

## The cost of vandalism

Sprowston Recreation Ground was at the centre of vandalism and anti-social behaviour throughout last summer although other areas were also under attack.

In August the Pavilion roof was targeted for the fourth time in a matter of months, on this occasion the netting was damaged, some of the thatch ripped out and the roof light in the gents toilet smashed. It is known that the culprits gained access to the park after 9pm when the gates were locked. The cost of repair was in excess of £3,500.



Window latches on the public toilets were also broken on several occasions.

The Birds Nest Pod Swing was snapped in half and out of action when the park was at its busiest and the cost of replacement was £690.00.

### John Bracey

It is with great sadness that in August 2016 John Bracey the oldest serving member of the Council died at the age of 93. John represented the residents of Sprowston for many years both as Town and District Councillor and was very active in the community. He was a member of the Broadland Older People's Partnership, History Group and Senior Citizens Welfare Committee.

Chairman Ian Moncur said "John was a hard-working and conscientious councillor, who was very close to the community he served. He was a popular member of the Council with a wry sense of humour and will be sorely missed by all who knew him."

Mr Bracey left a vacancy in Sprowston South East Ward and following elections Mrs Samantha England was elected to represent the residents in this area on the Town Council.

The tennis courts, offered free of charge to encourage exercise, have been used for kick about football damaging the nets and surfacing, and there were reports of families unable to play as groups of young adults refused to move.

The identification number was ripped off the defibrillator located in the car park. The code is needed to enable the ambulance service to locate the equipment and give someone access to it in an emergency. The defibrillator was installed in the park following the death of a resident playing tennis several years ago.

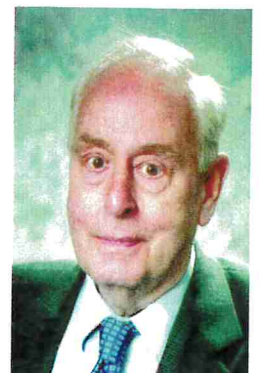
Having taken advice from the Crime Prevention Officer the Council has installed CCTV at the Pavilion and will be painting anti climb paint on access points.

At Sparhawk Park a BBQ was lit in the ladies toilet scorching the floor, and both the ladies and gents toilets were flooded on numerous occasions and subsequently closed to the public.

The summit unit and slide at Wilks Farm Drive suffered yet further vandalism and has since been condemned and removed at a cost of £1,853.40.

A new stronger roof is currently being fabricated for the shelter on Barkers Lane following recent damage at a cost of £3,913.64

Logs and wood used to create habitats for insects were taken from the Millennium Woodland, broken bottles continue to be problematic at Barkers Lane Playing Field and dog fouling persists across the Council's parks and open spaces.



# Thank you for clearing up after your dog



The Council's parks and open spaces are very popular with dog walkers and we know that most are responsible owners and clear up after their pets. Unfortunately some people do not pick up and as a result dog mess is one of the biggest complaints raised by residents.

Failure to clear dog fouling has been most noticeable at Sproston Recreation Ground despite stencils reminding owners to clean up after their pets, free poop bags and dog bins placed around the park.

In some instances it is inadvertent as some dog owners do not realise their dogs have fouled, the dog may foul when it is some distance away which means that owner may not be aware. Nobody likes to step in dog waste it is unpleasant, harmful if it carries toxocara canis, and can cause communities to grow to dislike the dogs in their area and develop anti-dog attitudes.

To raise awareness the Council is signed up to Broadland's Top Dog Campaign calling on responsible dog owners to lead the way and help to encourage every dog owner to clear up after their pet.

If you sign up to the campaign you will receive a pack containing a ribbon for your pet's lead or collar, some dog poop bags and information on how to report those failing to clear up after their pet. Packs are available at Sproston Diamond Centre.

The ribbon is clearly visible and sends out a message to all those who let their dog foul and fail to clear up that they are in the minority and could be being watched - the more ribbons out there, the stronger the message to those fouling the footpaths.

Help us reduce complaints about dogs and their owners in your local community by keeping public spaces foul free. Be proud to pick up, it is the right thing to do.

Your Council Members considered the above and felt that this article was another opportunity to raise awareness and encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets. It was also agreed that if there was no significant improvement the only option would be to introduce a control order requiring dogs to be on a lead at Sproston Recreation Ground. Mr Ian Moncur said; "Owning a dog can be fun but it also brings responsibilities to clean up after the dog, look after it properly and make sure it is well behaved, particularly in public places."



## Sproston Pavilion recognised in 2016 Enhancement Awards

Chairman Ian Moncur was pleased to accept a Certificate of Commendation on behalf of Sproston Town Council. The award was in recognition of the work to extend the thatched Pavilion to create additional facilities at Sproston Recreation Ground.

The scheme run by Broadland District Council, highlights improvements that make a positive contribution to and enrich the local environment.

The extension is simple in its design so doesn't compete with the main Pavilion and is very well planned to maximise the space providing for two additional communal changing rooms and two official changing rooms.

Black cladding and small paned windows were used to blend the extension into the original building which belies the modern spacious interior.

Grants were received from The Premier League and FA Facilities Fund and the Veolia Environmental Trust towards the cost of this development.

Further internal alterations have taken place to increase the size of the hall and the Pavilion is now available for hire, particularly suitable for younger children's parties with an enclosed outside play area and small tables and chairs available. Enquiries to: townclerk@sproston-tc.gov.uk or tel: 01603 408063

*Pictured left to right: Cllr. Ian Moncur, Mr Steve Jolly (T.A.Gill Builders), Mr Graham Sibley (Architect) and Cllr. Ward Chairman of Broadland District Council.*

