

MEETING OF SPROWSTON TOWN COUNCILLORS – 2 FEBRUARY 2022

At the meeting of the Sprowston Town Council held at the School Room, Sprowston Diamond Centre, School Lane, Sprowston on Wednesday 2 February 2022, the following Councillors were present: -

Mr J M Ward – Town Mayor

Mr M G Callam	-	Mrs J Leggett
Ms D Coleman	-	Mr J H Mallen
Mrs B Cook	-	Ms C T Rumsby
Mr W F Couzens	-	Mr G S Tingle

In attendance

Mr G Ranaweera	-	Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Mrs E Elliot	-	Committee Officer

5 members of the public were present

22/022. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other interests were received.

22/023. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Written apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council from Mr A J Barton, Mr J F Fisher, Mrs B J Lashley and Mrs K Vincent and verbal apologies from Mr R J Knowles.

22/024. RESIDENTS QUESTIONS

On the motion of Mr J M Ward seconded by Mr M G Callam it was **RESOLVED**, that the meeting be adjourned to receive residents' questions on matters concerning the town. Residents were reminded that their questions should be addressed to the Chairman who would, assisted by the Town Clerk, reply.

Mr T Toomer, committee member of Sprowston Sports and Social Club thanked the Council for their involvement in the successful nomination for the club to be considered as an asset of community value and added to Broadland District Council's Community Asset Register.

The meeting was reconvened.

22/025. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council's meeting held on 12 January 2022, having previously been circulated to all Councillors were subject to the following amendments

22/017 **delete** "15 December 2021" and **insert** "12 January 2022"

22/025. MINUTES (CONTINUED)

21/019 **delete** "21/019" and **insert** 22/019"

confirmed and signed by the Chairman / Town Mayor of the Council.

22/026. ACTION FROM MINUTES

(1) Sprowston Sports and Social Club

Council was pleased to note the successful nomination of Sprowston Sports and Social Club to be considered as an asset of community value and added to Broadland District Council's Community Asset Register for a period of five years.

(2) Police Liaison Officers Report

Referring to Minute 22/006, Mr W F Couzens commented that incidences of crime recorded on Norfolk Constabulary's website bore no correlation to those listed in the crime statistics presented to Council.

Mrs J Leggett offered to send a written complaint to Norfolk Constabulary.

22/027. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Norwich Western Link Update

Council noted Norfolk County Council's Norwich Western Link project update.

Ms C T Rumsby commented there had since been a further update suggesting the proposed route will have to be altered due to bats being found in the vicinity of the current plan.

(2) St. Georges Hill and School Lane Closure

Council noted the public information update on the new pedestrian crossings, traffic light improvement works and road resurfacing at Constitution Hill, Sprowston.

(3) Norwich Citizens Advice - Grant Request

RESOLVED that a donation of £500.00 be made to Norfolk Citizens Advice to support them in providing a vital service in accordance with the Council's powers under section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972.

22/028. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was received from Mr J M Ward.

Mr J M Ward also verbally reported:

- (1) Norfolk Police are now recruiting Special Constables across Norfolk and will be holding an on-line information evening on 9 February 2022, 7 - 8.30pm. For details go to bespecial@norfolk.police.uk

22/028. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (CONTINUED)

- (2) A petition in favour of the Norwich western link has already attracted over 3,000 signatories. The petition was started by the Vice-Chairman of Costessey Town Council and is supported by the County Council Cabinet Member of Highways.
- (3) Digifest 2022 will give children age 4 - 14 the chance to get hands-on with fun digital tech during February at libraries throughout Norfolk. Details available at Norfolk County Council Website or in libraries.
- (4) The Norfolk County Council Cabinet have finalised their budget proposals which are for a 2.99% rise which is 1% less than is permissible. This rise will give an increase in the net budget of £25m to £464.3m. The final discussion on the budget will be taken at Full Council on 21 February 2022.
- (5) Yesterday Councillor Leggett and I attended a briefing by EQUINOR on the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension projects. This extension will triple the size of the windfarms and provide electricity for an additional 785,000 homes. The cable will make landfall at Weybourne coming west of Taverham and Aylsham to the Norwich Main near Mulbarton. The main construction compound will be at Attlebridge and the cable corridor will generally be 60m wide.

Mrs J Leggett verbally reported:

- (1) Broadland District Council's Cabinet will be discussing their budget plan, the Council Tax Assistance Scheme and delivery plan for the Norfolk Green Infrastructure and Recreational Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy at their meeting to be held Tuesday 8 February 2022.
- (2) There will be a green infrastructure corridor from Thorpe Woods via Harrison's Woodland to Dobbs Beck.
- (3) The Broadland District Council's Community at Heart Lottery raised £2,782 for Sprowston organisations.
- (4) Reports of fly tipping on Atlantic Avenue equated to one freezer.

Mr N Shaw verbally reported:

- (1) No toilet facilities will be provided at Broadland Country Park however it will be monitored.
- (2) There is a new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy funded by central Government to support the county in rehousing people. Only one person has been identified as homeless in Broadland.

In response to a question from Mr W F Couzens Mr J M Ward advised the figure of £55k relating to Adult Social Care in his written report were incorrect and he would clarify and bring details to the next Council meeting.

22/029. SUMMER FETE 2022

Council considered the Town Clerk's report and copies of Local Flavours presentation slides.

Mrs J Leggett felt it would be a good idea to invite Local Flavours to participate in the Summer Fete as they had an established list of contacts, were aware of organisations the Council was not, their services would be at no cost to Council and it did not preclude the Council from inviting other local businesses and voluntary organisations.

Council considered the zones recommended by the Recreational Facilities Working Group and it was

RESOLVED to invite Local Flavours to participate in the Sprowston Summer Fete 2022 and provide stall holders within the selected zones recommended by the Recreational facilities Working Group.

22/030. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE - 2 JUNE 2022

Mrs J Leggett reported:

- Reverend Canon Stokes had advised her the Church had a Beacon which was available for use. She had no specific details on where the beacon could be lit or of any associated activities to be planned.
- The Church were holding a service on Sunday 5 June 2022 followed by a picnic in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and asked if Council were interested in participating in the event.

Mr W F Couzens said it was a good idea and suggested Sprowston Recreation Ground with bands.

It was noted the church service and picnic was to be held on Sunday 5 June 2022 whereas the official Beacon lighting was to take place on Thursday 2 June 2022.

Mr J M Ward proposed, seconded by Mr M G Callam to support the church with their celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5 June 2022, to progress with a Beacon lighting event on Thursday 2 June 2022, and for Mrs J Leggett and the Town Clerk to liaise with Reverend Canon Stokes to arrange.

Mrs J Leggett suggested Council physically mark this very rare occasion and it was agreed Councillors send their suggestions to the Town Clerk and an item be placed on the next Agenda.

22/031. FOOD AND DRINK VENDOR TRIAL - SPROWSTON RECREATION GROUND

Having considered the report of the Town Clerk it was

RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to administer a trial of a suitable food and drink vendor at Sprowston Recreation Ground.

22/032. MENTAL HEALTH AND STRESS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Referring to the draft Stress and Mental Health Policy and Process the Town Clerk advised there was a helpline option at £150.00 per month. As Council's staffing compliment was eight people it was suggested referrals should be made to appropriate charitable organisations as listed in the policy.

Mr J H Mallen referred to designated mental health first aiders to which the Town Clerk responded this was part of the training process and he was likely to be the first aider.

Mrs J Leggett said regular appraisals should be included within the policy.

Mr W F Couzens suggested Citizens Advice be added to the contact list of appropriate organisations.

Mr J M Ward proposed, seconded by Mr W F Couzens to adopt the Stress and Mental Health Policy subject to the inclusion of regular appraisals and Citizens Advice. On being put to the vote the motion was CARRIED.

22/033. WHITE HOUSE FARM ESTATE SECTION 106 DEED OF VARIATION

The Town Clerk explained the difference between the existing Section 106 requirements for the play projects and the proposed new requirements together with the suggestion to vary the s106 legal agreement so that provision and maintenance contributions were combined into a single on-site contribution.

Mr W F Couzens said in view of inflation rates developers should provide greater financial provision.

Town Clerk responded that when the s106 was signed the agreement at that time provided for costs be index linked.

Council questioned how long the maintenance fund would last, although noted further housing development would generate additional income.

Mr J M Ward proposed, seconded by Mr M G Callam to agree to vary the section 106 legal agreement between Broadland District Council the developer and Sprowston Town Council to combine all developer contributions into a single on-site recreation contribution to be spent in favour of public facilities in the White House Farm Estate in any manner of Sprowston Town Council's choosing. On being put to the vote the motion was CARRIED.

22/034. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, ALLOTMENTS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

1.1 Tiny Forests - Sprowston Recreation Ground

Further to his written report the Town Clerk confirmed the perimeter fencing for the tiny forest would be installed on 7 February 2022 and community planting event would take place on 14 February 2022.

22/034. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK (CONTINUED)

1.2 Sparhawk Park - Replacement of Play Tower

Council noted works to replace the play tower at Sparhawk Park with a broken slide would commence 21 February 2022.

1.3 Harrison's Wood - Tree and Safety Works Quotation & Management Fund

Mr M G Callam observed that 50% of Harrisons Woodland Management Fund had already been spent and transfer of ownership to Council had still not taken place. Future maintenance costs would have to be carefully considered by Council.

Mrs J Leggett reported that Harrisons Wood had been identified as a public open space asset making an important contribution to the green infrastructure network. In view of this she suggested Council contact Broadland District Council to ascertain if there were any grants available.

CEMETERY

2.1 No matters were reported

STREET LIGHTING

3.1 No matters were reported

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

4.1 Existing Personal Injury Claim

Council noted the court was not able to hear this claim in July 2021 and the new court date set for 3 February 2022.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

5.1 No matters were reported

ATTACHMENTS

6.1 Harrisons Wood Tree Safety Quotation

Further to his written report the Town Clerk advised he had received confirmation from Norwich City Council that the Town Council would be consulted if an application was received for a McDonalds restaurant on Mousehold Lane.

22/035. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mr J H Mallen it was **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting for a short break.

The meeting was reconvened.

22/036. PLANNING

The Town Clerk reported that observations had been requested by the District Council's Head of Planning on applications received since the last meeting.

Having considered each application and the accompanying plans the Council

RESOLVED

(a) to raise no objection to the following applications:

20212320 - single storey rear and front extension at 7, Woodcroft Close, Sprowston.

20212328 - rear and side extensions to existing detached house at 1, Merlin Avenue, Sprowston.

20212334 - build an extension over the existing garage and extend out over the alley and garden. Giving increasing living space downstairs and adding two bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs at 74, Greenborough Road, Sprowston.

20212337 - loft conversion at 85, Colindeep Lane, Sprowston.

20212341 - installation of illuminated sign for vehicle charging point and non-illuminated two flag pole signs (retrospective) at Tesco Stores Ltd, Blue Boar Lane, Sprowston.

20220009 - erection of two storey side and rear extension. The shape of the front bay window to be altered as per drawings, front elevation of existing house to be rendered to match extension roof tile to be changed at 125, Salhouse Road, Sprowston.

(b) whilst Council had no objection to the granting of planning application FUL/01847/F retirement living development comprising 45 flats for social rent at former 28, Mousehold Lane, Norwich it was felt consideration should be given to reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on Mousehold Lane in view of the likely increase in traffic movements entering and exiting the premises of this, other and proposed developments in close proximity.

22/037. PLANNING DECISIONS

Council noted planning decisions for week ending 19 November 2021 and 10 December 2021.

22/038. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Minutes of the Recreational Facilities Working Group (RFGW) meeting held 18 January 2022 were previously circulated. Referring to the RFGW minutes Mr W F Couzens asked for clarification on the letter to Broadland District Council and update Sprowston Neighbourhood Plan.

Mrs J Leggett explained the:

**22/038. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS
(CONTINUED)**

- letter was to reiterate the need for the District Council to involve parish and town councils at an early stage of major developments to ensure sufficient provision of amenity space.
- Town Clerk was updating the actions in the Sprowston Neighbourhood Plan for presentation to full Council.

It was noted that Barkers Lane had previously been informally used by Rugby Clubs.

22/039. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

No written or verbal reports were received.

22/040. BANK RECONCILIATION, FINANCIAL QUARTER TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Town Clerk presented the Bank Reconciliation to 31 December 2021 and it was **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the Bank Reconciliation to 31 December 2021.

22/041. SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND BALANCE SHEET TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Town Clerk presented the Summary of Income and Expenditure to 31 December 2021.

Mr W F Couzens was pleased to note Sprowston Diamond Centre income was above target.

The Town Clerk responded to Councillor's questions as follows:

- Street Scene expenditure would increase as three months heat, light, maintenance fees and loan charges were still to be invoiced.
- The overspend in Cost Centre 5311 was due to additional outreach work by Sprowston Youth Engagement Project during the summer months, as agreed by Council.

RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet to 31 December 2021.

22/042. INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Town Clerk responded to Councillor's comments as follows:

- The internal audit had been completed by different auditors from previous years albeit the same company.
- Day to day financial control was carried out by the Finance Officer, however he had ultimate responsibility and would implement all recommendations.

22/042. INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT (CONTINUED)

- Refunds of grants to the District Council had subsequently been recorded in the Sage accounts as a contra to income rather than an expense.
- Council could consider placement of surplus funds in alternative banking institutions however this would attract fees higher than the interest earned. It was agreed the Town Clerk to place an item on the agenda of a future meeting of the Council.

Council thanked all staff involved for their hard work.

RESOLVED to accept the Internal Audit Report: 2021-22 (Interim).

22/043. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2 FEBRUARY 2022

The Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented the schedule of accounts to 2 February 2022 totalling £9,261.21.

On the motion of Mr J M Ward, seconded by Mr J H Mallen it was **RESOLVED** that payment of the accounts to 2 February 2022 totalling £9,261.21 be approved and the schedule authorising payment signed by Mr J M Ward and Mrs J Leggett.

22/044. SCHEDULE OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

The schedule of direct debit payments to 2 February 2022 totalling £5,994.77 was approved and noted.

22/045. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Mr J M Ward proposed, seconded by Mr G S Tingle to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting for the remaining business because otherwise information prejudicial to the public interests which is exempt by virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings Act) 1960 Section 1 (2) would be disclosed to them.

22/046. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Council noted:

- (1) Planning Enforcement closed cases.
- (2) Planning enforcement outstanding cases.

There being no other necessary business the Chairman / Town Mayor of the Council thanked Councillors for their participation and declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

23 February 2022

Town Mayor

Guy Ranaweera

From: Emma Goddard <Emma.Goddard@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk>
Sent: 16 February 2022 13:54
Subject: Appeal - listing of Sprowston Sports and Social Club as an ACV

Good afternoon

I am writing to inform you that the Council has been requested to review the decision to list Sprowston Sports and Social Club as an Asset of Community Value.

The Council is required, by law, to follow a very specific process when reviewing its decision. The owners of the premises will be allowed to submit additional evidence to support their case, and the review must be carried out by an officer who has taken no part in the decision to list the asset. In that regard, I undertake such reviews in my capacity as the Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer. I must reach a decision by 8 April 2022 (unless an extension is required and agreed by the asset owner), and I will notify you of the outcome in due course.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards
Emma

Emma Goddard
Senior Governance Officer
t 01508 533943 e emma.goddard@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk



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COMMUNITY UPDATE

SPROWSTON SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

OLD CATTON & SPROWSTON WEST WARD



www.norfolk.police.uk

JANUARY 2022



WE ARE YOUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM – WANT TO GET IN TOUCH?

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TWITTER: @BroadlandPolice

YOUR LOCAL BEAT MANAGER



PC 1578 GRAHAM GILL

UPDATE FROM YOUR ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

NORFOLK CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

Norfolk Special Constabulary are recruiting...

Special Constables in Norfolk

Come to our online information evening on:

Wednesday, 9 February 2022
19:00 hrs (prompt) to 20:30 hrs

Confirm your place by calling us on:
01953 425699 ext 2371 or email bespecial@norfolk.police.uk
(MS Teams Meeting Link will be sent after confirming your place)

- Welcome
- Advice on completing the application form
- Recruitment Process and Induction Course
- What does a Special Constable do?
- Meet Special Constables
- Questions

For information about becoming a Special Constable:
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CURRENT NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIORITIES

- Road Safety (including speeding)
- Nuisance related anti-social behaviour
- Drug dealing /Drug use

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA?

As everyone starts to get back to work and school following the festive break, we hope you had a happy and safe Christmas and New Year with your families.

The Local Policing Neighbourhood Team have been busy during this time supporting response colleagues on numerous calls and taking part in the drink driving campaign. Unfortunately, too many people are still not getting the message about drink driving and several arrests were made across the district. The message from the team remains that it is 'None for the road' and that you still may be over the limit in the morning if you have been drinking heavily the night before.

We would also like to remind motorists to thoroughly defrost their vehicles in the morning as temperatures drop overnight. As Sgt Chris Harris from Roads Policing would say, we don't want to see any tank commanders, with only a small area cleared on the windscreen. Drivers should also refrain from leaving their vehicle engines running in order to warm them up. This is an invitation for an opportunist thief to take your vehicle and you can also commit an offence when you do this!

Going forward, officers will be out and about on foot patrol as per the Chief Constable's vision of greater visibility in the community. Beat Managers will be advertising their street surgeries on all our Broadland Police social media sites; as well as high visibility patrols of parks and green spaces as part of our #ParkWalkTalk and #StreetSafe initiatives. Both aim to increase public reassurance and target the areas where the public have told us they don't feel safe. Please come and talk to us when you see us and we look forward to seeing you all out on the beat.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Priority Setting Meeting – Wednesday 30th March 2022 6pm online via Microsoft Teams

For local engagement surgeries see Broadland Police social media pages



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CALL US ON 101 OR 999 IN AN EMERGENCY



TALK TO YOUR LOCAL BEAT MANAGER

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JANUARY 2022



CRIME UPDATES 1st to 31st December

Offence	Numbers	What could this entail
Arson	0	Damage caused as a result of fire.
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	1	Harassment, alarm or distress is caused in a non-crime incident.
Burglary business and community	0	A person commits theft in a building or structure that is not lived in.
Burglary residential		Entry and theft in a building or a structure that is lived in.
Criminal Damage	7	A person destroys or damages property belonging to someone else.
Domestic	6	Domestic incidents where a crime has not occurred. Parties are aged 16 or over and have been intimate partners or family members regardless of sexuality.
Hate Incident	0	Any incident where a crime has not occurred which the victim, or anyone else, thinks is based on someone's prejudice towards them because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or because they are transgender.
Race or Religious aggravated public fear	0	Any crime determined to have a hate element as per above.
Possession of controlled substance	0	Unlawful possession of a drug classified in class A, B or C.
Possession of weapons	0	Unlawful possession of an article used as a weapon.
Public fear, alarm or distress	1	Public order offences e.g. from a verbal altercation to offences just short of violence.
Robbery	0	Includes a range of offences where force is used, threatened or the victim is put in fear.
Theft from a motor vehicle	1	Any item stolen that was in, on or attached to a motor vehicle.
Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle	1	Any motor vehicle including those abandoned.
Theft of pedal cycle	0	From a public place, if stolen from a shed or garage this would be a BOTD.
Theft from a person	0	Purse being taken from a handbag, or a mobile phone from a shopping basket.



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From: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
<opccn@norfolk.police.uk>
Sent: 04 February 2022 10:45
To:
Subject: PCC News Round-Up - January 2022

[View this email in your browser](#)



PCC News

January 2022

Welcome to your regular news update from Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Giles Orpen-Smellie.

For more information on the role, responsibilities and work of the PCC, [please visit www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk).



Policing budget endorsed at panel hearing

Giles Orpen-Smellie's proposal for the police budget for 2022/23 was given the support of the county's Police and Crime Panel earlier this week.

[Find out more >>](#)



Giles Orpen-Smellie has responded to the latest crime statistics for Norfolk

The PCC has responded to the latest release of crime statistics data for all forces across England and Wales from the Office of National Statistics.

[More information >>](#)



Norfolk's PCC and Chief Constable address policing and crime questions

The PCC's latest accountability meeting has taken place with more questions posed to the county's Chief Constable by local communities.

[Read more >>](#)



Road safety remains key concern for PCC

Norfolk's PCC has reinforced his commitment to road safety in the county as Norfolk Police reveal more than 160 arrests were made during their recent campaign against drink and drug driving.

[Find out more >>](#)

The next PCC Accountability Meeting where the PCC holds the Chief Constable to account for policing in Norfolk will take place on Tuesday 26 April 2022.

More information about how you can submit questions will be published
[on our website in due course >>](#)

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Our mailing address is:

Office of the Police and Crime and Commissioner for Norfolk
Building 1, Falconers Chase
Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 0WW
United Kingdom

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United Kingdom

Guy Ranaweera

From: Norwich Western Link <Norwichwesternlink@norfolk.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 January 2022 15:04
To: Guy Ranaweera
Subject: Norwich Western Link project update
Attachments: Norwich Western Link Infographic.pdf

Dear Mr Guy Ranaweera

Following my last email, I'm writing with a further update on our Norwich Western Link project to connect the A47 to Broadland Northway west of Norwich.

Firstly, you may have seen there has been a huge response to [a Build the Norwich Western Link petition](#) which was set up last week by Costessey town councillor Gary Blundell. In a little over a week, nearly 3,500 people have signed the petition.

This number, together with the comments left on the website, shows there is a great deal of support from Norfolk residents to get this vital link road built. Many of the comments raise concerns and frustrations about current problems including traffic congestion, queuing vehicles, air pollution and road safety to the west of Norwich, as well as fears that these issues will get worse due to growth in and around the city.

We know the Norwich Western Link will make a big difference to tackling these problems, and bring other benefits besides. I've attached a graphic that sets out some of the key reasons the Norwich Western Link is needed, information on the project and the difference it will make to people's lives and livelihoods. Please feel free to use and share this as you see fit, including posting it on social media and websites or using the information in articles or newsletters.

As for the project itself, work is continuing to develop our design proposals ahead of the pre-planning application consultation. You will hopefully be aware that we have been conducting surveys over the last three years in the area around where we are proposing to build the Norwich Western Link, and the findings of these surveys are informing our design proposals for the road and its associated measures. This is an important part of the process in delivering a large infrastructure project ahead of submitting the planning application.

Building on evidence collected in previous years, we continued to gather information through our surveys in 2021 which the project team have been analysing. This has identified notable bat activity in the woodlands in the area at the northern end of the proposed route which we need to take into account in our design. As a result, we're currently carrying out work to develop mitigation and refine the alignment to minimise the impact of the scheme on that area.

We need to complete this work before we can share our proposals with you in our pre-planning application public consultation, and we will need to allow time for this in our timetable for the project. Spending the time now to take account of the evidence is the right thing to do so that we can present the best possible all-round design when we come to submit our planning application.

As our work to develop the design progresses we'll be able to share more details with you and we plan to bring a report to our cabinet meeting on Monday 7 March which will provide a further update on this. I'll send you another email to coincide with the update report being published in a few weeks' time.

While the details of the design should continue to be developed in response to evidence, including

through our upcoming consultation, the need for this link road is unchanged. There's work to be done but I'm looking forward to sharing details on the proposals with you through the consultation when we're in a position to do so.

Best wishes,

Martin

Cllr Martin Wilby
Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure
Norfolk County Council



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To see our email disclaimer click here <http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/emaildisclaimer>



The Norwich Western Link will...



Significantly reduce many journey times to the west of Norwich, with some more than halving, and shortening response times for many ambulances travelling to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital.



Lead to a reduction in carbon emissions from vehicles by making many journeys more efficient, which supports local and national carbon reduction targets.



Boost Norfolk's economy and support its businesses by reducing transport costs, opening up new markets and increasing productivity through quicker and more reliable journeys.



Improve road safety with 515 fewer accidents involving a motor vehicle over 60 years, an average of nine fewer accidents a year.



Take traffic off unsuitable local roads with a reduction of approximately 80% in traffic through Weston Longville, leading to improved air quality in residential areas and supporting people to walk, cycle and use public transport.



Create new habitats and improve existing ones across a wide area to the west of Norwich to support a range of wildlife and provide connectivity through green bridges and wildlife underpasses.

For further details, see www.norfolk.gov.uk/nwl

Further information on benefits of the Norwich Western Link can be found in the project's Outline Business Case, available via the above link.



At a glance

The Norwich Western Link is a proposed new section of dual carriageway to connect the Broadland Northway (formerly known as the Northern Distributor Road) between the A1067 and the A47 in the west of Norwich. Since construction began on the Broadland Northway, there have been sustained calls to fill in the 'missing link' and significantly improve travel between these two major roads.

- **Why we're doing it**

We're responding to the problems raised by communities to the west of Norwich, who suffer from significant rat-running and congestion. We are also making sure we have the infrastructure needed to support future growth in housing and employment, which is vital to support the local economy in Norwich and Norfolk.

- **Making our case**

We are gathering the evidence needed to support the detailed planning application necessary for projects of this scale. This evidence, alongside the project proposals, will aim to address the issues being raised by those who oppose the project and will include our commitment to deliver a range of significant environmental mitigation measures.

- **What happens next**

Throughout this year we are working to complete a consultation on the details of the project and submit the planning application. More information on the project progress will be provided through future Norfolk County Council Cabinet reports.

- **Did you know...**

- The new road will be 3.8 miles long
- On opening, we expect an average of 24,000 vehicles a day to use it
- Weston Longville is predicted to see 80% less traffic
- There will be lots of greenery and planting along the route
- We've asked for £168m from central government to cover most of the project's cost
- We plan to create large areas of woodland and wetland habitats as part of the project
- Walking and cycling links will be improved, including a network of new routes
- We're planning up to six green bridges and underpasses for walking, cycling and wildlife



Did you know...



The new road will be 3.8 miles long



On opening, we expect an average of 24,000 vehicles a day to use it



Weston Longville is predicted to see 80% less traffic



There will be lots of greenery and planting along the route



We've asked for £168m from central government to cover most of the project's cost



We plan to create large areas of woodland and wetland habitats as part of the project



Walking and cycling links will be improved, including a network of new routes



We're planning up to six green bridges and underpasses for walking, cycling and wildlife

13th February 2022

Report from Councillor John Ward

Broadland District Council

Broadland Members have commenced a Collaboration Review which will interlock with SNDC as it progresses. The review is being chaired by Cllr Stuart Clancy.

MD Trevor Holden is keen to grow BDC's relations with Town & Parish Councils as per the LGA report "Local Service Delivery and Place Shaping"

The site at the Recreation Ground has been prepared and fenced and planting will start on our Miyawaki Mini Forest on 14.2.22. This is part of NCC's One Million Trees for Norfolk project.

Norfolk County Council

The e-scooter trial in Greater Norwich will be extended to 30th November 2022 and the area will be expanded. There are currently 90 local locations with over 1000 journeys per day and 40,000 individual users of the service.

Cecil Gowing Infant School has received £10k funding from Aviva which will be used in its Reception environment with an eco-friendly focus.

Following the successful consolidation of NCC office accommodation, the 8th floor at County Hall is now surplus to requirements and has been let to the NHS Norfolk & Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group.

Norfolk's largest, at 116sq mtr, re-use shop officially opened on 10th February at the new Norwich North Recycling Centre on the Broadland Northway.

The new Interim Fire Chief for Norfolk is Tim Edwards who steps up from the role of Assistant Fire Chief having worked in the Norfolk F&R Service since 1988.

Sprowston Town Council
School Lane
Sprowston
Norwich
NR7 8TR

Cygnets Court
Long Stratton
Norwich
NR15 2XE
Tel 01508 533914
Communities@southnorfolkand
broadland.gov.uk

20th January 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Asset of Community Value Expiration

A decision was reached on 21/04/2017 that the following property should be approved by the council as an asset of community value, the property was subsequently added to the Council's Community Asset register for a period of five years:

Asset name and address

The Blue Boar Public House, 259, Wroxham Rd, Norwich, Norfolk, NR7 8RL

The five-year listing will expire on 20/04/2022. If you wish Blue Boar PH to remain an Asset of Community Value, you have until 20/04/2022 to submit a new application. If no new application is received, Blue Boar PH will be removed from our register.

If you wish to re-nominate Blue Boar PH please bear in mind that there may have been changes in the legislation governing Assets of Community Value over the last five years. Additionally, Blue Boar's offer to the community may have changed since 2017 therefore, a resubmission of the previous nomination may not be appropriate. We encourage you to consult our website for the latest information

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/asset-community-value-right-bid>

If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please do contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Allen

Communities Officer

www.south-norfolk.gov.uk

DX 130080 Long Stratton 2
Textphone 01508 533622
Emergency out of hours service 01508 533633

Sprowston Town Council - 23 February 2022

To Agree an Enduring Physical Commemoration of HRH the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year

Budget

Council's 2022-23 budget includes £15,000 to allocate between a Platinum Jubilee event (in June 2022) and/or enduring commemoration, and the 2022 summer fete.

My recommendation for an *indicative* allocation, at this time, is £11,000 for the summer fete, £3,000 for all Jubilee events and commemoration expenses and a £1000 shared contingency. The allocation for the summer fete is a broad estimate as we have no recent comparator events.

Potential ideas for an enduring physical commemoration:

1. Plant a Jubilee Tree, marked with a Queen's Green Canopy plaque.
 - a. Cost of tree £50 to £250 + £145 for plaque from the Royal British Legion
2. Diamond Field (corner of School Lane/Neville Road) – As part of the Queen's Green Canopy, dedicate the planned hedge row planting with a Queen's Green Canopy plaque.
 - a. Cost of hedging approximately £700 (including Broadland District Council Community Tree Planting Grant) + £145 for plaque from the Royal British Legion
 - b. The cost of hedging plants can be met from Council's current year planting budget, leaving only the cost of the plaque to be funded from the Jubilee budget
 - c. If a community planting event is to be organised, purchase of additional spades etc costing approximately £300 would be required (unless equipment could be borrowed)
3. Provide a Jubilee Bench
 - a. Costs for a suitable seat range from £500 to >£750 depending on size and material. Wood is cheaper but requires continual maintenance and will not last in the very long term. Recycled plastic is sustainable and very long lasting but is expensive and may look 'utilitarian'. Wrought iron has a 'classic' look, is hard wearing and long lasting but is very expensive

4. Viking Centre – Place a plaque commemorating commencement of the redevelopment in the Jubilee year
 - a. Cost should be less than £200

5. Cannerby Lane Green – Create a jubilee garden or flower beds (with or without benches
 - a. Costs will vary depending on design, and number and type of benches. Anything from approximately £500 for planting and no (zero) benches, to approximately £2500 for four recycled plastic benches plus planting
 - b. The cost of planting can be met from Council's current year planting budget. Expenditure on benches will require to be funded from the Jubilee budget
 - c. Consideration will need to be given to providing and emptying a suitable number of additional litter bins

Notes

Platinum themed plants that could be included in a Jubilee planting scheme:

- Rose "Rosa Precious Platinum"
- Evergreen perennial shrub "Phormium Tenax Platinum"
- Lavender "Platinum Blonde"

Sprowston Town Council Decision Required:

- **To agree an enduring physical commemoration of HRH the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year**

G Ranaweera

Town Clerk

2nd February 2022

Example of a Queen's Green Canopy Plaque from the Royal British Legion
(Approximate cost £145.00)



Sprowston Town Council – 23 February 2022

Sprowston Town Council meetings: To consider COVID precautions and venue for future meetings

Assumptions:

- The Omicron variant has been shown to be less severe than previous variants
- Vaccinated individuals form the majority of the community and will become even more prevalent
- Hospitalisations and deaths caused by COVID are reducing, relative to earlier phases of the pandemic
- The number of COVID infections is increasing, or, comparatively very high
- When windows and doors in the School Room are open it can become very cold and difficult to hear speakers
- The wearing of face coverings to meetings will be encouraged but will remain optional. Councillors and the public cannot be excluded from public meetings for not wearing a face covering

Options (based on the above assumptions):

1. Meetings to remain at the School Room, with full social distancing, hand sanitising and full ventilation (continue 'as is').
2. Meetings to remain at the School Room, with full social distancing, hand sanitising and partial or no ventilation.
3. Meetings to revert to the Council Chamber, Recreation Ground Road, with hand sanitising and full ventilation (social distancing will not be possible)
4. Meetings to revert to the Council Chamber, Recreation Ground Road, with hand sanitising and partial or no ventilation (social distancing will not be possible)
5. Meetings to revert to the Council Chamber, Recreation Ground Road, with hand sanitising and air filtration (social distancing will not be possible)
6. Meetings to revert to the Council Chamber, Recreation Ground Road, with no COVID precautions in place

Air Filtration: An alternative to opening windows

A recent study; "The removal of airborne SARS-CoV-2 and other microbial bioaerosols by air filtration on COVID-19 surge units" conducted at Addenbrookes Hospital indicated that adequate air filtration can greatly reduce the risk of airborne COVID infection. Airborne COVID is the most common cause of indoor COVID infection.

An air filtration machine (from the manufacturer used in the Addenbrookes study) suitable for the Council Chamber would be the "MAXVAC MEDI 8, 230V 800 m3/h Variable Airflow" (see attached datasheet) at £895.00 + VAT

Sprowston Town Council Decision Requested:

- ***To agree COVID precautions and venue for future Council meetings***

MEDI 8

AIR PURIFIER WITH UV STERILIZER

AIR PURIFIERS FOR OFFICES & SCHOOLS

MAXVAC Air Purifiers are well proven high performance air cleaners that use advanced HEPA filtration to remove 99.995% of airborne dust. The new MEDI range incorporates proven UV-C (Ultra Violet) Sterilisation Technology to kill or inactivate bacteria by disrupting their DNA to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases and viruses. These units are entirely safe for use in occupied areas as all UV-C rays are completely concealed.

The MEDI range has been developed for public spaces such as Hospitals, Care Homes, Pharmacies, Schools, Colleges, Clinics, Laboratories, Offices, or any indoor area where there could be nasty airborne micro-organisms such as bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungi, dust mites & spores, and render them unable to reproduce.

These powerful air cleaners are designed to run 24 / 7 to purify the air and create a healthy living environment, but they do not displace the need for essential sanitising and disinfecting of surfaces.

Advantages of the MEDI 8:

- ✓ Purifies and disinfects the air up to 99.999%
- ✓ Destroys bacteria and virus DNA
- ✓ Intelligent filter monitoring
- ✓ Remote Control
- ✓ Reduces spread of bacteria & viruses
- ✓ Helps prevent spread of germs
- ✓ Positive effect on your health
- ✓ Inhalation allergies can disappear
- ✓ 100% Safe use of UV-C as ISO 15858
- ✓ Compact high performance mobile units
- ✓ Filters are tested to: ISO 16890 -1:2016 / EN1822-1:2019

What can the MEDI 8 filter out of the air?

- ✓ Bacteria and viruses
- ✓ Dust mite
- ✓ Mold spores
- ✓ Pollen
- ✓ Dust and fine dust
- ✓ Smoke and other odours

Low noise level

Medis operate at a low noise level, making them particularly suitable for public areas such as offices, hospitals, shops, waiting rooms, hotels, care centers, etc.

G3 Filter

The G3 filter purifies the air up to 90%. All dust particles 5 µm or larger are removed here.

HEPA13 Filter

The HEPA13 filter removes up to 99.995% of microparticles larger than 0.01 µm.

Carbon Filter

The carbon filter remove pollutants, VOCs and unpleasant odors from the air. These are gaseous substances that mechanical filters G4 and H13 HEPA filters cannot remove.

UV-C Sterilizer

Powerful 100% concealed ozone-free UV-C lamps deliver killer rays to destroy viruses & bacteria by disrupting their DNA and help prevent the spread of virus and infectious diseases such as COVID-19, but does not replace the need to take other precautions.

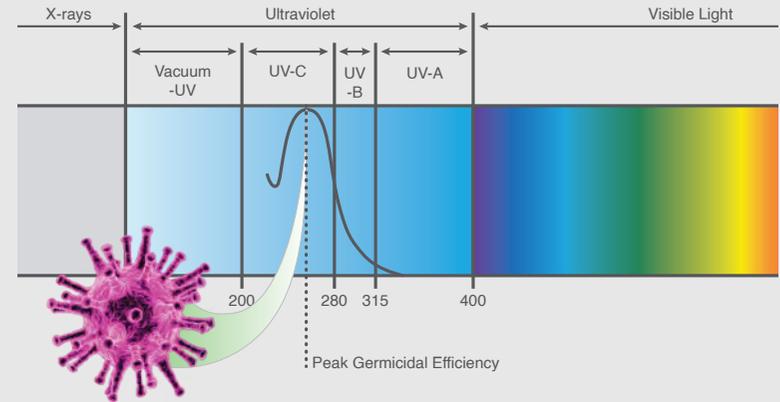
Advantages of the air circulation system:

- ✓ Maximizing system efficiency
- ✓ Longer fan life
- ✓ Provides healthier air to breathe.
- ✓ 24/7 Operation
- ✓ Optional ducting kits
- ✓ Helps Maintain room temperatures





REMOVES MICRO-ORGANISMS



SPECIFICATIONS

	MEDI-8
MAXVAC Code	MV-DBM8-230
Voltage	230V
Total Power	80W
Filter type	G3 H13 HEPA Carbon UV-C
Lifetime UV-C	8000h
Air Flow	4 Speed + sleep mode
Max Air Flow incl. Filters	800m3/h
Recommended Room Size	160m ³
Remote Control	Yes
Noise Level dB(A)	15 - 69
Weight	15 kg
Dimensions (mm)	360 x 360 x 780 mm
Warranty	24 Months

Easy use control panel



100% Concealed UV-C lamps

Easy Change Filters

Advanced Germicidal Technology

POWERFUL UV-C STERILISER



FEATURES CLASS LEADING MAXVAC TECHNOLOGY

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 February 2022

Report of the Town Clerk

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, ALLOTMENTS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

1.1 Tiny Forests

On Monday 14th February a community event was held to plant the Tiny Forest site on Sprowston recreation ground. The successful event was organised with Norfolk County Council and was fully booked within a day or two of being advertised. I was very pleased to see lots of families taking part and showing an interest in the varieties of trees being planted.

CEMETERY

2.1 No matters to report

STREET LIGHTING

3.1 Streetlighting on Atlantic Avenue

The Council office was recently contacted by the Norwich Evening News, for comment on the lack of working streetlighting on Atlantic Avenue. For Councillors' reference, a copy of my response can be found at attachment 6.1

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL

4.1 No matters to report.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

5.1 Speeding on Moore Avenue; Road Safety at Junction of Moore Avenue and Burma Road

The sharp bend near to Moore Avenue's junction with the North Walsham Road (see attachment 6.2 for location map) is frequently reported as a hazard spot. Reports have been received of vehicles taking this bend at inappropriate speeds and causing near-misses with road users traveling in the opposite direction, as well as with pedestrians on the pavement.

In addition, a resident has reported the junction of Moore Avenue and Burma Road to be dangerous (see attachment 6.2 for location map). The junction forms an almost 90-degree bend (see 6.3 for a close-up map of junction). The resident reports vehicles often take this junction at speed, with drivers who misjudge the bend, or who meet an oncoming vehicle,

often forced 'out wide' onto the verge to avoid a collision. The resident believes this poses a hazard to drivers, and to pedestrians on the adjacent pavements. They report they themselves, whilst walking in that area, have almost been hit by vehicles mounting the verge.

Line markings at this junction are very faint and signage is scarce. Drivers approaching this junction may be unaware of the 'sharpness' of the bend.

Moore Avenue is currently a 30mph zone. There are no traffic calming measures installed on Moore Avenue.

Some potential remedies could include:

- A. Requesting Norfolk County Council Highways introduce a 20mph speed limit on all or part of Moore Avenue
- B. Requesting Norfolk County Council Highways install speed reactive cameras, speed tables, humps or similar on all or part of Moore Avenue
- C. At the junction of Moore Avenue and Burma Road, requesting Norfolk County Council Highways repaint the white lines and install additional warning signage on the approach

Sprowston Town Council Decisions Requested:

- ***To consider a response to speeding on Moore Avenue and Road Safety at the Junction of Moore Avenue and Burma Road***

5.2 Request for a New 20mph Speed Restriction on the St Mary and Margaret's Estate and the Section of Church Lane Between the Mini-roundabout and the Vehicle Gate

Requests have been received from residents requesting implementation of a 20mph speed limit on the St Mary and Margaret's Estate and on the section of Church Lane between the mini-roundabout, northwards to the vehicle gate. (See attachment 6.4 - Excerpts from residents' emails regarding speeding on St Mary and Margaret's estate; attachment 6.5 - Map Showing approximate outline of St Mary and Margaret's estate).

Sprowston Town Council Decisions Requested:

- ***To consider the request for a new 20mph speed restriction on the St Mary and Margaret's estate and the section of Church Lane between the mini-roundabout and the vehicle gate***

5.3 Request for Road Safety Measures in the Vicinity of Chopyngs Dole Close Play Area and the Blue Boar Lane Roundabout

A resident has raised concerns about the road safety of children and adult users of the parks and open spaces in the vicinity of the Blue Boar Lane roundabout (see attachment 6.6 - Map showing location of parks and open spaces in the vicinity of the Blue Boar Lane roundabout).

The resident has made the following suggestions and comments:

- “A zebra crossing at the junctions of the roundabout so children may cross in relevant safety to reach the park adjacent to Lidl to play ball games”
- “Speed restrictions of 20 MPH / Speed humps on all approach roads to the roundabout especially from both Wroxham Road and Salhouse Road approaches to the Blue Boar roundabout beside Tesco’s.”
- “It is terrifying to see the speed of some vehicles! Given the high number of residential properties being built in the area this should be a matter of grave concern.”

Sprowston Town Council Decisions Requested:

- ***To consider the request for road safety measures in the vicinity of Chopyngs Dole Close play area and the Blue Boar Lane roundabout***

ATTACHMENTS

- 6.1 Statement Concerning Streetlighting on Atlantic Avenue**
- 6.2 Map showing location of Moore Avenue**
- 6.3 Close-up of junction of Moore Avenue and Burma Road, showing junction priorities**
- 6.4 Email from a resident on the St Mary and Margaret’s estate**
- 6.5 Map Showing approximate outline of St Mary and Margaret’s estate.**
- 6.6 Map showing location of parks and open spaces in the vicinity of the Blue Boar Lane roundabout**



**Guy Ranaweera
Town Clerk**

Attachment 6.1 – Statement Concerning Streetlighting on Atlantic Avenue

Main roads such as Atlantic Avenue are usually equipped with 'highway standard' streetlights which are owned and maintained by Norfolk County Council, in its role as the Highway Authority. However, before Norfolk County Council can take ownership of street lights on a newly built main road, the road itself must first be adopted by the County Council (or possibly, in some circumstances, by the District Council – in this case Broadland). Until a road is adopted, it and any streetlights on it are effectively the private property of the land owner or developer, hence responsibility for any maintenance lays with them.

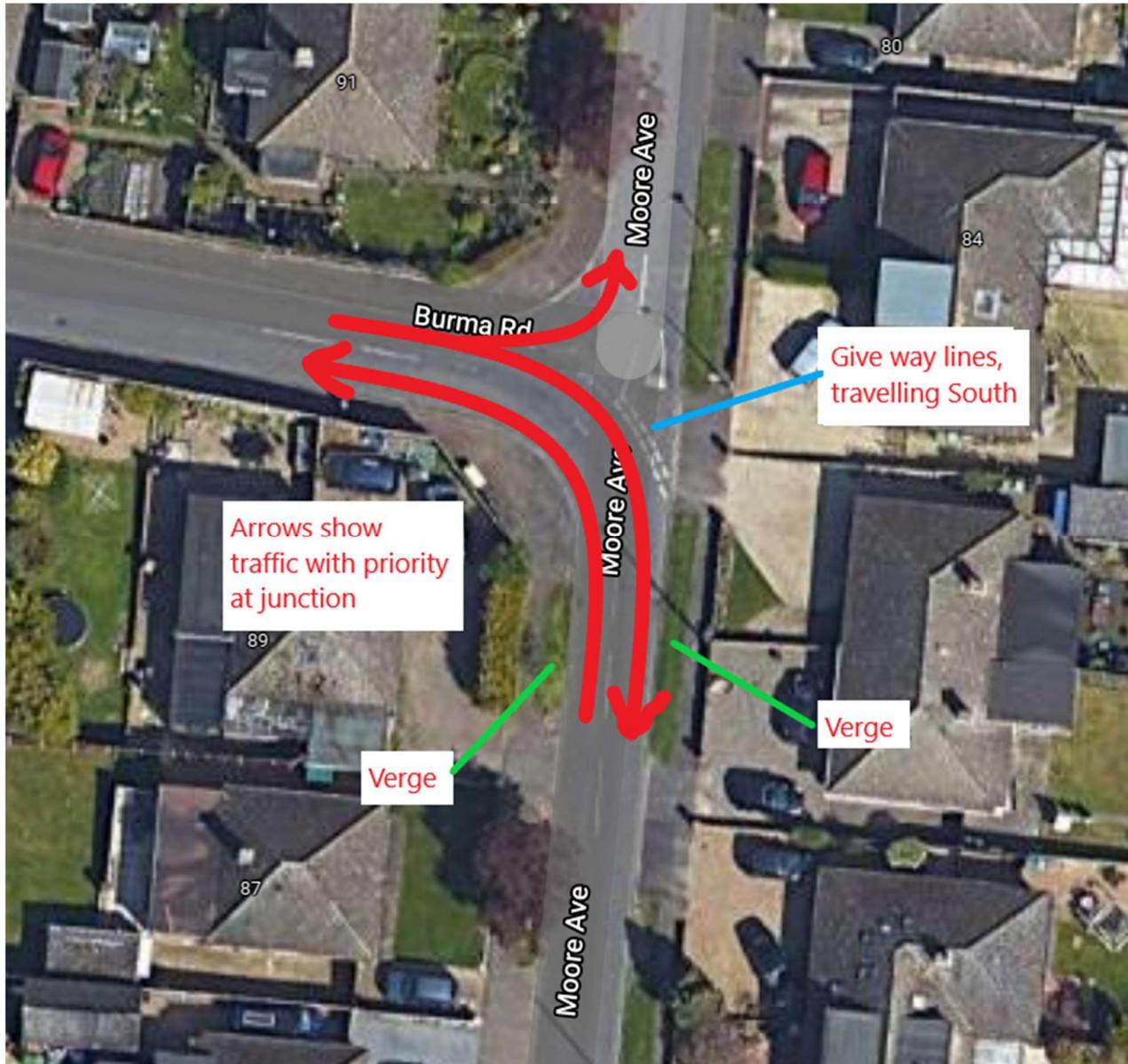
Sprowston Town Council, in common with most Town and Parish Councils is restricted to providing 'residential standard' street lighting (also known as 'footway' lighting). These lights are shorter and have less coverage than highway standard streetlights and are only suitable for residential-type roads and pavements - not main roads like Atlantic Avenue.

Sprowston Town Council's policy is to insist developers install adequate streetlighting on their new developments. Town Council can then take on the ownership and maintenance of any new residential lights for the benefit of residents. As with Norfolk County Council's highway standard streetlights, Sprowston Town Council cannot take ownership of residential streetlights until the roads where the streetlights are located are brought into the public realm through adoption by the County or District Councils.

Attachment 6.2 - Map showing location of Moore Avenue



Attachment 6.3 - Close-up of junction of Moore Avenue and Burma Road, showing existing junction priorities



Attachment 6.4 – Excerpts from residents’ emails regarding speeding on St Mary and Margaret’s estate.

Email 1

Subject: Speeding on the St Mary and Margaret’s estate.

Message Body:

Good evening, about four weeks ago our beloved cat was killed on St Mary’s Grove by a speeding driver, witnessed by the driver behind him/her and left our cat in the road to die.

Fortunately the good people on this estate moved and covered our pet then walked door to door until they found us.

In recent weeks I have been totally disgusted by the complete disregard for any sort of sensible speed on this estate and the part of Church Lane leading up to the Church and allotments.

The speed limit in my opinion should be 20 mph indicated by the accepted signage. Whilst I might be grieving about a cat it won’t be long before someone grieves about a life lost.

I urge you through the Parish partnership with NCC to get this estate properly signed, all other areas in Sprowston appear to be signed this way, there is no through road and no reason why I should continue to witness dangerous

driving at excessive speed around my estate. Any kind considerate you can give this proposal will be welcome.

Kind regards

(name and email address supplied)

Email 2

“... this Estate still has the 30 mile an hour speed limit on it, national limit where there are streetlights. However we are purely residential, how can we get a 20 mile an hour limit put in place, signs etc and possibly some traffic calming measures such as other parts of Sprowston has, especially on St Margaret's as you turn into the estate from Church Lane as cars use it as a racetrack, and there have been several cats killed here recently, only a matter of time before a child or elderly person is injured”.

(name and email address supplied)

Attachment 6.5 - Map Showing approximate outline of St Mary and Margaret's estate.



Attachment 6.6 – Map showing location of parks and open spaces in the vicinity of the Blue Boar Lane roundabout



To: Broadland District Council, Member Portfolio Holder

CC: Broadland District Council, Head of Planning, Other Growth Triangle Town and Parish Councils (Thorpe, Old Catton, Hellesdon, Rackheath, Great and Little Plumstead).

Dear XXXX

Re: Provision of Public Amenity Space in Future Largescale Housing Developments

Sprowston Town Council supports the need to build more high-quality and well-thought-out homes in the places in which people want to live. This Council is proud that Sprowston is one such place.

Town Council does not in principle object to large scale housing developments, but does wish to express concerns over several aspects of the planning of such developments. By large-scale housing developments, we mean any development comprising sufficient houses to require the developer to provide any kind of public amenity land, or make an equivalent contribution (financial or otherwise) in lieu of providing such land.

The main portion of this letter sets out a number of observations and suggestions based on Sprowston Town Council's own experience with largescale housing developments within its boundary. Anecdotal evidence suggests other towns and parishes elsewhere within the Broadland area may also find some of the issues raised herein applicable to their own circumstances. This Council asks Broadland District Council to heed these observations and suggestions and amend its approach to the planning of largescale housing developments accordingly. In writing this letter, Sprowston Town Council hopes to ensure Sprowston and the Broadland area remains a pleasant, attractive, green and stimulating environment in which to live.

The final section of this letter addresses the unique opportunity afforded by the Beeston Park (formerly Beyond Green) development on the northern edge of Sprowston.

1. Financial Contributions as a way of Developers Avoiding Providing Public Amenity Land

Broadland District Council's Recreational Provision in Residential Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) April 2016¹ allows developers of sites comprising 25-149 properties to make a financial contribution in lieu of providing on-site informal open space, allotments or formal recreational space (excepting children's play areas). Sites of 150-399 properties are required to provide on-site

¹ Table 4 – Indicative thresholds for provision

informal open space, but otherwise benefit from the same exceptions as sites of 25-149 properties.

This policy has resulted in several large, physically adjacent developments to the South of Salhouse Road where the only on-site public open space provided has been children's play areas and areas of informal recreational space, much of which is of questionable amenity value (see point #2). Despite these adjacent developments together comprising a de-facto new neighbourhood of around 1400 properties, few high-quality informal recreational open spaces, and no allotments or on-site formal recreational spaces have been included within their footprints.

Additionally, the scarcity of available land in Sprowston compared with the scale of financial contributions paid by large developers in lieu of providing on-site public amenities together creates a further problem for Town Council. Council is likely to receive from developers far more money to provide off-site facilities than there is land available to buy within Sprowston to host such facilities. Council does not wish to find itself in a position where this unspent money (which cannot be allocated to other purposes) has to be returned to developers instead of being used for the benefit of residents.

Sprowston Town Council cannot ensure adequate public amenity space for the growing population of Sprowston if new housing developments do not provide sufficient on-site land for this purpose.

Consultation with Town and Parish Councils prior to the outline planning stage of any largescale development is vital. Leaving consultation until an illustrative master plan has been created is too late – by then expectations have been set and the position of all parties may have become entrenched. Early dialogue between key stakeholders would allow Town and Parish Councils to advise the planning authority and developer as to the types of formal and informal public amenity land needed by their community; it would allow the planning authority to set out for the developer the expectations for public amenity land; and it would allow developers to incorporate these requirements at the earliest design stage and avoid unwanted objections and delays later in the planning process

Sprowston Town Council calls on Broadland District Council to change the Recreational Provision in Residential Development Supplementary Planning Document to ensure developers provide levels of high quality on-site public open space commensurate with the needs of the new communities they are creating. This should be achieved through consultation with Town and Parish Councils prior to any application for outline planning permission.

In addition, where several house builders develop largescale housing sites which are physically adjacent to one another, Sprowston Town Council calls on Broadland District Council to view these developments as part of a single development area and require developers to between them provide public amenity land appropriate to the overall number of homes being built across all adjacent developments.

2. Lack of High-Quality Informal Recreational Space

Sprowston Council strongly believes that informal recreational space should be space which residents can physically use for leisure purposes. Some recent housing development applications have sought to mitigate their obligations to provide informal recreational space by counting various small patches of disconnected and often unusable 'leftover' land within the overall total of informal recreational space provided.

As a general rule of thumb; an area should qualify as informal recreational space only if it can be safely accessed and it provides sufficient space and an appropriate environment for people to stop and enjoy their surroundings.

This Council also firmly believes open SUDS basins (or similar infrastructure features) within areas of informal open space pose a danger to young children. SUDS should be located well away from play areas and footpaths and should be securely fenced off. SUDS and any associated drainage infrastructure should be excluded from any and all calculations of public open space.

Because of concerns about the usability and/or safety of some of the land classified as informal recreational space on some new developments within Sprowston, Town Council will not be adopting or maintaining land on new developments if that land does not provide tangible safe recreational opportunities for Sprowston residents.

Sprowston Town Council calls upon Broadland District Council to ensure verges, vision splays, borders, SUDS and drainage ditches etc are not permitted to count towards the total area of informal recreational space a developer is required to deliver.

3. Allotments

Sprowston Currently has 92 allotment plots. This number has remained unchanged for at least 20 years despite tremendous housing and population growth in Sprowston over that period.

Town Council has been unable to purchase further land for allotment plots and no new allotments have been provided within any of Sprowston's large scale housing developments.

The popularity of allotments has increased over the last decade or more. Sprowston's allotment waiting list is currently in the region of 24 to 30 months. With the gardens of new build homes being (on average) much smaller than those of older properties in Sprowston, it is not unreasonable to infer a plausible connection between the increase in new developments and the increase in our allotment waiting list.

If allotments are not provided within the footprint of a new development site, there is little-to-no land elsewhere within Sprowston on which Town Council can provide them.

Sprowston Town Council calls upon Broadland District Council to ensure large scale housing developments provide good quality land sufficient for an appropriate number of allotment plots.

4. Beeston Park Development – A Unique Opportunity

There is an acute shortage of sporting, and in particular, football facilities in and around Sprowston.

Sprowston FC, which consists of numerous adult and youth teams, is the largest umbrella club in Norfolk. Despite utilising facilities well beyond Sprowston's boundaries, Sprowston FC regularly finds itself with more matches than available pitches. Town Council is highly supportive of Sprowston FC and the sporting and social opportunities it provides for hundreds of Sprowston residents every year. Council has explored several options to assist the club in securing further sports facilities but the recurring primary obstacle is always lack of land.

The Beeston Park development offers a one-time opportunity – *perhaps the last opportunity* – to secure enough public amenity land to provide the facilities necessary to support Sprowston's growing sporting community. The land to provide these much-needed facilities simply does not exist elsewhere in Sprowston.

The indicative master plan for the Beeston Park development includes two football pitches. Whilst this is a good start, Sprowston Town Council believes that far more could be made of this opportunity to provide for Sprowston's thriving football, rugby and cricket teams. The Beeston Park development has space to include an all-weather 3G pitch with lighting, changing rooms and a car park (or at least access from the Wroxham Road park and ride). By adding a rugby pitch and an indoor cricket training facility Beeston Park could be home to a truly outstanding sporting hub for residents of Sprowston and beyond.

Sprowston Town Council calls on Broadland District Council to work with it, sporting governing associations and the developer to agree plans for the Beeston Park development that meet the requirements of all parties, whilst keeping the needs of current and future generations of Sprowston residents at the forefront of the design and planning process.

Sprowston awaits your reply.

Yours sincerely

Signed.....