

Town Council supports local volunteer group

Pictured generous donations waiting to be sorted and collected from the Council Chamber on Recreation Ground Road by a grass roots group of local volunteers on behalf of Support Ukraine UK.



The Council's Viking Centre on Tills Road was also used for storage

Items unsuitable to send, were sold at a jumble sale organised and run by volunteers which raised £2,500.

Rewilding

Our rewilding trial on Cozens Hardy Road and Colindeep Lane is increasing in popularity with more residents joining the scheme.

You might have already seen the "No Mow" signs and lovely array of flowers planted.



This opt-in one year trial applies to verges on the "inside" of the pavement away from the road.

If you live on either of these roads and interested in taking part, please email townclerk@sprowston-tc.gov.uk or telephone the office on 01603 408063

Broadland Tree Wardens

Members of the Broadland Tree Warden Network work with their parishes to plant, care for and stand up for the trees in their patch. As Sprowston Tree Wardens, we look out for trees that may be threatened by works or vandalism, early warnings of disease which may later cause safety issues and recommend trees for protection under Tree Preservation Orders to Broadland District Council. We can also offer free advice on tree matters, although please do bear in mind we are volunteers with a passion for trees, not professionals with expert knowledge!

Planting trees has been one of the key initiatives to combat climate change in recent years and we are currently trying to identify new areas in Sprowston which may be suitable for trees and hedgerows. If you have any suggestions, please do contact us at SprowstonTreeWarden@gmail.com

When new trees are planted, it is important they receive sufficient aftercare to give them the best possible chance to thrive. It was interesting to find a "Tree minder" in Issue 34 (April 2012) of Sprowston Matters from our predecessor to "remind residents that should the summer months be dry to spare a thought for the trees, including those planted in the verges. You can use wastewater from vegetable preparation, washing up, baths or showers but not water that contains bleach or powerful household cleaning products which could damage plants.". There are likely to be dry spells again this summer, so it remains valuable advice for continuing to look after Sprowston's trees!

Ben Jervis & Christine Hipperson-Jervis, Sprowston Tree Wardens

Community Planting

Following the successful planting of a mixed hedge at the Diamond field on School Lane, and to further improve biodiversity in Sprowston the Council is considering extending the existing hedgerow on land between the North Walsham Road and Windsor Park Gardens.

Many creatures, including nesting birds, small mammals, insects and butterflies live in hedgerows. They provide food and wildlife corridors to facilitate the movement of species from one habitat patch to another and provide a perfect environment for hedgehogs offering cover from predators, places to rest and nesting materials

Residents of dwellings adjacent the open space will be leafleted for their views on this idea.

Cinema

Since reopening our cinema in May we have screened 3 award-winning films and will be showing Death on the Nile on Monday 1 August 2022.

All our facilities are accessible. Come and join us at 12.30pm for refreshments followed by performance in the School Room at Sprowston Diamond Centre.

Tickets £5.00 including refreshments. Just turn up, no need to pre-book.

Films for September to December will soon be advertised on our Noticeboards, Facebook and website www.sprowston-tc.gov.uk

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

Sprowston Matters

www.sprowston-tc.gov.uk



The official newsletter of Sprowston Town Council

Issue 60

Sprowston Town Fete

Fun for all the family

Bouncy castle, fairground rides, face painting, alpacas, Zorb balls, mixed sports, skate boarding lessons, portable skatepark, doctor bike sessions, culinary theatre, tombola.

Arena activities including bicycle stunts team and try your tightrope walking skills.

Live Music, Beer Tent, variety of food vendors, lots of stalls and much more...

Don't miss this great family day out

Entrance free (Gates open 12.30pm)

 **When:** Saturday 23 July 2022
Time: 1.00pm - 5.00pm
Where: Sprowston Recreation Ground



The Viking Centre



Revised plans for the Viking Centre (former Viking PH and Royal Bengal restaurant) incorporating suggestions made by residents during the public consultations in January were recently presented to Council.

Alterations included an outside seating area, relocation of washroom facilities so as not to open directly into meeting rooms, additional storage, cycle shed and more electric vehicle charging points.

The final design has now been agreed and a planning application will be submitted to the District Council.

Sufficient Community Infrastructure Levy payments have been received from developers on White House Farm and Salhouse Road to complete the first stage of development.

Whilst the build is unlikely to start soon given the lead in time for planning and tendering process redevelopment of the centre is still on track for opening Autumn 2023.



The Chairman's Report

The Mayor and Chairman of Sprowston Town Council Mr John Ward, presented the Annual Report of the Council for the year ending 31 March 2022

"This year marks the 128th Anniversary for Sprowston Town Council, which was established on 14 December 1894 following a change in legislation to move all non-ecclesiastical functions from church parish councils to local elected bodies which became known as "parish councils"

The Council currently consists of fifteen unpaid councillors representing the four wards across the town, elected to serve a four-year term

During 2021 we welcomed two new Councillors to our team, Councillors Glen Tingle and Karen Vincent.

With regards to the environment, in its efforts to improve biodiversity, mitigate climate change and enhance our natural environment the Council has embarked on a number of initiatives including the planting of a mini-forest at Sprowston Recreation Ground and mixed, native hedgerow at the Diamond Field on School Lane. Both events were open to the community and extremely well supported. We have also approved 9 applications to participate in our pilot rewilding scheme on two roads in Sprowston and have 2 waiting to be processed.

Following the acquisition of the former Viking Public House / Bengal Restaurant on Tills Road, public drop-in sessions were held in January giving residents an opportunity to put forward their ideas and suggestions for future uses of the building. Lots of positive comments were received on the proposed plans for re-development with particular support for a social community space and café.

Work to convert the premises is due to start in the Autumn to coincide with receipt of Community Infrastructure payments to pay for the redevelopment.

Council has commented on over 52 planning applications ranging from pigeon coops to large scale housing developments.

We have continued to make representations to other authorities on behalf of our local residents on issues such as footpaths, highways, dog fouling, litter and anti-social behaviour.

As to our parks and open spaces in addition to general routine maintenance a new multi play unit was successfully installed at Sparhawk park and has been well used and proving very popular.

A new gate was also installed at Barkers Lane open space to make the corner adjacent the Cricket Club and busy roadway more secure for all users.

Negotiations with Broadland District Council and developers are ongoing for the provision of a skatepark, MUGA, under 7's football pitch, car park and other play equipment at the White House Farm development open space.

Council has appointed an additional member of staff to the new post of Compliance and Administration officer, responsible for play equipment inspections, administering planned maintenance and servicing schedules and general administration duties.

Sprowston Diamond Centre gradually reopened following closure during the pandemic and is now a thriving centre with a diverse range of activities on offer from hip hop dance to sewing classes.

Turning to financial matters in December the Council approved the 2022/23 budget and precept.

The total agreed expenditure budget was £743,973.00 the precept was agreed at a 2.55% increase on Band D tax rate and 5% on the total precept.

The Town Council has continued to support local community groups and good causes which much needed funding and given £22,864.00 in grants. Beneficiaries include:

Sprowston Methodist Church - £200.00

Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau - £500.00

The Royal British Legion - £100.00

Sprowston Youth Engagement Project - £6,000.00

Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (Outreach Worker) - £16,064.00

The Council has continued to support SYEP outreach programme to reduced anti-social behaviour in our parks and provide educational experiences for young people.

I am pleased to report:

- the return of our monthly cinema at Sprowston Diamond Centre on Monday 9 May 2022 with the screening of Spencer.
- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee beacon lighting event and picnic held at St. Mary and St. Margaret's Church on Thursday 2 June at 9.00pm accompanied by Hellesdon and Sprowston brass band.
- the summer fete taking place on Saturday 23 July 2022. We hope you will all come and support us.

There were so many things that I could report, but the list above demonstrates the wide range and extent of the works carried out by the Town Council. Please do let us know if there are areas within our responsibility that you feel could be improved or changed. If you are interested to understand more of how or what we are doing, then you can go to our website, Facebook page or even pop along to one of our meetings where there is an opportunity to discuss items on the agenda or request something to be considered at a future meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank Councillors for volunteering their time and our Town Clerk and staff for all the hard work they have put in behind the scenes over the past 12 months".

New Town Council Chairman Elected for Municipal Year 2022 - 2023

At the Council's annual meeting held Wednesday 18 May 2022, full council voted for Councillor Bill Couzens to be Chairman, replacing outgoing Town Mayor and Chairman Councillor John Ward. Councillor Couzens previously served as vice-chairman from 2019 to 2020,

Councillor Judy Leggett was re-elected to serve as vice-chairman.

An introduction by Chair Bill Couzens

"Hello everyone. I'd like to introduce myself as this year's Chair of Sprowston Town Council. My wife and I moved to Sprowston from North Norwich over 30 years ago and have been very happy here ever since. I have served Sprowston as a Town Councillor for 11 years and a District Councillor for 4 years. Our children attended Sprowston schools and now our granddaughter does too. You'll often find me doing the school run or in the local shops and parks.



I'm a volunteer and committee member of many voluntary organisations in Sprowston including: the Dementia Friendly Cafe which is held monthly at the Diamond Centre, the Sprowston Dementia Friendly Community and the Sprowston Grow Your Community. I was Chairman of the Going for Green PTA and assistant at Sprowston Cub Scouts when our children were younger. I chaired the Sprowston and Old Catton SNAP (Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel) in conjunction with local police as a District Councillor and am still a panel member. I'm a committee member of Sprowston Senior Citizens Club and have taken an active role with the refurbishments, especially of the kitchen and conservatory. I am secretary of Sprowston Supporting Our Community Together which was set up by local residents at the height of the pandemic. I am a member of the Sprowston Library Sensory Garden Project which was to be opened by Alan Gray of Easton Ruston Rectory Garden. Sadly, the pandemic came just as it was due to be opened and the garden will be swallowed up by the new library extension.

The Town Council has a very exciting project to progress this year. It is the refurbishment of the old Viking Pub (Royal Bengal Restaurant) to become a community centre. There are currently no community facilities in West Sprowston so the council are very keen to start the conversion by next spring, once the planning stage is completed.

If you see me out and about, I'm always happy to talk especially if it's Sprowston related or classic motorcycle, electric vehicle or photography related".

Jubilee Celebrations



The weather held and over 130 residents joined us for the lighting of the Beacon at St. Mary and St. Margaret's church in celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Hellesdon and Sprowston brass band played a variety of tunes followed by a reading from Reverend Simon Stokes on the reign of Her Majesty.

Town Chair Bill Couzens read the proclamation and at the officially appointed time of 9.45pm lit the wood fire beacon, thereby joining Sprowston with the 1500 other beacons being simultaneously lit across the nation.

The evening celebrations were concluded with everyone accompanying the band singing the National Anthem.

On Sunday 5 June 2022 the celebrations continued. After a civic service at St Mary and St Margaret's church, jubilee lunch picnic goers were able to enjoy jubilee-themed celebration cake and cupcakes on the lawn, courtesy of the Council and local baker Gemma Thompson. The eldest person present was invited to cut the cake, with Council Chair Bill Couzens (on behalf of the Town Council) helping to distribute slices of cake to those present and Sprowston Youth Engagement serving refreshments.