



Sprowston Recreation Ground new home for Norwich Bystanders Cricket Club

The Council is welcoming Norwich Bystanders Cricket Club to make Sprowston Recreation Ground their new home this Spring. The club formed at the end of 2009 following the merger of two well-known cricketing institutions in Norwich Union CC and Bystanders CC.

They describe themselves as a friendly club who enjoy the game, playing to win but in the true spirit of cricket. Whilst playing hard, they also enjoy a bit of banter and a laugh.

Their senior sides are at levels 1 and 3 of the Norfolk Cricket leagues with three promotions between them in the last 3 seasons. The first team earned back-to-back championships in 2018 and 2019 earning a spot in the top tier of the Norfolk Cricket League.

Their new youth section is growing with a dedicated team ready to welcome any youngsters who would like get into cricket. All are very welcome.

The 2023 season includes:

18 Saturday leagues matches
4 Sunday friendlies
4 Wednesday t20 matches
Weeknight training and 3 matches for youths

The club has aspirations for greater inclusion which could include women's matches, Sunday league, increased youth participation and additional mid-week games and training.

They would also like to play an active role in the community and hope visitors to the Recreation Ground will stop to watch cricket and perhaps become involved with the sport.

If you would like to get involved with this vibrant club, please get in touch:

Steven Andrews, 1st Team captain, Youth coach, Committee member
Norwich.bystanders.CC@outlook.com
07376604075
<https://norwichbystanders.play-cricket.com/home>

Broadland Help Hub is here to help you

The Help Hub is a partnership between organisations that support people in Broadland and South Norfolk. It can offer practical support, suggest community groups, and offer advice and guidance to get you back on track.



The Help Hub works with partners to get you the right help, whatever the situation. This includes money worries and debt, benefits, relationships and domestic abuse, help in your community, wellbeing and health, refugee support, carer support, bereavement support, bullying and cyberbullying, employment and training, housing, handyperson service, families and children COVID-19 and self-isolation.

To get help with any of these issues, or with any other problems complete a request for support form:
Tel: 01603 430431 or
Email: helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

By-Election Results

Following the By-Election held on 20 October 2022 Council welcomed Mr Martin Booth who was elected Councillor for the North East Ward of Sprowston.

Martin lives in Bewit Road, Sprowston with his wife, Sandra and their three dogs and two cats. He has two sons, one of whom lives in Norwich and the other in the USA. His interests include sea fishing, military history and making model aircraft. He has a lot of experience of local government as he was County Councillor for North Walsham from 1998 until 2001 when he moved back to Norwich. He was Vice-Chair of the Education Committee and was Chair of the Value for Money and Audit Committees. He was also on North Walsham Town Council and was Mayor in 1997.

Office opening times:

Telephone enquiries: Mon - Fri 9.30am - 1pm & 2pm - 4.30pm (after hours answerphone)

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t: (01603) 408063
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Town Council Offices: Recreation Ground Road, Sprowston, Norwich, NR7 8EW

 Sprowston Town Council and Sprowston Diamond Centre

Sprowston Matters



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2023 Sprowston Summer Fete

Following the success of the 2022 summer fete we hope to hold an even bigger and better event this year.



Date: Saturday 29 July 2023

Location: Sprowston Recreation Ground

Time: 1.00pm - 5.00pm

If you interested in being a stallholder, please apply to the Town Council for an application form, also available on our website www.sprowston-tc.gov.uk.

Commercial pitches - £15.00
Not for profit organisations - Free

We would also love to hear from potential acts or displays for the central arena, and providers of other fun activities.

Tel: 01603 408063
Email: townclerk@sprowston-tc.gov.uk

Coronation of King Charles III

Once again, we have a National Celebration; the King's Coronation on 6 May 2023. There will be some residents who will remember the last coronation on 2 June 1953 but to the majority of residents this is something new.

To celebrate this historic event, we would like to invite residents and businesses in Sprowston to take part in a garden or window display competition and trail.

- The displays should be coronation or royal-themed and visible from the public highway.
- There is a £20.00 prize for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place plus Council's choice award.
- To register your participation in creating a garden or window display phone, email or visit the Council office by 21 April 2023 see our website www.sprowston-tc.gov.uk. Plenty of time for any creative gardeners out there to plant those seedlings.

Residents wanting to follow the trail and vote for their favourite displays please collect a printed list of participants with voting slip from the Council office or download from our website www.sprowston-tc.gov.uk or Facebook. Available from 28 April 2023.

The trail officially runs from Saturday 6 May 2023 to Monday 8 May 2023 with voting ending midnight Monday 8 May 2023. Winners will be announced at the Council meeting to be held 17 May 2023.

Live Streaming of the Coronation

Why not get together with family, friends and neighbours and watch live streaming of the coronation at St. Cuthbert's Church. Refreshments available followed by a Spring Fete organised by Sprowston Churches. All welcome.

For more information, please go to Sprowston Parish Churches website or Facebook.





Chairman's Chat by Councillor Bill Couzens



Looking back at 2022 there was so much going on in Sprowston and the country too. There was the pageantry of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, followed by the sadness of her death and the succession of King Charles. And three prime ministers, all in one year!

Many of the clubs and services closed due to Covid, opened their doors again. We began to feel normal again. Let's hope we continue to recover from that dreadful era.

There were several projects to improve Sprowston's ecology with well received community projects such as the rewilding of verges and planting hedges around the Diamond Field.

The Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) completed and opened their new Urban Adventure Area on Church Lane. 2022 marked their 10th anniversary. Despite Covid the SYEP Team engaged with 548 young people, up from 340 the year before. The SYEP now meets every weekday evening either in Old Catton or Sprowston.

Two Sprowston groups were nominated for the Broadland

Community at Heart Awards. Sprowston Senior Citizen's Club and Sprowston Community Dementia Cafe were both nominated for the Community Group of the Year award. The Cafe made the shortlist which was won by Brundall Men's Shed.

Looking forward to 2023 there is much to do. The Council will continue to look for projects to improve the ecology of the area including the planting of trees to commemorate those people of Sprowston who fell during the First World War, and more rewilding projects. If you have any ideas, please contact the Town Council.

The Town Council will continue to press to get the open spaces on the White House Farm development opened to the public in 2023, including the playing field behind White House Farm School and skate park opposite the Garden Centre on Blue Boar Lane.

Another major project for 2023 is the development of the former Viking pub/Royal Bengal restaurant on Tills Road into a Community Centre. We expect to start work on the site soon.

Last year's Sprowston Fete was a great success and the Council have agreed to hold another fete in the summer. If you are interested in being involved in anyway, please contact the council. We will be especially looking for stall holders, sponsors, acts for the arena and music tent plus volunteers to help run the event. More information soon.

We are looking forward to the coronation of King Charles on Saturday 6th May. Many of you, I know, will want to be involved in some way and we've decided to have a Coronation themed trail around Sprowston. You can read more about how to participate in the article on the Coronation in this issue of the Newsletter.

In May there will be the local elections where you will have the chance to elect local residents to the Town and District Councils. This year there will be a major change. If you normally cast your vote at a polling station you will need to have valid photo ID. If you don't have a valid photo ID, or you are not sure, then get one as soon as you can. Your vote is important, please use it.

Schedule Of Town Council Meetings Municipal Year 2023/2024

31 May 2023	20 December 2023 (Precept/Planning)
28 June 2023	10 January 2024
19 July 2023	31 January 2024
16 August 2023	21 February 2024
13 September 2023	13 March 2024 (Annual Town Meeting 7.00pm)
04 October 2023	13 March 2024 (Council Meeting to be held on the rising of the Annual Town Meeting)
25 October 2023	03 April 2024
15 November 2023	24 April 2024
06 December 2023	16 May 2024 Annual Council Meeting

All meetings will be held in the **Council Chamber, Council Office, Recreation Ground Road, Sprowston NR7 8EW commencing 7.30pm (except the Annual Town Meeting).**

Meetings of the Council are open to the public, who are welcome to attend, and there is an opportunity for residents to ask questions on any item on the agenda.

Copies of the agenda and minutes for each meeting are available on the Council's website **www.sprowston-tc.gov.uk** (the Friday before the meeting date) together with details of how to join the meeting. Paper copies are also available free of charge on request from the Council Office when they are published. Other background papers and reports can also be viewed or copies supplied on payment of a small charge.

2023 Local Elections

District, town and parish elections are due to be held on Thursday 4 May 2023.

This election will be the first time an official form of photographic identification (ID) will be required to be shown by all voters at a polling station. This has been introduced under the Elections Act 2022.

Acceptable forms of ID will include:

- a passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- a driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state
- a biometric immigration document
- an identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- a Blue Badge
- a national identity card issued by an EEA state
- an Older Person's Bus Pass

- a Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- an Oyster 60+ Card
- a Freedom Pass
- a Scottish National Entitlement Card issued in Scotland
- a 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- a Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- a Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a War Disablement SmartPass or War Disabled SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- a Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- an Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland

If you do not have any of the accepted forms of ID you can apply online for a free Voter Authority Certificate - this is a photographic identity document specifically for the purpose of voting. If you own an accepted form of photographic ID but it has expired it can still



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be used, as long as the photograph is still a good likeness of you. To access the application service for a Voter Authority Certificate please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate> You must be registered to vote in order to apply. If you need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, make sure you do so in good time ahead of it being required at the polling station. The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate for local elections taking place on 4 May 2023 is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023.

Community Planting Event

On 26 November 2022, with expectations of cold weather and rain, an army of residents helped to plant over 250 whips at the Diamond Field. As these young plants mature, they will provide food, nesting and habitat corridors for our local wildlife. Chairman Bill Couzens said "What a lovely day we had for planting a new hedge. Who'd have believed that



at the end of November we would have such warm dry weather which, for me, highlights the need to take the effect each one of us has on the environment seriously. Cllr. Dawn Coleman and the council team did us proud with yet another successful community planting event. Thank you to all the families who came to plant some hedging with us on both occasions and to those who came to water the March plants in the summer drought. I personally felt it something of a cross between planting and archaeology as we uncovered not only lumps of concrete covered in tar but also various miscellaneous rusty metal and glass objects. I'm sure we'll be looking for more places to plant in the coming year".



Councillor Dawn Coleman commented "Our second community planting day to be held at the Diamond Field like the previous event was joyous, lots of residents turned up to help and encompassed all age groups. Keep your eyes peeled for future planting opportunities, we are turning Sprowston into a green and pleasant town."