

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council News

Published by Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council
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Spring 2020

GOLDSMITH CENTRE 'THINK-TANK'

A small 'think-tank' of councillors and officers is putting Sprotbrough Road's Goldsmith Centre under the spotlight.

Their aim is to examine the best way forward for the popular community centre, which opened nearly 60 years ago in 1961 and is now showing its age.



Committee room, parish council office and store

Parish Chair, Coun David Holland, said: "The building has a large hall and committee room that are open for hire and used by many groups. It's a real focal point for the local community that we not only want to preserve but also enhance.

"We are in fact-finding mode at the moment, considering many options, such as whether the building in its existing form could be modernised. For example, it currently has large areas of flat-roof, which is not a good design feature to have long-term, as we could face costly repairs at some point in the future.

"The parish council office has also been added to the original design. This is not ideal as the Clerk and Deputy Clerk's visitors have to access through the committee room, often when meetings are taking place.



Nursery play area at the rear of the building



Current play area

"The office is also quite cramped for a parish council of our size, with no meeting space. Another option under consideration is to look at replacing the Goldsmith Centre with a complete new build.

"Nothing has been ruled in or ruled out, we're currently examining ideas, options and, ultimately, cost. Once we have worked up some ideas we will present them to the Sprotbrough and Cusworth community as part of a comprehensive consultation to see what you think of them."

There will also be another public consultation exercise on replacing the playground which is currently at the rear of the Goldsmith Centre, including possibly relocating it to another area of the site where it would be in full public view.

RAIN STOPS PLAY

AS this newsletter news went to press, contractors were continuing to battle against the elements to get the new children's playground at Sprotbrough's Anchorage Lane, into service.

Recent severe rainfall has unfortunately put the completion date back by a few weeks, and it's now likely to be the end of April at the earliest, as the area will have to be turfed and established before opening. It is being built on the site of the former playground and considered to be in the best location, allowing for other commitments on the field, including the football pitches.

But to mitigate any potential flooding problems in the future, contractors are raising the new play equipment and putting a small embankment between the playground and pitches.

Calling all local litter heroes

AS Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News went to press, the Great British Spring Clean was about to start and across the country thousands of local 'litter heroes' were getting ready to tidy up rubbish eyesores in their community.



Local police officers also lent a hand



Tackling the overgrown and untidy footpath at Cusworth

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council pledged its support by investing in new litter picking equipment that can be used all year round by local groups and individuals who want to make a difference to where they live.

New hi-vis safety waistcoats have been purchased, with the parish council's name on the back to reinforce the message that the people wearing them are volunteers who are giving up their time to enhance their community. Litter pickers have also been bought, all for loan whenever anyone wants to organise a local litter pick.

And for those who really want to take it to heart, we have our own Dusty Bin on wheels, complete with space for bags, shovels and other equipment that Doncaster Council has loaned to us. It's stored at the Goldsmith Centre.

Parish Chair Coun David Holland (pictured) launched the new initiative at Cusworth, with the Positive Green Pickers (PGP), a public spirited group of local residents who regularly organise their own litter picks, bagging up all manner of rubbish that's irresponsibly thrown on streets, footpaths and into hedgerows.

The PGP were about to take part in a clean up of a footpath near the Mallard public house, following a request by South Yorkshire Police, whose local officers also took part.

Coun Holland said: "Littering has become a serious issue in some areas of the parish and it's clear that Doncaster Council's street cleaning teams don't have the resources to keep on top of the problem, which is why the parish council is keen to help local volunteers who want to make a difference.

"Several of our parish councillors routinely take part in litter picks and we are aware of many residents who selflessly keep areas near where they live clean and tidy. The Don Gorge Community Group do sterling work alongside the River Don and I'm aware of other volunteers who have been gathering up lots of plastic and other waste left behind when the recent flood waters receded. We appreciate the efforts of all our local litter heroes."

Health experts say there are numerous physical and mental health benefits to be obtained from litter picking, including being in the fresh air and exercising, not to mention the satisfaction of helping to improve the environment where you live.

● Anyone wanting to organise a community litter pick can arrange to borrow the safety equipment from the Goldsmith Centre by firstly ringing the parish council office on **01302 788093**, or emailing **sprotcuspc@btconnect.com**.

After the litter pick, Doncaster Council will collect the bags that have been filled, free of charge, within three working days. Just ring **01302 736000** to arrange.



Coun David Holland with the street cleaning unit



New hi-vis jackets funded by the parish council

Community grants for local good causes

EVERY year the parish council awards a number of small grants to local good causes that benefit residents of Sprotbrough and Cusworth.

The latest to receive a grant are the 28th Doncaster St Edmunds Scout Group, who were awarded a grant of £620 towards replacing vital gas bottles and other equipment callously stolen from their meeting hut by thieves.

Parish Chair, Coun David Holland, said: "The funding request from the 28th Doncaster was unanimously supported by parish councillors and will give a big boost to their fundraising efforts. On behalf of the parish council, I want to thank everyone involved with the Group for the great work you do with young people in our community."

● You, or an organisation you're involved with, could be eligible if you need fundraising help. Check out the guidance notes by visiting our website - www.sc-pc.co.uk - and clicking on the Services icon on the home page. You can then scroll down to the Community Grants page, where there is also a downloadable application form.

Logo Challenge

LOCAL youngsters have been sharpening their pencils in a bid to see who can be creative enough to design a new eye-catching logo for the parish council.

Earlier this year we launched a competition to find a design that reflects Sprotbrough and Cusworth and the work we do as a parish council. It was open to children aged 11 and under, with the winner set to receive a £50 gift voucher and the two runners up a £20 gift voucher each. The young winner will also be invited to join the Chair of the parish council in cutting a ribbon to mark the official opening of the new Anchorage Lane playground in a few weeks time.

Clean up or pay up!

DOG owners in Sprotbrough and Cusworth are being urged to clean up after their pets or potentially face a hefty fine. In a bid to tackle dog fouling on local streets and other public areas, Doncaster Council's environmental enforcement firm, Kingdom Securities, is carrying out increased patrols in our area. Enforcement officers have the authority to issue a fixed penalty fine of £100 to anyone they catch not cleaning up after their dog, which can rise to up to £1,000 if not paid. They can also fine anyone caught littering. The parish council is working closely with Doncaster Council on ways of tackling the problem, with a view to becoming an exemplar area that others can learn from. Parish Chair Coun David Holland said: "Dog fouling is disgusting and we want to do all we can to stop it, which is why we have asked Doncaster Council to help. Most dog owners are responsible and take bags with them to clean up after their pets, but there are some who still refuse to, even allowing their

dogs to leave faeces on playing fields. It's not acceptable.

"Bagged faeces can be deposited in litter bins or put in the grey bin at home, but they should not be left behind."

Doncaster Council has recently introduced a borough-wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for dog fouling and control, a move backed by the parish council. You can find out more about the Order at www.doncaster.gov.

As a parish council we are also looking at how we can support the PSPO, such as by installing more bins and better signage to remind dog owners of their responsibilities.



- **Enforcement officers rely on local intelligence to help catch persistent offenders. If dog fouling is a problem where you live, ring Doncaster Council on 01302 736000, or complete an online report at www.doncaster.gov.uk or via the My Doncaster mobile phone app.**

New lifesaver

A redundant telephone kiosk in Sprotbrough is set to become a potential lifesaver, thanks to an idea suggested by Coun Lynette Chipp, pictured.

The public phone opposite Richmond Hill Primary Academy is being taken out of service by the telecommunications giant due to lack of use. But in its place will be a hi-tech defibrillator, capable of re-starting someone's heart in a life or death emergency.

The parish council is funding the cost of installing the defibrillator and big-hearted BT has agreed to pay for the on-going electricity bill to the unit, so it is always fully charged. It will become the latest valuable addition to the expanding community defibrillator network in Sprotbrough and Cusworth. Others are operational at the Scott Practice branch surgery, Main Street, Sprotbrough; Sprotbrough Library; and Cusworth Hall.



Plan Nears Completion

RESIDENTS have been giving their thoughts on a draft document which, when formally adopted, will set out a number of planning 'Dos and Don'ts' for the whole of Sprotbrough.

The Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has been drafted by the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Champions, a dedicated group of residents who have worked tirelessly on the Plan on behalf of the parish council. It sets out the key local planning issues identified through an initial informal public consultation, which took place from December 2018 to March 2019.

The draft NDP was developed and put forward for full public consultation from early November 2019 to the end of January 2020. Some 33 responses were received from residents and statutory consultees, which are currently being jointly reviewed by the Neighbourhood Champions and Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council to determine if further amendments should be made to the draft document.

The next step will be for the parish council to agree and sign-off the final version of the NDP, ahead of submission to Doncaster Council. Then there will be a further six weeks public consultation on the finished NDP, before Sprotbrough residents are invited to vote on it at a simple 'Yes or No' referendum to be held at local polling stations. If more than 50 per cent of those taking part vote Yes, then Doncaster Council as a planning authority will have to adopt the NDP guidelines and it will form part of local statutory planning rules. You can find out more about the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Development Plan on the News and Information section of our website: www.sc-pc.co.uk

POLICE MATTERS

WARD and Parish Councillor Cynthia Ransome organised a get-together for representatives of all villages in Sprotbrough Ward to meet with South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and Doncaster Council's Area Neighbourhood Manager Lisa Swainson. Coun Ransome is pictured with neighbourhood officers Sgt Kelly Ward, Insp Adrian Luscombe and parish councillor Tony Nicholson at the event at Barnburgh, where it was announced that more officers are being recruited to cover our area in the year ahead.

Sprotbrough and Cusworth are covered by SYP's Doncaster West team, headquartered at Scawsby but contactable via 101 for non emergency issues. The team are looking to organise bi-monthly 'drop-in' sessions at community locations in west Doncaster, where members of the public will be able to discuss policing matters.



FOOTPATH CLAIM

DONCASTER Ramblers are looking for the public's support to keep a Sprotbrough footpath open. A claim on the route has been registered with Doncaster Council's Public Rights of Way team but for it to become a recognised footpath, they need evidence from people who have used the route, which runs from Cadeby Road to Nursery Lane.

On the news section of our website - www.sc-pc.co.uk - you can find a map of the path, plus a downloadable Public Rights of Way

Evidence Form to complete and send to Doncaster Council. The Council need completed forms to help determine whether public rights of way could have come into being over the claimed route on account of people having used them in years gone by. Sprotbrough resident Brian Melling said: "My wife Steph and I have used the path almost every week since the mid 1980s. It's important that those who have used the route support the Ramblers' application."

think safe parking

IRRESPONSIBLE parking on Main Street continues to be high on the grumble list of Sprotbrough residents, especially near St Mary's Church and at Orchard and Copley schools' dropping off and collection times. Please consider other road and footpath users before you park - can they pass safely and easily? If not, please park elsewhere.

Brian CLOCKS off

A LONG-SERVING member of the parish council staff has finally called it a day at the tender age of 75.

Brian Green has hung up his mop and bucket after being caretaker of our Anchorage Lane site for 20 years, responsible for cleaning the pavilion and keeping the adjacent BMX and skate park, sports field and play ground clean and tidy. Parish Chair Coun David Holland thanked Brian for all his hard work at a presentation attended by Goldsmith Centre colleagues Jim Latham and Tom Hinds, pictured. Caretaker Trevor Riley and Relief Site Supervisor Marie Murfin now jointly look after the Anchorage Lane site.



Precept Increase

COUNCILLORS have agreed to raise the parish precept by five per cent for the 2020/21 year, which will mean a rise of **£2.17 a year**, or **less than four pence a week**, for a Band D property in the parish. There will be a minor increase of **50p** per hour on hire charges for the Goldsmith Centre, with the exception of special concessions - such as charity events - which, subjects to councillors' agreement, are usually free of charge.

Donation to Flood Victims

COUNCILLORS agreed to donate **£800** from parish council funds to the South Yorkshire Community Foundation to help those affected by the severe flooding which has forced many Doncaster people out of their homes in recent months, including some in our parish.

Activities at Scawsby Community Centre

SPROTROUGH & Cusworth Parish Council and Brodsworth Parish Council jointly own Scawsby Community Centre, situated on Barnsley Road, Scawsby. There's a lot happening there, and handy for Cusworth residents. Have a look and if you see something you're interested in, contact the organiser (details in brackets).

MONDAY

Playgroup 9.00am - 12noon (Lesley Broadbent/Michelle Kirby 07914 344660 term time only)

Creative Arts 12.30pm - 2.30pm and 4.00pm - 6.00pm (Emma Glen 07720 777285)

Art Group 1.00pm - 3.00pm (Mick Stanley 07765 043073)

Mini-Kicks (under 5's soft football) 4.00pm - 5.30pm (01302 618080)

Dance Fitness Mix 6.00pm - 7.00pm (Yvonne Parker 01302 782406)

Bodybeatz Fitness 7.15pm - 8.15pm (Amy Plumridge 07809 118500)

TUESDAY

Playgroup 9.00am - 12noon (Lesley Broadbent/Michelle Kirby 07914 344660 term time only)

Get Together 7.30pm - 9.30pm (Isabelle Thorpe 01302 784309)

Scawsby Wives 7.30pm - 9.30pm alternate weeks (Margaret Wilson 01302 784646/Ann Doyle 01302 781308)

WEDNESDAY

Playgroup 9.00am - 12noon (Lesley Broadbent/Michelle Kirby 07914 344660 term time only)

THURSDAY

Mums & Tots 9.30am - 12noon (Lesley Broadbent/Michelle Kirby 07914 344660 term time only)

Senior Citizens 12.30pm - 3.45pm (Elsie Garth 01302 785304)

Scawsby Independent Women 1.00pm - 3.30pm (Ann Vickers 01302 781992/Margaret Cooper 01302 872027)

Specialist Fitness 4.30pm - 5.30pm (Emma Glen 07720 777285)

Brownies 6.00pm - 7.30pm (term time only) Katie Ford (07581 245862)

FRIDAY

Playgroup 9.00am - 12noon (Lesley Broadbent/Michelle Kirby 07914 344660 term time only)

SATURDAY

Drama 9.00am - 12.30pm every week and 12.30pm - 1.30pm occasionally (Katie Bradley / Sarah Thomas 07504 523512)

Private parties can be booked 2.00pm - 5.00pm (main hall height for indoor castles: 8'-10")

Dancing 6.00pm - 11.59pm fortnightly (Ian Sadler 01302 311636/07752579791)

SUNDAY

Private parties can be booked 10.00am - 6.00pm (main hall height for indoor castles: 8'-10")

Short mat bowling (currently full membership) 7.00pm -9.00pm (Lorraine Carter 01302 285375/07495 356264)

WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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