

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council News

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Autumn 2020

Chloe's design is a Winner



SPROTBROUGH youngster Chloe Greenhalgh-Wilson's artistic skills have earned her a £50 book voucher and place in history.

For the Richmond Hill Academy pupil won the competition to design the parish council's new logo and her prize included an invite to officially open the new Anchorage Lane playground.

Chloe's design was judged by parish councillors to be the best and will now appear on all our communications, website and signage - you can see it at the top of this story.

Delighted mum Celia, dad Antony and sister Hannah looked on as Chloe cut the ribbon to declare the £130,000 playground well and truly open.

Cllr David Holland, Chair of Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council, said: "Chloe's design caught our imagination and we were pleased to find out that it was inspired by her love of Cusworth Park. It features the lake and her favourite tree, which she has climbed, plus an owl to reflect her love of all creatures. It will be our official logo for years to come.

"Now the Anchorage Lane playground is completed we have our sights set on our next big project for local youngsters - creating a similar fun area on the Goldsmith Centre site.

"We'll be carrying out some local public consultation in due course to see what parishioners think of our proposals, including potentially siting the new play area on a different part of the park, where it is more visible from a general security perspective.



Chloe cutting the ribbon watched by mum Celia, Cllrs David Holland and Dawn Longley and Doncaster Council landscape architect Angela Ganss



Current Goldsmith Centre playground

"Such developments are expensive and have to be maintained, which is why the senseless, costly anti-social behaviour that has taken place at Anchorage Lane and other play areas must not continue or it threatens to derail our plans. My message is: please look after these community areas - they belong to you and you have helped to pay for them."

The parish council funded the majority of the Anchorage Lane playground's costs but is also grateful to councillors from Doncaster Council's Bentley Ward, who donated £10,000 from their Section 106 funds as an area of Sprotbrough from York Road to Anchorage Lane and Anchorage Crescent sits within their ward.



Chloe and her prizewinning logo

Development plan nearing completion

A KEY document, which when agreed will set out a number of local planning 'dos and don'ts' for the whole of Sprotbrough, is getting close to facing the people's vote.

The Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Development Plan was submitted to Doncaster Council in August, along with several evidence based documents to back up its findings.

Such plans were introduced by the Government to let residents have a say on, for example, what type of developments should take place where they live. Sprotbrough's will have a current life of 15 years and must be referred to by Doncaster's planning authority when making decisions on changes that could impact on the area.

The Plan has been produced for Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council by a steering group of local residents - the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Champions - with the support of Sprotbrough Ward Cllr Cynthia Ransome, Clerk to the Parish Council Emma Garner and planning consultant Louise Kirkup.

A first stage of local consultation took place between November 2019 and January 2020 and, as this newsletter went to press, a second round of public engagement had just been completed. This is a statutory stage of the process. The Plan will then proceed to independent examination which, if it passes, will result in a local referendum, when Sprotbrough residents will be able to decide whether it should be formally adopted. The earliest this can happen is May 2021 due to changes in legislation because of Covid 19.

- You can find out more about the Plan by visiting our website www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk and clicking on the news and information icon.

The real cost of anti-social behaviour

WE try and stay upbeat in this newsletter but, sadly, there are some problems that we need to highlight - particularly the cost of litter, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour on all our parks, including at the new playground at Anchorage Lane.

To reduce litter we have installed two new bins on the site and please note that dogs should not be taken inside any of the parish council's play areas.

Throughout the Covid pandemic, we have paid for twice weekly bin collections on each of the four sites we own at a cost of **£5.86** for emptying each standard bin and **£9.39** for every double size version. In addition, a double size bin has been installed at the skate park, costing **£606.66** and at the entrance to Wroxham Way at a further cost of **£395**.

Parish council staff have also been carrying out additional litter picks at all our play areas and open spaces to try and alleviate the problem. Vandalism at all four sites has also been costly and has to be paid from our funds. For example, despite signage asking people not enter

the new Anchorage Lane playground until the grass was seeded, the security fencing was pulled down and had to be reinstated on several occasions at a cost of between **£150** and **£200** each time.

Similarly, the safety flooring at the Goldsmith Centre play area has been targeted on several times, costing £200 for two repairs.

And at New Lane, equipment repairs have amounted to a further **£150**.

We cannot afford security staff to monitor these sites so your eyes and ears are important. If you see vandalism taking place please report it to the police by ringing **101**.

To end on a positive, councillors have been heartened by reports on local social media of residents volunteering to litter pick play areas and open spaces. We would like to thank them for their community spirit, which is much appreciated. If you would like to do a litter pick near where you live we now have the necessary safety equipment that you can borrow by ringing the parish council office.

Planned future meetings of Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council (subject to COVID-19 rules changes - please check our website for updates)

Thursday 17 December 2020 - Goldsmith Centre

Thursday 21 January 2021 - Goldsmith Centre

Thursday 18 February 2021 - Goldsmith Centre

Thursday 18 March 2021 - Scawsby Community Centre

Thursday 15 April 2021 - Goldsmith Centre

All meetings will start at 7pm unless otherwise stated. Members of the public are very welcome to attend. Agendas and previous minutes are published on our website.

Planting for the future

THE parish council is branching out into tree planting after successfully applying for 40 whips - young trees - from the Woodland Trust charity.

The silver birch, rowan and wild cherry saplings will cover a patch as big as a tennis court and we are aiming to plant them some time in November. Look out for more information on our website or Facebook page and ring the parish council office if you would like to take part in the planting - contact details on the back page.

We have worked with Doncaster Council's tree officers to identify three suitable areas at Anchorage Lane park, which are currently scrub land. As the trees become established they will provide shade around the skate park and add to the biodiversity of the local area.



Just the ticket

CONGRATULATIONS to Clerk to the Parish Council Emma Garner and Responsible Finance Officer Zoe Attridge-Chambers for each gaining a top local government qualification - the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

This nationally recognised qualification assesses candidates to ensure they meet the standards expected of an experienced, qualified parish clerk, including giving advice, ensuring compliance with the law, managing diverse tasks and supporting the council.

There are three standards - resourcefulness, integrity and objectivity - split into five themes (the core role, law and procedures, finance, community and management). Having this qualification enables the parish council to apply for the Local Council Award Scheme - confirming we meet sector standards - which we intend to apply for in the coming months.

deep clean fogger

CARETAKER Jim Latham carries out another deep clean with the Goldsmith Centre's new portable 'fogger' - introduced as part of the parish council's Covid measures to help keep staff and Centre users safe.

Fogging is said to be the most effective way of disinfecting as the chemicals are applied using a spray mist that can penetrate hard to clean areas, cracks and soft furnishings. Jim and his colleagues use the fogger to sanitize after hirers leave and before the next group arrives.



Ringling the Changes ☎



Before

PARISH council caretaker Jim Latham has given the old red phone box in Sprotbrough village a much needed lick of paint.

The phone box is a listed structure and situated in the village conservation area, so we had to get permission from Doncaster Council and British Telecom before getting the paint brushes out. BT were only too happy to see it restored to its former glory and supplied a bespoke paint kit containing the required traditional colours.

Meanwhile, BT has now transferred ownership to the parish council of the redundant phone box situated at the junction of Ingleborough Drive and Melton Road.

The next step will be to clean and refurbish the unit, including adding signage with the parish council's new logo. When this is completed a public defibrillator will be installed and we will organise for St John's Ambulance to run some training sessions at the Goldsmith Centre for interested residents.

The parish council is funding the cost of installing the defibrillator and BT has agreed to pay the on-going electricity bill to the site, so the potentially life-saving equipment is always fully charged.



After

NEWS IN BRIEF

New website

AS this newsletter went to print our new-look parish council website was set to go live, with an official Government address. Please visit us at www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk to keep in touch with our news, plus information from the communities we serve.

No event

WE understand that the annual public gathering to switch on the Sprotbrough Christmas tree lights is not likely to go ahead this year, due to the potential Covid public health risk, though the organisers are still planning to put a decorated tree, donated by John and Fiona Raper, on the Green opposite St Mary's Church, as well as other nearby lighting.

Appointments only

PLEASE note that parish council staff are currently only having face-to-face meetings by appointment - so please don't visit our office unless you have organised one. Contact details on the back page.

Wilding

LOCKDOWN created unexpected wildflower areas around the parish due to Doncaster Council not being able to stick to its normal grass cutting schedule. And it seems that many of you like these wild areas, judging by the comments we received on our Facebook page when we asked if there was an appetite for seeing such sites developed on the parkland the parish council owns. We have contacted Doncaster Council who are next year going to help us introduce a few trial sites in Sprotbrough and Cusworth - more information to come on this as we get it.

Wheelie good

WELL done to Scawsby's Friends of Barnsley Road Playing Field for raising enough money to pay for a new children's bike track on the site. As we went to press, work was about to start on the project, one of a number of ideas that the volunteers have generated to improve facilities for the local community.

New distributor

THIS newsletter is now being delivered to homes in Cusworth with the Arrow magazine, thanks to a new partnership agreement with the parish council that now

matches our distribution arrangements for Sprotbrough residents.

Vacancies

WE currently have vacancies, if you are looking for some part time work:

- Site supervisor, Goldsmith Centre - 15 hours per week
- Caretaker, Norman Dent Pavilion, Anchorage Lane - 13 hours per week
- Relief site supervisor/caretaker to provide holiday cover at the Goldsmith Centre and Norman Dent Pavilion - 59 days per year.

Please ring the parish council office on Doncaster 788093 if you are interested.

Follow us

YOU can keep in touch with news and snippets from Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council by following us on Facebook and Twitter.

Re-opened

AS this newsletter went to press, Sprotbrough Community Library had reopened following lockdown on:

Monday: 11am - 2pm
Wednesday: 3pm - 6pm
Friday: 11am - 2pm
Saturday: 11am - 1pm

Sprotbrough: an historical perspective and oral history

LOCAL historian and writer Liz Reeve's latest book takes a fascinating walk down memory lane, giving a brief history of Sprotbrough Village from prehistoric times to 1965 before telling the stories of some of those who lived there between 1925 and 1965...

In 1925, Sprotbrough Estate was sold following the deaths of Brigadier-General Robert Calverley Alington Bewley Copley on 23 June 1923 and his wife, Selena Frances, on the day of his funeral. The next in line, their son Lord Cromwell, decided that the price of maintaining the estate, along with also having to pay double death duties, was too high a price to pay and decided to sell.

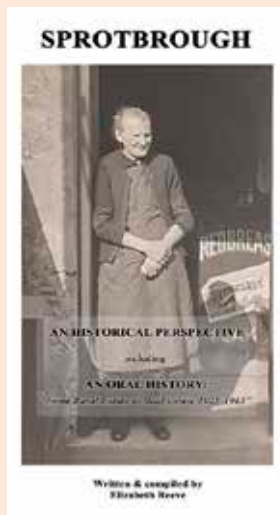
Although the estate covered many acres, until that time, the population of the village itself was only around 300 and most of them were tied to the estate through work, so the impending change to their lives was one of uncertainty but also opportunity. By the early 1960s, the population had grown to 1014 and home ownership had well and truly arrived in the village.

Very few people were found who had actually experienced life in the village in 1925, but their descendants still had a story to tell, as had some that arrived in the village having purchased land and commenced building. This is their story.

This is the first book written about Sprotbrough since 1969 and it is hoped that villagers will enjoy being reminded of those early days and that newcomers will discover something of the history of the place in which they now live.

Copies are available from Liz Reeve by emailing soh.lizreeve@gmail.com or telephoning 01302 313030.

Published by MGEM Publishing, 193 pp, Price £12.99



COMMUNITY HEROES

PARISH councillors have praised Sprotbrough and Cusworth residents for their community spirit during the Covid pandemic.

There have been many examples of local people being good neighbours, helping vulnerable people shielding during lockdown as well as looking after their community. To them all we say thank you.

A few examples worthy of note include:

- Players and supporters from Wheatley Hills Rugby Club who supported a local food bank and organised a litter pick around Sprotbrough and Cusworth, gathering many bags of discarded waste. They also helped with the clean up when bus shelters were smashed on the main road through Sprotbrough
- In Sprotbrough, Lynsey Chambers served up more than 10,000 pieces of delicious baking – all produced in her home kitchen – for front line workers, and Sue O'Grady and friends made face coverings.
- Two parish councillors also acted selflessly: Cllr Dawn Longley (pictured), a care worker, raised £700 from a sponsored head shave with the money being split between the Cedars Care Home, where she works, and the NHS Cllr Fiona Cahill who ran the Doncaster Area Self-isolation Support Group' which proved to be a valuable safe place to share emotional responses and feelings and ask for help from other people. Fiona also arranged collection and redistribution of flowers from garden centres for people to use in memorial gardens and to cheer up some more isolated community members. She runs Doncaster's The Real Junk Food Project and volunteers distributed food parcels during lockdown.



Dawn before and after

Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr David Holland, said: "In times of crisis it's heart-warming to see our community come together and local people looking out for those who need a bit of extra help."

Did you know?

SPROTBROUGH & Cusworth Parish Council owns assets worth over £1.4 million, which have to be maintained throughout the year, including:

- The Goldsmith Centre.
- Joint ownership of Scawsby Community Centre with Brodsworth Parish Council.
- Four playing fields, with two offering facilities to local teams - Anchorage Lane, Goldsmith Centre, New Lane and Newlands Park.
- Three children's play areas with safety surfaces - Anchorage Lane, Goldsmith Centre and New Lane.
- Four basketball nets on hard surfaces - Anchorage Lane, Goldsmith Centre, New Lane and Newlands Park.
- Skateboard/BMX park - Anchorage Lane.
- Two pavilions/changing rooms - The Norman Dent Sports Pavilion at Anchorage Lane and Newlands Park.
- A storage facility built on to the Goldsmith Centre.
- Five allotments.

WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLORS

Cllr David Holland - Chair (Labour)
2 Shires Close, Sprotbrough, Doncaster
DN5 7RG • Tel: 01302 854212



Cllr Kevin Rodgers - Vice Chair (Labour)
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DN5 9JE • Tel: 01302 786331



CUSWORTH WARD COUNCILLORS

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Cllr Pat Haith (Labour)
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Cllr Jo Sambrook (Labour)
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Cllr Tony Nicholson (Green)
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Cllr David McMullan (Labour)
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