

Assistance for Rough Sleepers

We have not been used to seeing rough sleepers in Sprowston, however numbers are unfortunately rising.

South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils' First Steps project is designed to address the needs of rough sleepers across the districts.

Their Rough Sleeper Coordinators are able to provide a rapid response to reports of rough sleepers.

Their role is to establish contact, assess the needs of anyone found to be rough sleeping and provide the necessary support to engage with services and to seek more settled accommodation.

Where rough sleeping has been verified, the First Step project can help with access to emergency accommodation as well as providing food and clothing to those who need immediate assistance.

Definition of Rough Sleeping

Rough sleeping is defined as 'people sleeping, or bedded down, in the open air (such as on the streets, or in doorways, parks or bus shelters); people in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or 'bashes')'.

*A 'bash' is a makeshift shelter often comprised of cardboard boxes.

Rough Sleeper Coordinators have access to accommodation for those verified as rough sleeping.

Their aim is to help anyone rough sleeping to get off the streets immediately.

Parking Wroxham Road

To alleviate parking issues for residents on the North side of Wroxham Road, the Town Council supported the painting of White H Lines outside properties' driveways, from the pedestrian crossing to opposite the junction with Falcon Road West.

However, as anticipated and became the case, parking issues have increased on the opposite (South) side of Wroxham Road to where these lines were painted. As a result, Town Council has requested that the County Council implement White H Lines on the south side of the road as well.

FIRST Step

We provide support for rough sleepers:

- emergency accommodation
- food
- information advice and signposting and much more

Please call, text, WhatsApp or email the Rough Sleeper team on:

07766446312 or 07721716577

firststep@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

We use the what3words to locate rough sleepers so please download it if you can.

From this emergency accommodation their aim is to support rough sleepers to access longer-term, sustainable accommodation by working with their Housing Solutions team and any other support agencies they may need.

Access to this accommodation is available through the FIRST Steps project and their Rough Sleeper Coordinators only.

How to contact the team regarding a rough sleeper

If you are rough sleeping, know someone who is rough sleeping or are concerned because you have seen someone bedded down rough sleeping in Broadland or South Norfolk, please contact the team and they will do their best to help.

The Rough Sleeper Coordinators can be contacted by:

Mobile telephone: 07766 446312 or 07721 716577

Office telephone: 01508 533751 or 01603 430641

If calling after office hours (5pm) please contact their out-of-hours service: 01603 412180

Email: firststep@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Reports of concerns for rough sleepers can also be made on the Streetlink website www.streetlink.org.uk

Supporting survivors of domestic abuse

DNH
dawns new horizon
Charity Number 1196950

Registered Charity Number 1196950

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Every Christmas we support survivors of domestic abuse and their families by delivering **Christmas hampers**. Please support us by donating any of the following:-

Tea, coffee & sugar	New books and toys	Stationery/colouring / puzzle books
Fruit juice	Soup	Toiletries & feminine hygiene products
Cereal	Spaghetti/Pasta	Christmas gifts & treats
Jam	Tinned beans/fruit	
Biscuits	Christmas cake/pudding	Please drop off at our shop 12 Corbet Avenue Sprowston (during shop hrs) T: 01603 927717
Tinned tomatoes	Hot chocolate	
Tinned meals		
UHT milk		

Office opening times:

Telephone 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

Emergency Out-of-Hours Number

t: 07784 337896

Town Council Offices: Recreation Ground Road, Sprowston, Norwich, NR7 8EW

 Sprowston Town Council and Sprowston Diamond Centre

Sprowston Matters



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SPROWSTON SUMMER FETE



Once again, we were fortunate with the weather and had a dry, generally sunny day.

Live music under the fabulous new stretch tent was well received. A big thank you to groups Lizzy and the List, The Foreign Locals and The Jacks and soloist Rob Holmes for keeping us entertained. The Town Council would also like to thank Norfolk Trucks for generously sponsoring the music tent.

In the arena, the Lowestoft Dog Agility Display proved very popular, although it did cause momentary alarm when smoke was seen floating above stallholder gazebos. What a relief to realise it was just part of the show; a brave dog jumping through a ring of fire!

The Brewery Tap was very busy with a good choice of real ales, lager, cider and wine. Very impressive considering it was a small pop-up venue. A note to oneself, more seats required for any future events on the Recreation Ground.

As to the amazing Diddy Long Legs, how did she walk on stilts for 4 hours? And where did she get those fabulous costumes?

Congratulations to the talented Angel Baton Twirlers for their creative, precise performances despite gusting wind and sun in their eyes. For what is normally an indoor activity they put on a marvellous outdoor display.

We hope you all enjoyed the free activities which included bouncy castles for different age groups, crafting with The Creation Station; meeting a wandering dragon, knight and princess; and hands on experience with mini beasts. Were you brave enough to touch the snake? Did you know their skin is made out of keratin, just like our own fingernails and hair and they smell with their tongues.

It was lovely to see so many children exploring the fire engine and police car. Blue flashing lights became a feature of the day. Just as well the sirens were switched off.

Work has already started on next year's fete with The Foolhardy Circus, funfair rides, bouncy castles and balloon modeller already booked.

So, the date for your diary is Saturday 13 July 2024, 1.00pm - 5.00pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you are interested in being a stallholder, please contact us. Tel: 01603 408063 Email: townclerk@sprowston-tc.gov.uk for an application form. Pitches are free for Charities and non-profit community organisations, £15 for businesses and £20 for caterers.



Chairman's Chat



Hi everyone. So, another end of year is fast approaching and we will be looking forward to Christmas and the New Year before we know it.

COVID now seems a distant memory, although the effects on our personal lives and the economy will linger on for some time, I'm sure.

I really trust you are all keeping well and warm as the colder and darker winter nights draw in and I'd like to remind you that there are still sources of assistance if you are not. Look for Broadland District Council's Help Hub (01603 43043 or helphub@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk) which is staffed by people who can find help or point you in the right direction.

The Summer Fete in July proved to be a very popular event and built on the success of the 2022 fete, which was the first in ten years. The Town Council and individual councillors received lots of very positive feedback. So, the Town Council have agreed to continue next year and will be holding the next Summer Fete on Saturday 13th July! It will be even better than the last two so put the date in your diaries now. We are again going to rely on volunteers to help run the fete alongside council staff and councillors. Please be ready to offer your assistance if you can. We expect, as last year, for volunteers to only need to volunteer about 2 hours of their day so you will still be able to enjoy the fete. Special thanks to all staff, councillors and the small army of volunteers who helped to make the 2023 fete such a great success.

Also, in September was another very successful event to weed and mulch the new hedges which were planted earlier in the year around the Diamond Field opposite the Diamond Centre. Thank you very much to Councillor Dawn Coleman and all the volunteers who turned out to help.



At the beginning of October, I was invited to the opening of the new Mousehold View Care Home on the site of the former Start Rite shoe factory on Mousehold Lane and assist the manager Nigel Reeve with the cutting of the ribbon. It's a lovely facility and I will return to see how it develops once the rooms are occupied.

The 6th June 2024 will mark the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings. As a 'tribute' to the many, many thousands that made the ultimate sacrifice when helping secure the freedom we all enjoy today we will be lighting a beacon at St Mary and St Margaret Church. The flames from the Beacons countrywide will represent the 'light of peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of war.

After a lot of discussion, cajoling and sheer persistence by the new Town

and District Councillors representing the White House Farm development, the new playing field and equipped play areas behind White House Farm school and near Flycatcher Way were completed by the developers just as the summer holidays finished. This was well behind schedule as they were promised to be completed ahead of the holidays. We are really disappointed that the areas were not open much earlier, it wasn't for the want of effort by councillors. They will continue to press the developers to complete the roads and open spaces etc.

Now we move on to the area where the long-awaited Skate Park will be built. You will have seen that at long last the car park area for the park, which opens out to Blue Boar Lane opposite the garden centre, is being constructed. Once all the ground work is done, and the District Council is satisfied that all the conditions are met, the area will be handed over to the Town Council who will be providing and actually commissioning the site as a skate park.

Last on the current list of major projects for 2024 in Sprowston is the development of the Viking Centre at the other end of Sprowston on Tills Road. By the time you read this the tendering process for contracts to refurbish and expand the building will be well under way so we can really get started with the work as soon as possible. We are expecting the centre to be finished and open by August/September 2024. If you've not seen the plans for the development, they are available from the Town Council.

That's it from me for now. May I be the first to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours 2023/2024.



Sprowston Recreation Ground and Sparhawk Park will be open Christmas Day and Boxing Day: 10.00am - 4.30pm. New Year's Day 1 January 2024: Closed. All other dates: Normal opening and closing times apply.

All other Sprowston Town Council public open spaces and parks remain open over the Christmas period.

Sprowston Town Council Office, will be closed from 4.30pm on Friday 22 December 2023 reopening 9.30am on Tuesday 2 January 2024.



Neighbourhood Plan Update

Sprowston Neighbourhood Plan is now 9 years old and due for an update.

Neighbourhood Plans were introduced by the Localism Act 2011. They enable communities to have a say about the development and growth of their local area by introducing local planning policies which form part of the statutory Development Plan. This means the Neighbourhood Plan must be taken into account when assessing planning applications for new development in that area.

Sprowston Neighbourhood Plan was formed over two years in consultation with residents, businesses, landowners, developers and other organisations and adopted by Broadland District Council in 2014.

Communities that draw up Neighbourhood Plans receive 25% of planning levy funds charged on new developments in their Neighbourhood Plan area. This is known as Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

CIL was introduced as a tool for local authorities to use to help them deliver infrastructure to support development of their region such as park improvements, green spaces, community buildings etc.

As an example, the Viking Centre was purchased by the Council from CIL income. The redevelopment into a community use building, following consultation with residents, will also be funded from CIL receipts.

The working group, formed to look at the Neighbourhood Plan will assess what has been achieved, what is still relevant and future policies to be included.

Rogue traders and bogus callers

Doorstep rogue traders pretend to be builders, gardeners or handymen offering to carry out work or 'urgent' repairs to your house or garden. The work is often poor, unnecessary and the price quoted can increase rapidly.

Bogus callers are con men or women who will use all sorts of believable stories to gain access to your home so they can steal. They usually work in pairs. While one keeps you busy talking at the door, the other will try to get into your house.

The best advice is not to deal with anyone on your doorstep who turns up uninvited.

Always remember - it is your home and you do not have to agree to anything. Do not be bullied. If you feel pressurised or threatened, go inside, stay inside and ring 999.

Report a rogue trader or a bogus caller

If a rogue trader is currently at the premises, or will be coming back, you can email the police or contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline, on 0808 223 1133 (freephone).

If you feel vulnerable or threatened, call 999.



Relocation of Much-Loved Local Charity Shop

Pictured our Chairman Bill Couzens attending the official opening of Dawn's New Horizon (DNH) at their new premises on Corbett Avenue.

Chair of the Council Couzens said "I was very privileged to be invited to open the new hub for Dawn's New Horizon a Sprowston based charity, run by Dame Lorraine Curston, that provides support and advice to survivors of domestic abuse. I'm so

pleased to be able to be associated with the venture."

For those of you not familiar with DNH: this non-profit making organisation runs a shop selling a range of household items, clothes, toys, puzzles and lots more.

Donations are most welcome. They are also collecting new toys / gifts for girl and boy 0 - 16 years for our Christmas appeal.

Dawn's New Horizon
12 Corbet Avenue
Norwich
NR7 8HS

Shop Phone: 01603 927717
(Opening hours only)

Mobile: 07854 044680 (9am-5pm 7 days a week)

Shop Opening Hours

09:00 – 16:00 Monday
09:00 – 16:00 Tuesday
09:00 – 16:00 Wednesday
09:00 – 16:00 Thursday
09:00 – 16:00 Friday
10:00 – 16:00 Saturday

Please note donations outside opening hours can be given by APPOINTMENT ONLY.