing sensory room for parents and babies from birth to pre-walking.
- Music Bugs - Sensory, play-based music and singing classes for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers
- Perfect Performers School of Dance - Classes in Ballet, Modern, Tap and Acro
- Slimming World - with Abby

If you are interested in joining one of these classes please contact the instructor. For room hire enquiries please email SDC@sprowston-tc.gov.uk or telephone 01603 408063.

Street light replacement programme

The Street light replacement programme reported in the last edition of Sprowston Matters has been postponed. It was hoped to commence work on replacing 448 street lights with new energy efficient LED lights later this year at a cost in the region of £520,000.

With the closure of Sprowston Diamond Centre during lockdown and suppressed demand since re-opening income has diminished. Council therefore considered it prudent to delay the budgeted street light replacement programme and tractor purchase to provide funds to meet overhead costs arising from the centre for the remainder of the financial year.

The Council was successful in applying to Broadland District Council for a grant under the Discretionary Business Support Grants Scheme. Sprowston Town Council was awarded £20,000 to offset COVID-related costs and losses at Sprowston Diamond Centre and Sprowston Recreation Ground.

The scheme will be reconsidered in the 2021/22 budget.

Insect friendly Sprowston



The Council has been trialling the planting of wildflower areas to increase habitats for insects and reintroduce native flowers, whilst adding a bit of spring and summer colour to Sprowston.

Grass and wildflower seeds have been sown on a large area at Windsor Park Gardens and parts of the verge at Carlton Close and Linacre Avenue. Whereas Blue Boar Lane open space has been seeded with a corn field annual mix.

Fritillary and native English Bluebell bulbs have also been planted at the Millennium Woodland and Blue Boar Lane open space.

The trial has taught our grounds team a lot about where best to site the wildflower areas and how to manage them. As a result, next spring a number of changes will be made, including trialling a wildflower area on the area of grass on Cannerby Lane, opposite the green.

The process to create a wildflower area, once seeded, is to cut infrequently, ideally just twice a year; in spring and then late summer once plants have bloomed and seeded, unlike the current five or more cuts that takes place each year.

Sprowston Diamond Field

Following a period of intermittent use after the redevelopment of the Diamond Centre, this summer the Diamond Field on School Lane played host to several local youth teams under the umbrella of Sprowston FC. The change of venue has helped relieve Sprowston Recreation Ground from over-use and provided local teams with a safe and secure training area. The Town Council and Sprowston FC are exploring improvements to the floodlights on the Diamond Field so that it can also be used in the darker winter months. Any new lighting would be specially designed not to cause disturbance or nuisance to nearby residents.