



**Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council**  
**Annual report – 2022/ 2023**

## **Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council – Report on activities 2022-23**

### **1. Council and Committees**

- 1.1 The Parish Council comprises 17 seats with all 17 being elected Councillors across 7 Parish Council Wards. The Full Council takes overall responsibility for all decisions but can choose to delegate authority to a committee or to a Council Officer but can never delegate authority to an individual Councillor. Elections for all 17 seats took place in May 2021. Further details relating to each councillor can be found on our website;  
<https://www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/councillors.html>
- 1.2 To be more effective, the Council has one committee (Performance, Review and Staffing) and three working groups (Newsletter, Projects, Climate Change) to spread the workload, review issues in more detail and operate more effectively.
- 1.3 In addition, several Councillors serve as the Parish Council's representatives on various Outside Bodies, Partnerships, Liaison Groups and regularly attend associated meetings. These include;
- Don Gorge Community Group
  - Parish Council Joint Consultative Committee
  - Yorkshire Local Council Association
  - Sprotbrough Community Library
- 1.4 The Parish Council owns and manages several assets within the Parish;
- The Goldsmith Community Centre, children's play area, basketball net and wider open space.
  - New Lane adventure playground and recreation area.
  - Anchorage Lane Park including children's play area, skate park, outdoor gym, football pitches and pavilion.
  - Newlands Park including basketball net, football pitches and pavilion.
  - Five Allotments at Windsor Walk, Scawsby.
  - Joint ownership of Scawsby Community Centre, Barnsley Road with Brodsworth Parish Council.
- 1.5 In addition, the Parish Council activities include;
- commenting on planning applications within the parish.
  - providing community grants to support local groups.
  - production of a Parish Newsletter.
  - liaising with relevant authorities regarding infrastructure /policing/community issues to represent your views and get the best advantage for the local area.
  - engaging with all interested parties regarding current and future shape of life in the local area

## **2. Clerk to the Council's report**

- 2.1 This year has seen the gradual return to usual business following the lifting of restrictions from Covid 19. The Council has faced some financial challenges this year but by reviewing all its expenditure we move forward in a sound position. Income from the Goldsmith Centre and sports pitches has started to increase from last year as hirers have been able to return to activity. We have seen a loss in some regular hirers as organisations have changed practices coming out of Covid 19 however we anticipate this to improve next year. There have been significant increases in running costs for our buildings, specifically the Goldsmith Centre in relation to gas and electricity through the winter months.
- 2.3 The Council maintains a General Reserve which it can use in case of emergency or for unbudgeted items of expenditure. It is very important to ensure the level of the General Reserve is maintained at an appropriate level whilst maintaining our assets and providing services to our residents.
- 2.4 Against this backdrop the Parish Council was able to confirm a zero increase in the precept for 2022/23.
- 2.5 The Parish Council adopted an Action Plan for 2022/23 which sets out the activities and projects prioritised for the year into three categories; people, place and provision. The Action Plan can be found on our website; <https://www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-council.html>

## **3. People**

### **3.1 Community Grants**

The Council is able to provide Grants, in certain circumstances, to Voluntary or Charitable Organisations that support the people of Sprotbrough and Cusworth. Each application must be made using the prescribed form which is available on our website which provides details of what the grant is to be used for.

Below is a list of grants awarded between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

21.04.2022	Sprotbrough Scarecrow Festival	£300
19.05.2022	Cusworth Park Run	£300
21.07.2022	Don Gorge Community Group	£191
21.07.2022	National Childbirth Trust (NCT)	£350
06.10.2022	Friends of Barnsley Road Playing Field	£500
06.10.2022	54th Doncaster Rainbows	£500
06.10.2022	17th Doncaster Brownies	£500
17.03.2023	Sprotbrough Music Society	£435
17.03.2023	Forget me not cafe, Sprotbrough	£435

## 4. Place

### 4.1 Planning matters

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications received by the Local Planning Authority (Doncaster Council). The Parish Council does not have power to approve or refuse applications, simply give an opinion based on material planning considerations. Doncaster Council determines planning applications.

76 planning applications have been considered by the Parish Council between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Full details of decisions and responses given are contained in the minutes and on the Parish Council website; <https://www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/planning-applications2.html>

The Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Plan was adopted on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 and continues to be used to determine planning applications in Sprotbrough and is proving to be a useful tool to support comments made by the Parish Council on applications to ensure the views of local residents are taken into account to determine planning applications within the Parish. The plan can be viewed on our website;

<https://www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan.html>

### 4.2 Tree/ site maintenance

The Parish Council own and manage four large sites within the parish which require regular maintenance. Play equipment at all sites requires routine maintenance and also repair due to wear and tear. Sadly, vandalism also occurs on all sites which requires parts to be replaced.

All sites have differing levels of trees located within them. Newlands Park being the largest site. A programme of tree maintenance at all sites started in

2021 and will continue each year to ensure our trees remain healthy and do not pose a risk to uses and neighbours of each site.

#### 4.3 Public Realm

Litter picking – the Parish Council set aside a budget to procure and provide litter picking equipment for local groups and residents to use to assist in improvement to the public realm within the Parish. This has been a successful project with several local groups (including the Don Gorge Community Group and the Scawsby pluggers) using the equipment throughout the year.

#### 4.4 Climate Change

The Parish Council's Climate Change work continued through the work of the Climate Change Working Group in line with the Parish Council's adopted Climate Change Action Plan. Projects through the year included subsidised water butts and fruit trees for local residents to support the Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy initiative, additional tree planting at Anchorage Park, sowing wildflowers at Newlands Park, installing bird boxes/ bug houses at Newlands Park and bulb planting on all our sites. Recycling bins have been installed at the Goldsmith Centre to encourage recycling.

The Parish Council was invited to speak at the South Yorkshire Climate Change Alliance meeting in June 2022 to discuss the work the Parish Council was undertaking in this area.

#### 4.5 Goldsmith Centre

The Parish Council was successful in obtaining a grant from the National Lottery for £10,000 to replace the fire doors at the Goldsmith Centre and also a grant from FCC Communities Foundation to refurbish all the toilets. This alongside a programme of maintenance for the centre is helping modernise the centre to make it a welcoming space for hirers.

### **5. Provision**

The most significant change in Parish Council activity this year is the provision of events. We had a full calendar through the year providing a variety of events for local residents. Through these events we were able to raise £3500 for the Parish Council's chosen charity for 2023-24 'Firefly' to support the incredible work they do which supports many residents within the Parish.

#### 5.1. Christmas Trees and lights

The Parish Council continues to support local residents with the Sprotbrough Christmas Light event which was as popular as ever in 2022 with more lights on display and a larger tree in the square. Trees were lit again at the Goldsmith Centre.

## 5.2. Pantomime

Following the success from the Christmas Pantomime in 2021 the Parish Council held an Easter Pantomime, 'Rapunzel' on 24<sup>th</sup> April, a Halloween Panto, 'The Panto Zone' on 26<sup>th</sup> October and Christmas Pantomime, 'Dick Whittington' on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022. The shows have been really popular with residents and will continue into 2023/4.

## 5.3 Queens Jubilee

To mark the Queen's Jubilee in June 2022 the Parish Council held a beacon lighting event jointly with Doncaster Council at Cusworth Hall which was attended by over 3000 residents. There was a historic beacon trail through the park for children, entertainment and the museum was open with a special exhibit to mark the occasion. Subsidised fruit trees were offered to residents to plant in their gardens as part of the Jubilee Green Canopy Initiative and a cherry blossom tree was planted at the Goldsmith Centre.

## 5.4 Summer Festival

We held a summer festival on 20<sup>th</sup> August with stalls, raffle, entertainment, children's activities, dog show and food and drink. It was a lovely hot day and a great day was enjoyed by all. A similar event is planned for 2023.

## 5.5 Christmas Festival

We held a two-day festival at the Goldsmith Centre bringing together local business stalls, entertainment, ice skating, food and drink outlets and Santa's grotto on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December. This was the first time the Parish Council has held such an event which proved extremely popular. A similar event is planned for 2023.

We also held an easter egg hunt in April 2022 and financially supported the Sprotbrough Scarecrow Festival.

## **6. Financial matters**

The Parish Council is required to undertake rigorous financial controls given its size and scale. We have an internal audit by an external auditor twice a year and an annual audit by national auditors to ensure we are meeting our statutory requirements. Further information on these matters can be found on our website;

<https://www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/transparency-and-finance.html>

The total value of the Parish Council's fixed assets is approximately £1.4 million. We undertook up to date valuations of all our sites in 2021.

## **7. Training and development**

The Parish Council is committed to training and actively encourages Councillors and employees to attend regular training to raise awareness of

responsibilities, improve skills and keep updated with legislation. Over the last year Councillors and staff have attended on-line training sessions provided by the Yorkshire Association of Local Councils (YLCA) and external training providers. The Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer completed the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) in June 2020 which has enabled the Parish Council to confirm it can act under the general power of competence which provides greater scope in decision making. All staff undertake the requisite statutory training for each role including; health and safety, legionella and legionnaires disease awareness, safeguarding, mental health awareness, manual handling and play area inspection training for site staff. A full record of all training is kept.

## Council Services

In Sprotbrough and Cusworth the provision of services is split between Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council and Doncaster Council. A Parish Council is a corporate body - a legal entity separate from that of its individual members. Its decisions are the responsibility of the whole body. It is the first tier of local government and exists completely independently from Doncaster Council

<b>Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council</b>	<b>Doncaster Council</b>
➤ 5 allotments at Windsor Walk	➤ Adults and Children Social Care
➤ The management of the Goldsmith Centre, playground and recreation area	➤ Anti-social behaviour
➤ The management of Newlands Park and pavilion	➤ Benefits
➤ The management of Anchorage Park including; the children's play area, outdoor gym, skate park and Anchorage Pavilion	➤ Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships
➤ The management of New Lane recreation area and adventure playground	➤ Bus Pass Issue
➤ Joint ownership of Scawsby Community Centre with Brodsworth Parish Council	➤ Car parks and fines (Doncaster Council owned and operated)
	➤ CCTV
	➤ Council Tax
	➤ Housing Advice and homelessness
	➤ Disabled Parking (blue badges)
	➤ Emergency Planning
	➤ Fostering and Adoption

	➤ Highways – including gritting, maintaining, street and traffic lighting, traffic signs, pot holes, road markings, pedestrian crossing, road safety and verges.
	➤ Household Recycling and Waste Site
	➤ Licencing
	➤ On Street Parking Enforcement
	➤ Planning and Building Control
	➤ Public rights of way
	➤ School Admissions, Free School Meals and School Transport
	➤ Street cleaning and bins (including dog fouling enforcement)
	➤ Tourist Information
	➤ Trading Standards
	➤ Public Health
	➤ Waste collection

Please note that the Parish Council does not have any authority over services which Doncaster Council provides. If you wish to report an issue relating to Doncaster Council's services please contact their main switch board on 01302 760000 or use the relevant 'report it' form on their website; <https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/report-it> . This includes;

- Dog fouling
- Road safety
- Parking enforcement
- Littering/ fly tipping
- Anti-social behaviour

In addition South Yorkshire Police should be contacted for issues relating to;

- Covid 19 breaches
- Criminal activity/ anti-social behaviour
- Speeding

They can be contacted using the information below;

<https://www.southyorks.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/>