

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News

Published by Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council

Printed on recycled paper

Spring 2007

Are you interested in being a parish councillor?

ALL 17 seats at Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council are up for grabs on Thursday 3 May 2007, when the parish goes to the polls.

If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, now's the time to register your interest because nomination forms have to be submitted in April. And the age at which

someone can become a parish councillor has recently been lowered from 21 to 18. We need councillors who care about the parish and its parishioners and who can work together as a team.

Here's a whistle-stop guide to the work of parish councils and the councillors who work for them.

What's a Parish Council?

Sprotbrough and Cusworth is one of the over 8,700 parish and town councils that represent around 16 million across England. Parish councils like ours form the most local level of government and have overall responsibility for the well-being of our local community. Councillors' work falls into three main categories:

- representing the local community;
- delivering services to meet local needs; and
- striving to improve quality of life in the parish.

Issues that our parish councillors frequently deal with and assist residents with include matters relating to:

- allotments
- bridleways
- community centres
- crime reduction
- footpaths
- leisure facilities
- local youth projects
- open spaces
- planning
- traffic calming

Plus liaison/partnership working with a range of organisations, including Doncaster Council and South Yorkshire Police.



The Goldsmith Community Centre, headquarters of the parish council.

How does the Parish Council work?

Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council is made up of 17 councillors who meet regularly to make decisions on the work and direction of the council. As elected members they are responsible to the people they represent - people like you and your family. The population of the parish is just under 12,500.

The parish council has four key committee meetings, which meet monthly and bi-monthly. They are: The Parish Council; Planning Committee; Finance Committee; and Policy and General Purposes Committee. All councillors are members of the Parish Council Committee and some are also members of the other committees. Elected councillors, known as members, are supported by a small team of staff.

Enjoy the Millennium Walk

AS the spring and summer approaches it's a good time to think about taking a bit more exercise to improve your health.

If you're planning to dust off your walking boots don't forget there's a pleasant, scenic walk you can tackle right here in the parish.

Seven years ago, the parish council commemorated the year 2000 by commissioning the Sprotbrough & Cusworth Millennium Walk. The circular route, which links the two largest communities of the parish, is way-marked using locally quarried limestone posts and is approximately 6.6 kilometres (4.1 miles) long.

It starts and finishes at the Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough Road and takes in Cusworth Country Park

This special leaflet showing the route of the walk and places of interest on the way is available free of charge from the parish council office at the Goldsmith Centre or Sprotbrough library.



Where does the money come from?

Each year the parish council rates, called a 'precept', are collected through your council tax. This money is used by your parish council to improve facilities and services for people like you. Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council also gets additional income from hirers of our facilities at the Goldsmith Community Centre and from renting the football pitches at Anchorage Lane and Newlands Park.

How are parish councillors elected?

Councillors are elected to represent a geographical area known as a ward. There are six wards in our parish council area - their names and the councillors who represent them are listed on the back page. Elections are normally held in each ward every four years. The work is voluntary and unpaid.

Who is eligible?

You don't have to be a member of any political party to be elected. Independents are very welcome.

What you do need to be is someone who cares about the parish and about what goes on in our two communities of Sprotbrough and Cusworth. In short, someone who wants to make a difference.

What do parish councillors do?

Councillors have three main areas of work:

1. Decision making: through attending meetings and committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, which services should be delivered and which policies should be implemented.
2. Monitoring: councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
3. Getting involved locally: as local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. This often depends on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.

How much time does it take?

Quite often councillors say that their duties can occupy them for an average of up to three hours each week. Obviously there are some councillors who spend more time than this and some less, but in the main, being a parish councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to the communities of Sprotbrough and Cusworth and helping to make them better places to live and work.

Am I qualified?

Most people are. However, there are a few rules. You have to be:

- a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union, and
- 18 years or older on the day you became nominated for election.

You cannot stand for election if you:

- are the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order;
- have, within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a prison sentence (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine; or
- work for Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council.

Could I be a parish councillor?

As a councillor you can become a voice for your community and affect real change. Councillors are community leaders and represent the aspirations of the public they serve. Parish councils like ours are the most local part of our democratic system and the closest to the public. Why don't you stand for Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council and see what a difference you can make for our local community.

For more information ring the Parish Clerk, Anita Unsworth, or Deputy Clerk Tom Hinds, on Doncaster 788093.



Sprotbrough and Cusworth now has its own award winning skate park thanks to the work of the parish council in turning the idea into reality.

KEY DATES

Timetable to the election, which is run for Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council by Doncaster Council.

Notice of Election: 5pm Tuesday 27 March 2007 (This will be displayed locally by this date)

Close of Nominations: Noon Wednesday 4 April 2007 (Doncaster Council Elections Office can then let you know who is standing in your parish)

Publication of Statement of Persons Nominated: Noon Tuesday 10 April 2007

Close of Withdrawals: Noon Wednesday 11 April 2007

Notice of Poll: 5pm Wednesday 25 April 2007

Polling Day: Thursday 3 May (7am to 10pm)

NEW OPEN SPACE ON THE WAY

WORK has started on transforming a plot of waste land at the entrance to Sprotbrough into a new community open space following on-going discussions between parish councillors and Doncaster Council.

Doncaster Council has agreed to let the parish council acquire the land on a 99 year lease. Over the past few weeks workmen have been clearing hundreds of self-set trees and plants from the site, which can be accessed from Melton Road and New Lane and is adjacent to the parish council's New Lane playing field.

The land, plus a cash sum of around £40,000, was given to Doncaster Council as part of a planning consent agreement with property developers who built new homes alongside. Doncaster Council has agreed to a request from parish councillors to use the cash to fund the development of the open space and on-going maintenance costs.

The site will now soon be changed into a valuable new community resource - a pleasant mix of new trees and grassland, with benches for people to stop and rest.



MORE THAN BOOKS

THERE'S more to Sprotbrough library than meets the eye.

Following changes at Doncaster Council the library on Sprotbrough Road has become a Library and Customer Service Centre - a one-stop-shop where you can discuss issues which affect the local area. Staff can help with many neighbourhood concerns, including:

- Community safety - via the community safety wardens;
- Dog wardens;
- FLAG - Doncaster Council's initiative to Fight Litter, Abandoned cars and Graffiti;
- Grounds maintenance - grass cutting and overhanging trees;
- Pest control;
- Recycling; and
- Street cleaning and waste collection services.

This is all in addition to the normal library services, which include free internet access through on-site computers, photocopying facilities, readers' group, reference information and loans of books (including large print), videos, DVDs, music CDs and talking books.

Opening times:

Monday 9am - 7pm
Tuesday 9am - 6pm
Wednesday 9am - 6pm
Thursday 9am - 1pm
Friday 9am - 6pm
Saturday 9am - 4pm
Tel: Doncaster 782436

THE CHANGING FACE OF CUSWORTH HALL

THE multi-million-pound refurbishment of Cusworth Hall is nearing completion ready for re-opening this Spring. Clearance work around the park is now finished and around 20,000 trees, shrubs and plants have been planted. The hall looks magnificent, nearing restoration to its former glory as this recently taken photograph shows.



Roofs on the buildings have been replaced and stonework repaired. In the chapel, ceiling paintings which have not been seen for 50 years have been revealed by painstaking conservation. The interior of the hall has been completely transformed and new display units are currently being installed. The parkland, lakes, woodlands and walks remain open, as does the Tea Room. Please note that car parking charges now apply.

The Hall is an imposing 18th century country house set in extensive landscaped parklands, once home to the Battie-Wrightson family. The Grade 1 listed house is deemed a site of special interest due to the preservation of all elements of a Georgian country house. It is home to the Museum of South Yorkshire Life which illustrates the changing home, work and social life of people and communities across the region in the last 250 years.

CUSWORTH TEA ROOM

Open daily (except Monday) from 10am to 4pm with extended hours during the summer. Delicious home-baked cakes and pastries are available, as well as a range of snacks, daily specials and ice cream. Tel: 01302 390959.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

When the Hall re-opens the first temporary exhibition will be Restored and Explored - The story of Cusworth's transformation. It will explore the extensive restoration programme that took place at Cusworth, highlighting the immense work involved and some of the fascinating discoveries made during the refurbishment. There will be accompanying tours and activities in association with the exhibition.

- Sunday 20 May: Traditional Car Club of Doncaster - Classic Car Rally This is a free event but car parking charges will apply. Enjoy the Club's extensive range of classic vehicles from all periods.
- Sunday 24 June: Shires Plant Fair. Another free event but car parking charges apply. Come and browse among the greenery for that elusive plant for the garden! Between fifteen to twenty specialist nurseries will be represented at the fair.

Gardeners Need More Members

SPROTBROUGH Gardeners' Association have had to raise their annual membership subscription for the first time in 15 years.

Officials have been forced to make the price rise to head off ever rising costs which have put the Association under threat.

Yet, at just £2 a year for full membership and £1 for senior citizens, it has got to be good value for money even after the increase.

The Gardeners run a members-only store alongside the Goldsmith Centre, on Sprotbrough Road, which is open every Sunday from 10.30 am to 12 noon and every Wednesday from 2pm to 3.30pm. On offer is a range of cut price materials for the green-fingered gardener, including compost, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and sundries such as Jeyes fluid and slug pellets.

They have launched a recruitment drive to bring in the new members they need to keep the Association afloat.

Secretary Jock Currie said it was with regret that subscriptions had to be increased. "It is due to various factors, such as the cost of renting accommodation, increased insurance and most

importantly, a much reduced membership.

"We fully intend to keep the prices we charge at the store much lower than you would expect to pay elsewhere. We have just published our 2007 price list and many of the items we sell are the same cost as last year.

"We plan to have an annual show again this year, which costs a lot to stage, but many people enjoy attending and taking part. Unfortunately we are now losing money at a rate that would put us out of business in a very short time so we have had to take steps to keep us going for as long as possible. We need more people to become members to help us continue into the future."

The Association's general meeting will take place on Friday 30th March, and on Friday 27 April, members can enjoy a talk on 'Pot Plants' by Mr G Kirby, retired head gardener from Temple Newsam Gardens, Leeds. Both events will start at 7.30pm in the Goldsmith Centre.

● For more information about becoming a member ring the secretary, Jock Currie, on Doncaster **783928**.

PLAYING FIELD SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

THE first stage of improvements to Anchorage Lane playing field have been completed with the site being fenced off to make it more secure.

Parish councillors were forced to erect the 3' high metal fence to prevent vehicles from being driven onto the field and damaging the playing surface of the football pitches.

Doncaster Council has agreed to pick up the bill for the fencing and given some funding towards re-instating the car park, where the playing field's former changing room used to stand, which will create more parking spaces.



Performing at St Mary's

SPROTBROUGH Music Society is bringing a group of musicians and an organist to the area as part of its 2007 concerts and events programme.

- On Thursday 12 April, Ensemble 360 will perform at St Mary's Church Hall. This quartet have appeared extensively throughout the UK and Europe, including at the Haydn and Beethoven festivals.
- And on Thursday 10 May, Neil Taylor, organist and Master of Music and Sheffield Cathedral, will also appear at St Mary's.

For more information contact concert secretary Mr I Round on Doncaster 781960. Sprotbrough Music Society receives financial support from Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council.

Briefly

● **SOUNDING OUT:** Residents living close to St Mary's Church, Sprotbrough, are being asked for their views about plans to install a mobile 'phone mast inside the church tower. A telecommunications company which specialises in hiding masts within church towers has written to local residents explaining their plans. Apparently the mast would not be visible from outside the church.

● **COSTING UP:** The parish council has picked up a bill for £2,000 to cover necessary repairs to equipment at its four play areas.

● **FAR AND WIDE:** The parish council has received a letter of thanks from Peterhead in Scotland after giving the local town council advice on developing a skate park, based on our experience. And an article about our own skate park was due to be published in Local Council Review, the national journal of parish and town councils, as Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News went to press.

● **EXPLOSIVE:** Following the anti-social use of fireworks in the run up to November 5th and beyond, parish councillors supported a motion proposed by Coun Fred Thompson to curb their widespread sale. The full

motion was: 'This parish council calls upon the government to introduce a total ban on the general sale of fireworks and restrict their use to organised public events only.' What do you think? Do you support this motion? Let us know by dropping a line to the parish council office at the Goldsmith Centre or emailing us via our website: www.sc-pc.co.uk

● **CHANGE OF USE:** Planners have given the green-light to an application to turn the former caretaker's bungalow at Richmond Hill Primary School into a new children's centre.

Local Crime Update

SPROTBROUGH beat manager, PC Lynne Walker, has sent us the following crime update...



November and December 2006, continuing into 2007, saw a significant increase in house and garage burglaries. In the main, these offences were committed in the housing estates of Challenger Drive and Valiant Gardens, Cromwell Drive and Ingleborough Drive, Crompton Avenue and Tennyson Avenue.

Crime analysis revealed that these crimes were committed at varying times during the day and on varying days throughout the week. However, the core feature seems to be that houses located next to or within close proximity of the linear track are a particular target for such offences.

Officers from the Doncaster West Safer Neighbourhood Team are implementing certain measures. But we strongly advise that residents put in place security measures which may prevent such a crime from happening to YOU.

Most house burglaries occur at the rear of occupied dwellings. Secure and high fencing may prevent easy access into your garden.

Secured side/back garden gates prevent access to the rear of your house. Try to secure your back garden by, if possible, fixing bolts and padlocks to side and back garden gates.

Alarms - a great preventative measure in deterring burglars! The burglar may be put off by the fact that you have an alarm system installed in your house. Should an offender gain entry, once the alarm activates, he/she will not remain in the house long enough to ransack it.

The South Yorkshire Police Crime Prevention Unit recommends three alarm companies in Doncaster. These companies meet with Home Office approval with regard to the equipment they install and the installation of it.

Lazer Security, DMB House, 2 Beckett Road, Doncaster. Tel **344773**.

Apex Alarms, 2 Highfield Road, Doncaster. Tel **761600**.

Advance Alarms, 224 Thorne Road, Doncaster.
Tel **341854** or **0800 034 5038**

All about SMARTWATER

SMARTWATER is a clear liquid solution containing a blend of harmless chemicals which, when applied to property, provides it with a 'forensic fingerprint.' This has been likened to 'DNA profiling.' Once applied, SMARTWATER makes the possession of stolen property a risky business - the smallest amount is enough for forensic scientists to verify the registered owner.

SMARTWATER is quick and easy to apply - a quick dab is sufficient to mark your property and the mere presence of it on an item is enough to trace it back to you.

In areas where SMARTWATER is prevalent, the success rate in deterring burglaries has been phenomenal! With the kits

come SMARTWATER stickers which are placed at the front and rear of your house. SMARTWATER kits can be purchased for as little as £10 - the normal price being £35! It's a sound investment - liquid gold!

Please contact Community First Warden, Donna Flicker, DMBC Edlington depot Tel 01302 736000 or PC Lynne Walker, Edlington Police Station Tel **01302 385488** or e-mail lynne.walker@southyorks.pnn.police.uk for more details.

In the event of a crime being committed or if the offender(s) has/have recently left the scene, please dial 999. For all other non-urgent matters, please dial **01142 20 20 20**

New monthly police 'surgery' in Sprotbrough

PC Walker has launched a new monthly 'surgery' in the community.

She is based at The Goldsmith Centre committee room, Sprotbrough Road, from 2-3pm on the first Wednesday of each month, starting from 7th February.

The surgery provides an opportunity for residents to talk confidentially about any concerns they have, or to pass on any information that may be useful to the police.

SKATE PARK UPDATE

LAST time's Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News reported how the parish council won first prize in the Yorkshire Rural Community Council Village Ventures competition, including a cash award of £500.

Parish councillors consulted with members of Sprotbrough Fracture Factory - the skate park users group - to see how they would like to spend the money. The group asked if a 'sub box' - a skateboarding feature - could be incorporated into the design of the park. Unfortunately, when the parish council contacted Groundwork Trust - the contractor which advises on skate park issues - we were told it would cost more than £500 to construct a sub box that would meet required health and safety legal standards. The user group would still like to see the skate park lit at night. Opportunities may exist for them to tap in to external funding to pay for such developments once they agree a formal structure for their group.

- Sprotbrough Fracture Factory members enjoyed a free trip to Liverpool's Rampworks skate park in February, with the return journey to Merseyside funded by a grant from Barclays Spaces for Sports.

CYCLEWAY VISION FOR THE ROMAN RIDGE

PLANS for a purpose-built cycle trail along the edge of an historic highway have been unveiled by Doncaster Council.

The Roman Ridge Cycleway is planned to follow the route of the 2000 years old Roman Ridge, starting alongside Scawsby's Sun Inn and finishing near the A1 at the new Redhouse development.

The only potential stumbling block is finance, as the imaginative scheme will need external funding to bring it off the drawing board.

The idea to develop a cycle route stems from initial research work by the Cusworth and Scawsby Appraisal Group. Local residents were asked to complete a questionnaire asking them how they would like to improve their area and a key theme emerged

from the responses - that the Roman Ridge was a valuable local asset that needed to be treasured.

Currently the Ridge is regularly used by illegal motorcyclists and rubbish is frequently tipped along its length.

If the plans get the go-ahead the cycleway would be a minimum 2.5 metres wide for most of the route and three metres wide where vehicles, such as farm tractors, needed to access it. Cycle-friendly barriers would be fitted at regular points to make it difficult for motorcyclists to use the path.

Parish councillor Stephen Platt, who is actively involved with the Group, said: "This is a superb opportunity to transform the Roman Ridge into a useful local amenity. Our next task is to secure the funding we need."

School Bus Worries

WORRIED residents attended the January meeting of the parish council to air their concerns about school bus safety on the daily journey to and from Ridgewood School.

But Stagecoach, the bus company which provides the service, say there's no problem.

Residents told parish councillors that a smaller than usual bus had been used, resulting in a large number of youngsters having to stand as there were not enough seats to go round. Concerns were raised that Stagecoach could be putting profit before the welfare of its young passengers.

The issue of whether Ridgewood buses were travelling on the safest route to the school was also raised. Currently double-decker school buses travel along Spring Lane which South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive says is the officially designated route.

Coun Doreen Woodhouse agreed to find out more, but after contacting Stagecoach - the bus service provider - she was told there's no problem with children standing and the current route is perfectly suitable

for the journey. She said: "Stagecoach told me they have not had any complaints from members of the public and have provided the service along the current route for 15 years without incident. I encourage parents who have concerns about the service to write to: Sue Pickering, Operations Manager, Stagecoach, 127-133 St Sepulchre Gate West, Doncaster, DN1 3AH. We as a parish council will continue to monitor the situation."

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News contacted South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, which commissions the service from Stagecoach, for their view. External Relations Manager, Pam Horner, said: "Stagecoach have advised us that the capacity provided is more than adequate for the numbers travelling and we have checked this out and found it to be the case. There is no problem with children being allowed to stand although we recommend a seat wherever possible.

"The bus travels via Spring Lane and there has always been a concern that the road is unsuitable. However, this is not the case and there is no reason why a bus should not travel via that road."

BOOZE BLITZ

POLICE seized over 100 bottles of alcohol from young people in two operations designed to curb youth nuisance problems at Cusworth Park and Anchorage Lane.

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council

A vacancy exists for a

RELIEF PART TIME CARETAKER/CLEANER

for the GOLDSMITH CENTRE, 259 Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough.

An opportunity has arisen to work alongside a small and friendly team. The position is to cover for the Caretaker and Assistant Caretaker during holidays and will be for a minimum of 12 weeks a year for an average 15 hours per week. In addition, cover for any staff sickness may be required. The work involves very occasional night and weekend working. The rates of pay and conditions are in accordance with nationally agreed Local Council scales, pro rata to £11,992 (pay award pending 1 April 2007).

Applications are welcomed from all sections of the community who should be aged over 18. Please apply by letter stating suitability for the post and giving the names and details of two referees.

Further information on this post may be obtained from:

A.Unsworth, Clerk to the Council or T.Hinds Deputy Clerk to the Council at the above address or by telephone on (01302) 788093.

Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish News

IF you have a friend, neighbour or relative who lives in the Sprotbrough and Cusworth area but does not receive a copy Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish News please let them know they can pick up a copy from Sprotbrough Library, Sprotbrough Post Office, The Goldsmith Centre, Scawsby Community Centre or from your local parish councillor. Past copies can be viewed on our website: www.sc-pc.co.uk

WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

CENTRAL WARD

PAT BARTLETT
72a Spring Lane, Sprotbrough, DN5 7QL
Tel: 310575

PAUL WOMACK
51 Clifton Drive, Sprotbrough, DN5 7NL
Tel: 785208

CUSWORTH WARD

PAT HAITH
43 St Paul's Parade, Cusworth, DN5 8LJ
Tel: 562015

STEPHEN PLATT
39 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JJ
Tel: 782928

JACKIE MARSDEN
41 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JJ
Tel: 561462

BRIAN WOODHOUSE
159 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JN
Tel: 783710

STADIUM WARD

TREVOR ASHMAN
53 Wroxham Way, Cusworth, DN5 8JY
Tel: 785429

DOREEN WOODHOUSE (Chairperson)
159 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JN
Tel: 783710

EAST WARD

CAROLYN TAYLOR
6 Nottingham Close, Scawsby, DN5 8PH
Tel: 785222

MARY WIMBURY
199 Melton Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 7NU
Tel: 07958 521344

KERRY WOOD
23a Marlborough Ave., Sprotbrough, DN5 8HA
Tel: 783043

MALCOLM WOOD
119 Tennyson Ave., Sprotbrough, DN5 8EU
Tel: 786864

● One Vacancy

PARK WARD

NORMAN DENT
1 Melling Ave., Sprotbrough, DN5 8EQ
Tel: 784218

FRED THOMPSON (Vice Chairperson)
3 Farcliff, Sprotbrough, DN5 7RG
Tel: 852488

STONECROSS WARD

ALLAN JONES
38 Spring Lane, Sprotbrough, DN5 7QG
Tel: 858075

STEPHEN SWIFT
58 Westmorland Way, Sprotbrough, DN5 7PW
Tel: 817992

CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

ANITA UNSWORTH
Goldsmith Centre, 259 Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 8BP
Tel: 788093 (answerphone/fax outside office hours)

DEPUTY CLERK

TOM HINDS
(Goldsmith Centre address)

EDITOR

IAN CARPENTER
Tel: 782603

Meetings of the parish council are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Goldsmith Centre, starting at 7.30pm, with the exception of March and September when they are held at Scawsby Community Centre at the same start time. No meeting is held in August.