

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News

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Autumn 2017

Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Plan survey update

WHAT could be the most comprehensive local area survey ever carried out with Sprotbrough residents has delivered its initial findings.

And the top positive features which local people say makes them feel good about living in the area are: its open and green spaces; rural character, and friendly and safe environment.

Meanwhile, what makes them particularly unhappy are: the volume and speed of the traffic passing through the village; pedestrian safety; and motorists who park their cars on grass verges or where their vehicles partly obstruct the pavement.

The 22-pages long report brings together all the data collected from responses to a survey that was pushed through the letterboxes of over 3,160 homes and businesses in Sprotbrough in Autumn last year.

Some 697 surveys were returned before the November, 2016 deadline - a 22 per cent response rate - which in marketing terms is considered to be highly successful.

Why was the survey undertaken?

Findings from the survey will contribute towards the development of what's termed the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Plan, which will cover all Sprotbrough.

It will enable Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council and local people to influence how the area should grow over the next 15 years.

Neighbourhood plans were introduced by the Government to let residents like you have your say on, for example, what type of developments you would like to take place where you live. It will be a key document that, in Sprotbrough's case, planning authorities like Doncaster Council will have to refer to when making decisions on changes that could have some impact on where we live.

Who are the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Champions?

The survey was designed by the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Champions - a group of volunteers from the local community - with support from a planning consultant.

It's a requirement that the scope of a neighbourhood plan must be guided by public consultation, which is why the Champions' group was formed.

The Champions are acting on behalf of the parish council and working closely with parish council staff and councillors to develop the neighbourhood plan.

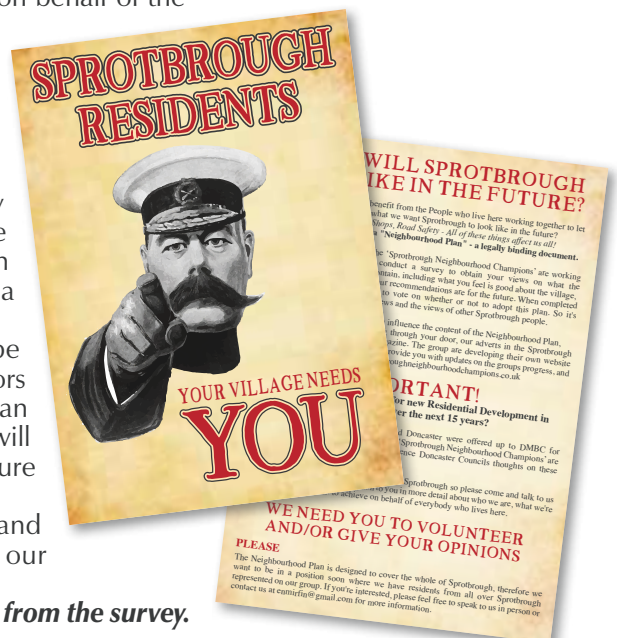
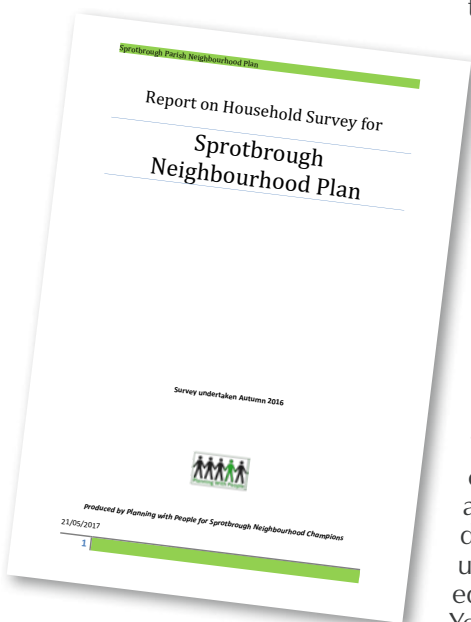
They designed and distributed the survey and manually collated the responses, which were then analysed and included in a report with external support.

The report will now be considered by parish councilors as part of the neighbourhood plan development process and we will update you on progress in future editions of this newsletter.

You will be able to read and download the report from our website - www.sc-pc.co.uk



Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Champions



Please turn to pages 2 and 3 for some of the headline findings captured from the survey.

What you told us via the survey

THE survey posed 25 questions on the important local issues of environment, homes, work, facilities, traffic and parking.

Who responded?

Some 394 (58 per cent) respondents were female and 285 (42 per cent) were male. Of those who responded, 71 per cent had lived in Doncaster for more than 10 years.

Older people accounted for the most responses. Some 93 per cent were aged over 41 and 61 per cent were over 65.

Only a handful of people aged under-25 completed surveys. To capture the views of younger people, other consultation methods were used, including Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Champions visiting two local primary schools.

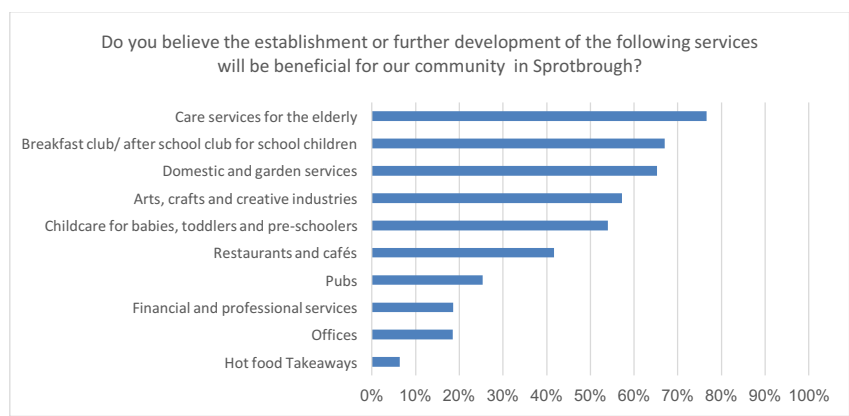
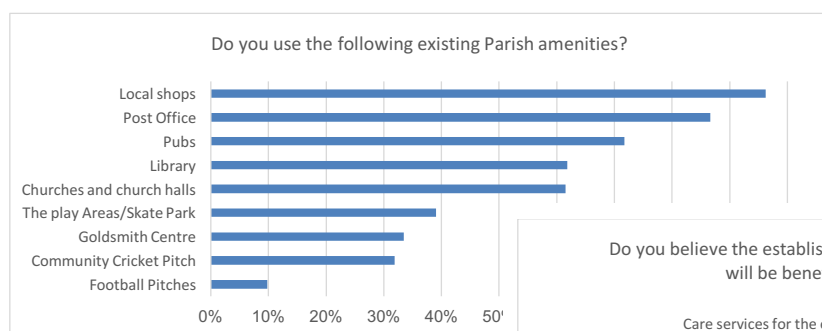
This predominance of older respondents is a factor that has to be taken into account when assessing the survey findings. Where the demographic of the respondents can be seen to influence the findings, it is highlighted in the report.

Use of facilities?

Respondents were asked to identify what facilities they used, with local shops and the Post Office scoring highest (96 per cent).

Similarly, pubs, the library and faith meeting points were popular.

The use of football pitches scored lowest (10 per cent) but this is unlikely to be a true reflection of the extent of the usage across all ages.



Future facilities?

This section asked people to identify all the areas where they supported either the establishment of, or the further development of, services in Sprotbrough.

There is strong support (77 per cent) for services related to care of the elderly and facilities for young children, but little support for more hot food take-aways (6 per cent), offices (18 per cent) or financial / professional services (19 per cent)

A follow-up question asked how much support there was for providing additional facilities, which in some cases polarised opinion. For example, 250 respondents thought there should be more allotments but 184 people disagreed.

Some people thought there should be bowling greens (62 per cent) and tennis courts (58 per cent).

Some 336 people wanted more dog bins, 328 said more litter bins and 229 wanted more benches.

Houses?

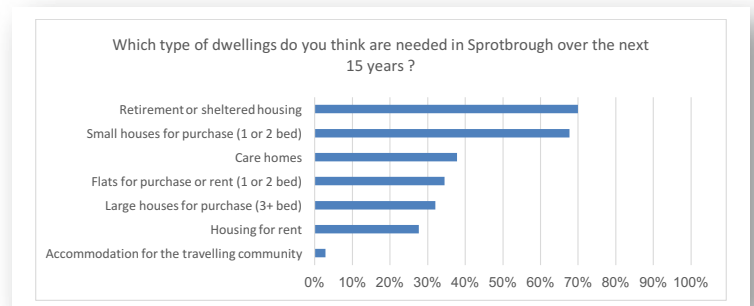
Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a selection of house types and tenures. Only 28 per cent supported the need for rented housing, although this may not reflect the views of a wider age group.

Housing for older people - retirement or sheltered housing - scored the highest with 70 per cent. One and two bedroom homes for purchase were supported by 68 per cent of the responses.

Only one-third of respondents agreed that larger market houses were needed.

On the question of the scale of development, there was low level support for larger developments (14 per cent). But 55 per cent thought small scale development (five to nine dwellings) would be acceptable and 40 per cent supported the idea of infilling properties between existing ones.

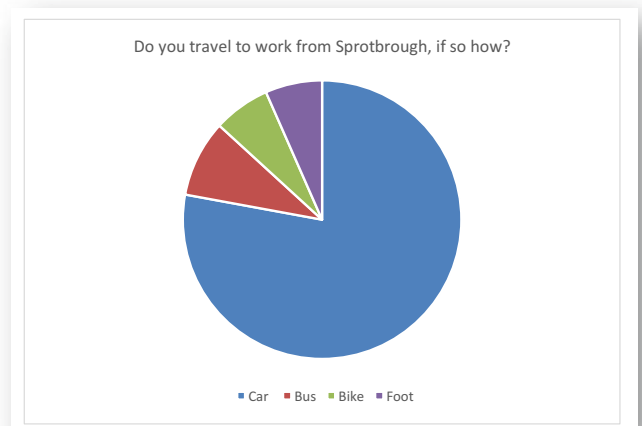
When asked what principles should influence the design of new properties, 95 per cent thought trees and grass verges should be included. Other ideas were strongly supported, such as hedges to mark boundaries (80 per cent) and tree planting to soften the appearance of new development.



Work?

Only 303 people responded to the questions relating to employment (43 per cent of the total number of surveys returned), which reflects the older age of the respondents. Of those working 78 per cent travel by car, 9 per cent by bus, and 7 per cent go by bike or walk.

Only five per cent of respondents said they worked from home, but this could reflect the demographic of the respondents. Some 39 per said they work in Doncaster, with 57 per cent saying elsewhere. This could explain the low use of bus transport for commuting if people do not work on public transport routes.



When asked about how to encourage local business growth, 81 per cent said better or more frequent transport links were needed or would help. Improved mobile phone reception, and the availability of a local skills directory, was considered either helpful, or needed, by 76 per cent of respondents.

Business respondents were asked if they required additional workspace within Sprotbrough. Most support (57 per cent) was for flexible or shared office space. There was less support for studios (15 per cent) or workshops (13 per cent).

Traffic and parking?

Some 86 per cent of respondents said they thought traffic speeding through Sprotbrough was a cause for concern and 91 per cent supported a feature of new developments that slows vehicles and gives priority to pedestrians.

There was strong support for measures that reduce speeding, including reducing speed limits; and introducing speed cameras, bumps and roadside speed indicator displays.

What should be done to address the problem of speeding?

	Yes	No	% Yes
Use of speed indicator displays	373	80	82%
Reduce speed limits	298	144	67%
Speed cameras	288	152	65%
Speed bumps	218	203	52%

Quietly flows the Don - and a new walk explores its history and wildlife

THE launch of a new walk was one of the highlights of a day-long celebration of the popular Trans Pennine Trail, which passes through the parish.

The Don Valley Way is a 29-mile long walking trail that follows the River Don from Doncaster to Sheffield. The whole trail can be covered on foot and approximately half of it can be used by cyclists.

The Don Catchment Rivers Trust manages the walk. Staff Sue Goodship, Rachel Walker and Ed Shaw - pictured - came to the Don Gorge Discovery Day event at Sprotbrough Lock to hand out leaflets showing its route.



The Don Valley Way, with its distinctive kingfisher logo, is part of a Heritage Lottery funded project celebrating the history and wildlife of the River Don.

There are several Heritage Walks along the Don Valley Way, which range between 1.5 and 4.5 miles. Many are circular and start close to railway stations.

Walk name	Location	Length/miles
Growth of a Market Town	Doncaster	2.6
A Landscape Reclaimed by Nature	Don Gorge	4.5
Tales of Knights and Heroes	Sprotbrough	2.5
Castles and Crossings	Conisbrough	1.5
Sappers, Poets & Pirates	Mexborough	3.4
Traces of Industry	Swinton	4.0
Cannons	Rotherham	1.8
A Meeting of Two Rivers	Rotherham	2.7
Industrial Sheffield	Sheffield	1.6



You can find out more about the walks and download audio guides by visiting www.donvalleyway.org.uk

Tales of Knights & Heroes - a local walk

THIS 2.5 miles long walk centres on Sprotbrough and is billed as "a pleasant walk around the village, taking in the River Don."

The trail begins from the junction of Nursery Lane and Boat Lane, next to the old toll house. It heads up Boat Lane, passing Rectory Mews and the Grade 2 listed Old Rectory, before turning left on to Main Street near the village green.

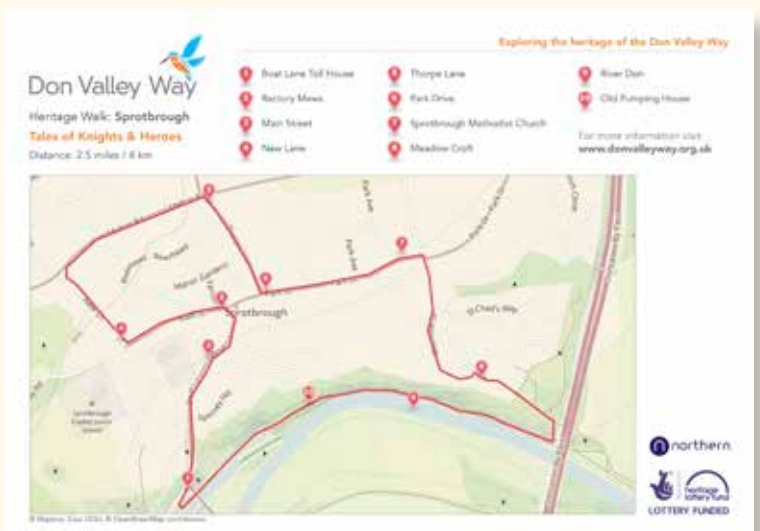
It then progresses to the junction with New Lane - next to Apple Tree Nursery. It heads up New Lane to the junction with Melton Road, where it turns right and heads to the junction with Thorpe Lane. At the end of Thorpe Lane it turns left on to Park Drive, progressing as far as the Methodist Church where it turns right on to Brompton Road and then on to Riverside Drive.

From there turn right into Meadow Croft and at the end continue into light woodland. Before passing below the A1(M), take the footpath on the right hand side and follow the steps down to the river and turn right.

Follow the path alongside the River Don, passing the remains of the former pumping station, which at one time serviced long gone Sprotbrough Hall.

Then continue following the path to pass below a bridge. Turn right into Nursery Lane car park and turn right again to reach your starting point.

The Don Valley Way has a dedicated group of volunteers that help to maintain the trail. If you would like to get involved please email: volunteer@dcrt.uk



Volunteering in the Don Gorge

THE Don Discovery Day proved a useful opportunity for Sprotbrough residents Liz Reeve and Ray Bartlett to highlight the work of the Don Gorge Community Group.

Liz, secretary of the Group, and chairman Ray, were on the lookout for more people to become conservation volunteers.

The volunteers meet every two weeks on a Tuesday, between 10am and 3.30pm, and work with staff from Doncaster Council, the Canal & Rivers Trust, and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

They improve the physical habitat of the Don Gorge by clearing intrusive vegetation and removing overhanging branches from rights of way. You can also learn new skills, such as dry stone wall maintenance, hedge laying and planting, and other countryside skills.

If you're interested in joining them, please ring Liz on 01302 313030 or email lizreeve@dongorgecommunitygroup.com



Waiting for a Bite

LOCAL youngsters, pictured, who went along to the Discover Day had a chance to try their hand at fishing in the canal section of the Don - under the expert guidance of staff from the Environment Agency.

The millions of pounds spent cleaning up the Don over the past few years are now paying dividends for fishermen, with a number of different species, such as grayling and barbel, now living and breeding in the river.



Also, the Don is becoming a magnet for many different birds - including kingfishers - as this 'bird finder' leaflet produced by the Don Catchment Rivers Trust shows.

Don facts

- The River Don is over 62 miles long
- 1.4 million people live in its catchment
- Its catchment is 700 square miles
- The River Dearne and River Rother - both 32 miles long - are the two main tributaries of the Don
- There are another of smaller tributaries, such as the Ea Beck locally, and little streams and wetlands that lie in the catchment area.
- The Don eventually joins the River Ouse at Goole before meeting the sea at the Humber estuary. The river used to flow into the Trent until the 1600s when Charles 1 employed Cornelius Vermuyden to drain the eastern fens around Hatfield, which changed the course of the river forever.



The GOLDSMITH COMMUNITY CENTRE HIRE CHARGES

THE Goldsmith Centre, on Sprotbrough Road, is a great value venue for get-togethers and special events, and there's a big discount on the hire charges if you live in the parish.

These charges are effective until 31 March, 2018.

	Hall	Committee Room
Parishioners: private functions Non-profit making clubs/societies Voluntary groups	£14.50	£12.00
Non-parishioners: private functions	£24.00	£20.00
Block bookings for adult classes run as a commercial venture	£15.50	£14.00
Children's parties: minimum three hours	£16.00	n/a
Commercial hire for commercial gain	£27.00	£22.00
Charity events	Referred to parish council	Referred to parish council
Retired groups	£5.00	£5.00

Additions: Performing rights fees where music is played: £1.80 per booking.
(Not applicable to private parties).

Date for your diary: Sprotbrough Christmas tree lighting event

THIS year the lights on the Sprotbrough Christmas tree - situated on the village green in front of St Mary's Church - will be switched on at a special ceremony on Saturday 25 November at approximately 5.30pm.

This event gets better every year and this time will include music from Copley Junior School choir and the newly formed village choristers.

Light refreshments will be provided for everyone who comes to celebrate.

Carol Rees, one of the organisers, said: "This is a popular family event, originally sponsored by Sprotbrough businesses and local people, and we want to thank everyone who has helped to make it the success it has become."

This year it will be supported by the Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation.

Sprotbrough Community Library

Please support you local library, which is now run by volunteers and open six days each week. Opening times:

Monday	10.00am - 5.00pm.	Friday	10.00am - 6.00pm
Tuesday	10.00am - 5.00pm	Saturday	10.00am - 1.00pm
Wednesday	10.00am - 5.00pm	Sunday	Closed
Thursday	10.00am - 6.00pm		

Diary date: The next library coffee morning takes place on Saturday November 18, 2017 from 10am to 12noon. All welcome.

Public welcome

SPROTBROUGH & Cusworth Parish Council meet on the third Thursday of the month at The Goldsmith Centre, with the exception of March and September, when the meeting is held at Scawsby Community Centre. No meeting is held in August. For more information visit : www.sc-pc.co.uk

WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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