

Election Results

Following the Town and Parish Election on 4 May 2023 the first meeting of your newly elected Council was held 17 May 2023 where Mr W F Couzens was re-elected as Chairman and Mrs J Leggett Vice-Chairman. **Your Councillors are:**

Sproston Central Ward

Ms D Coleman (Lab)
77 Cozens Hardy Road,
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Tel: 01603 429967
dawniel48@icloud.com

Mr W F Couzens (Lab)
5 Church Green,
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Mr A R Tipple (Lab)
Contact via Sproston
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Tel: 01603 408063 or
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Mrs E H Tovell (Lab)
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Tel: 01603 408063 or
emma.sprostonctc@gmail.
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Mr R H Tovell (Lab)
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robin.sprostonctc@gmail.com

Sproston North East Ward

Mr M A Booth (Lab)
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Sproston NR7 8LB
Tel: 07739 383970
martin.booth6@gmail.com

Mr J Vasco (Lab)
7, Bodmin Drive, Sproston,
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jamesvasco77@gmail.com

Sproston South East Ward

Mr B Baby (Lab)
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Tel: 01603 408063 or
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Mrs S D Booth (Lab)
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Mr J H Mallen (Con)
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Mrs J Leggett (Con)
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Catton, NR6 7AL
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Mrs A L Parker (Lab)
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cllraliceparker@gmail.com

Mr H W Tarlton (Lab)
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Sproston West Ward

Mr M G Callam (LD)
138, Moore Avenue,
Sproston NR6 7LQ
Tel: 01603 343508
martincallam@yahoo.
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Mrs K Vincent (Con)
Hope Cottage, Crostwick
Lane, Spixworth NR10 3PD
01603 989856 /
07881 365238
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Dogs in Sparhawk Park

Since it opened several decades ago Sparhawk Park has been designated a dog free zone, offering children and adults ill at ease with our furry friends somewhere to play, exercise or contemplate without fear or concern. However, we are receiving increasing reports of people walking their dogs in this park.

Additional signage to highlight that dogs are prohibited have been erected and we would request all dog walkers to exercise their dogs in one of the many other dog friendly areas available to them across Sproston.

As a visitor to the park, you might have also noticed our facilities have been closed on several occasions. This has been due to an upsurge in vandalism including damaged taps and deliberate blockages of sinks and toilets requiring us to close the facilities for repairs to take place. CCTV is being considered if financially viable.

Living Memorial for Sproston's fallen

Having been made aware that the Town Council does not have a memorial to parishioners who perished during the Great War councillors considered various ideas on what could be an appropriate monument.

In view of the environmental and mental health benefits of flora it was decided to plant groups of trees in the four wards of Sproston as a tribute to those who made the greatest sacrifice.

The locations chosen are Windsor Park Gardens and Wilks Farm Drive open space, Sparhawk Park and either Blue Boar Lane Park or one of the areas to be adopted by Council in the White House Farm development.

The trees will provide areas of reflection, peace and hopefully calm. Planting will take place during the autumn with a suitable plaque to acknowledge those who fell.

Going forward the scheme could be expanded to commemorate those lost in conflicts since 1918.

Office opening times:

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

Town Clerk: Guy Ranaweera
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'Sproston Matters' Editor: Evelyn Elliot
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Road, Sproston, Norwich, NR7 8EW

 Sproston Town Council and
Sproston Diamond Centre

Sproston Matters



The official newsletter of Sproston Town Council

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SPROWSTON SUMMER FETE

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

29 JULY

Date: Saturday 29 July 2023
Location: Sproston Recreation Ground
Time: 1.00pm - 5.00pm

Chair Planes, Bungee Trampolines, Fun House, Face Painting, Free Bouncy Castle, Fire Engine, Norfolk Trucks, Police, Alpacas, Stilt Walker, Children's Activities and a variety of hot and cold food.

Free Zorbing and activities provided by Sproston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP).

Relax in the beer tent supplied by the Brewery Tap and listen to the sounds of The Foreign Locals, Robert Holmes, The Jacks and Lizze and the List.

In the Arena - Angel Baton Twirlers and Lowestoft Dog Agility Display Team.

Browse a variety of craft and activity stalls (some stalls will be cash only).

DON'T MISS THIS GREAT FAMILY DAY OUT

Coronation Trail

To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III Council invited residents and businesses in Sproston to take part in a royal themed garden or window display.

It was with regret that we had to take the decision to cancel the Coronation trail due to insufficient participants. However, the Body and Skin Care Clinic on Cannerby Lane made a very fitting display in their window for residents to view.





Chairmans Annual Report



What a busy year it's been. It has been an honour to represent the Town Council as its Chairman. Councillors across the political spectrum have worked as a team to do their best for Sprowston.

The year started with the pageantry of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, where I was privileged to read the Queen's proclamation and light the beacon at St Mary and St Margaret's Church in her honour. This was followed by the sadness of her death and the succession of King Charles III to the throne. Then came the cost-of-living crisis which has affected all of us.

On the good side many of the clubs and services closed due to Covid, began opening their doors, including the very successful monthly cinema and exercise classes at the Diamond Centre, the Dementia Cafe and Senior Citizen's club as well as the Luncheon Club at St Cuthbert's. We began to feel normal again. Let's hope the recovery from that dreadful era

continues and we can look forward to the future with renewed confidence. The Town Council also successfully nominated the Sprowston Sports and Social Club as a community asset which will, I'm sure be very busy with all the new houses around it.

We improved Sprowston's ecology with well received community projects such as the rewilding of verges and planting of hedges around the Diamond Field. You may also have noticed the development of the Tiny Forest on The Recreation Ground towards the Edwards Road end. Sprowston is very lucky to have many good open spaces and woodlands owned and managed either by the Town or District Councils, so safe from development.

The Pavilion and changing rooms have been upgraded with a new mains water supply and plumbing system to eliminate any risk of Legionella which has allowed us to provide a new drinking fountain outside the changing

rooms for all Recreation Ground users to fill bottles or take a drink.

2022 marked the 10th anniversary of the Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP), who opened their new Urban Adventure Garden on Church Lane. Despite Covid the SYEP team engaged with 548 young people, up from 340 the year before. SYEP now meets every day except Sundays either in Old Catton or Sprowston, provides outreach support in our schools, adventure camps, sports outreach and their leadership programme.

The Senior Citizens' Club are celebrating their 75th anniversary this year too and marked the occasion at their regular weekly social meeting. Together with the Sprowston Community Dementia Cafe the Sprowston Senior Citizens' Club were nominated for the Broadland Community at Heart Awards. The Cafe made the shortlist which was won by Brundall Men's Shed.

Sprowston District Councillors have pooled their member's grants to purchase a trauma kit for our volunteer first responders which was delivered earlier this year and will no doubt be in great demand as the ambulance service struggles to reach critically ill residents in time.

Sadly, one of our councillors, Nigel Shaw, died during the year. He was a colourful character who brought depth to the Council. At the by-election I was very pleased to welcome Martin Booth who also joined Council's cross-party Recreational Facilities Working Group headed by Vice Chair Judy Leggett. The Working Group is actively pushing to get open areas on the White House Farm development completed and open to the public.

Looking forward to 2023 there is much to do. I hope that the newly elected 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. I expect that the new 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 Skate Park opposite the Garden Centre on Blue Boar Lane. The developers have promised that the playing field, with play equipment, behind White House Farm School should be opened for the summer holidays.

Work has already started to redevelop the derelict Viking pub into a thriving Community Centre. The Town Council expects to open it in the spring of 2024 and continue its development from there. I've spoken to a number of residents in the area. They are very supportive of the project and are keen to see the building brought back into community use.

Last year's Sprowston Fete was a great success and the Council have agreed to hold another fete this summer on Saturday 29th July. This is in no small measure due to the work and dedication of the Town Council team and especially of the Town Clerk. If you are interested in being involved in any way, 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.

Whilst talking about The Recreation Ground, this year we have also welcomed the Norwich Bystanders Cricket Club as our resident cricket club. I'm sure you will all welcome the sounds of leather on willow during the coming summer. The Town Council has also been exploring the idea of providing a refreshments stall on The Rec during the summer holidays. Also note that the use of the hard Tennis Courts on The Rec have remained open and free to use all year round. The grass courts are also open and free to use for the summer.

The Town Council have created a new staffing post of Compliance and Administration Officer to keep on top of the growing administrative workload and also welcomed 2 new grounds staff. You will also notice that many of the old street lights are being updated with new LED ones which not only save money but will also give enhanced management and fault reporting tools to ensure they stay on. All of the old lights which the Town Council owns should be changed out in the coming year or two.

Dog Bins

The less pleasant side of taking our beloved dogs out for walks is what to do with the poop. For those that always pick up, we thank you, however did you know you can dispose of your dog's waste, if suitably wrapped, in your general waste bin?

If out walking your dog and the public dog poo bin is full, please take your poo bag home and place it in your general bin. It is not a pleasant job for operatives to collect loose bags from under the public bins particularly if they split.

Please report an overflowing dog bin to Broadland District Council on 01603 431133 or online at www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Anyone for Bowls?



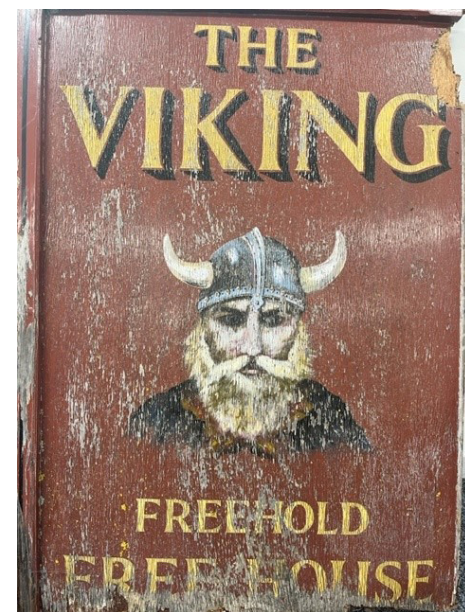
Would you like some gentle exercise, fresh air and good company? Why not join the Senior Citizens Bowls Club?

We meet at Sprowston Recreation Ground on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 1.45pm - 4.45pm April to September.

Please contact:

Sandra Emerson Tel: 07946 589245
E: sandra.emerson172@gmail.com

Barbara Lashley Tel: 01603 466007
E: barbara@thelashleys.com



Viking Centre Plans get the go ahead

Following some minor amendments to the design, planning approval has been granted for redevelopment of the Viking Centre. Initial work to strip and clear the site has been completed and Council will be going out to tender during the summer. We are hopeful that major works will commence in the autumn.

Mr Roger Starling kindly donated the original Viking Public House sign to Council which will be either restored, replicated or encased and put on display as part of the heritage of the building. We have yet to find the elusive mural of a Viking painted on one of the internal walls mentioned by residents at the consultation. Perhaps he will put in an appearance when further works are completed.

Council Welcomes New Team Members

In spring you might have spotted some new faces on our verge cutting mowers as we welcomed two additional full-time members of staff, Sam and Dave, to our grounds team. Both have previous horticultural experience and will work across the town with responsibilities for spraying, grass cutting, grave digging and maintaining our sports facilities.

Litter Picking

A group of community minded residents have been litter picking in and around Sprowston particularly Cottage Plantation, Harrison's and Millennium Woodlands.

It is quite astonishing the amount of litter collected from these areas which is disposed of by Broadland District and Sprowston Town Councils.

Litter pickers, bags and high viz vests are available on loan from the Town Council office at Sprowston Recreation Ground to all residents who would like to participate in community litter picking events.

