

# Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council News



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Spring 2022

## Are you ready to celebrate?

SPROTBROUGH and Cusworth is set to be a sea of red, white and blue in June, when we join the rest of the country in celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

As this newsletter went to press, we were putting the finishing touches to celebratory events we've organised for YOU, our residents. We hope you enjoy taking part.

Parish Chair, Coun Tony Nicholson said: "We have considered all ages in planning the events, so we hope there's something for everyone to join in and celebrate."

Please note they could be subject to slight change so please keep checking for updates on our website [www.sprotbroughandcusworthpaishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.sprotbroughandcusworthpaishcouncil.gov.uk) and our facebook and twitter pages on social media.

### Children's Jubilee Trail, Cusworth Hall and Park 30 April to 12 June 2022

TAKE part in this historic celebration with the official family story trail at Cusworth Hall and Park. Nearby are seven whimsical characters to find as they go on an adventure. Not only that but Sir Barnaby Beacon will guide you through the history of the Queen's 70-year reign. Simply scan the QR codes, displayed in seven locations nearby, to collect digital stamps. You'll get to choose what happens in the story and see the characters come to life in augmented reality. Visit the website [www.JubileeBeaconTrail.com](http://www.JubileeBeaconTrail.com) to find out more.

### Queen's Jubilee Beacon Event, Thursday 2 June, 2022 Cusworth Hall, 6pm - 10pm

THE fun starts at 6pm and continues until our specially commissioned beacon is lit at 9.45pm.

- Maltby Colliery Brass Band will be playing from 6.30pm onwards.
- Well known children's entertainer Mr Dan will be on hand to keep the kids amused from 6pm to 9.30pm.
- Why not bring a picnic? The Broomhouse and tea rooms will hopefully be staying open late.
- Cusworth Hall is preparing a special exhibit for the Jubilee, which you will be able to see on the night.
- The Jubilee emblem and Union flag will be projected onto the front of the hall.
- We are encouraging people who would like to walk together to the event to meet at either Scawsby's Barnsley Road playing field or Sprotbrough's village green at 6pm to walk to Cusworth Hall.

### The Queen's Green Canopy

THE Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark the Jubilee which invites people from across the United Kingdom to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'.

Everyone from individuals to community groups is encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment. Goldsmith Centre site manager Jim Latham is pictured planting a flowering cherry in the grounds of the community centre, with a specially mounted plaque alongside marking the occasion.



And Anchorage Lane playing field site manager Kerry Woods is nurturing 60 Rowan, Silver Birch and Wild Cherry saplings, which have been kindly donated by the Woodland Trust and will be planted around the edge of the recreation ground.

We also want to help you join in. Parish councillors have agreed to subsidise the cost of providing small fruit trees for our residents.

**They cost just £10** instead of up to £25 each, depending on the type you choose. Please contact the parish council office on **01302 788093** if you would like to buy one.



Kerry Wood



Jim Latham

# Remembering Miss Anita



Some of Ridgway's pupils

**TRIBUTES** have been paid to a long-standing friend of Sprotbrough's Goldsmith Centre, who has died after a long battle with illness. Anita Hall - Miss Anita as she was known to her students - was the Principal of Ridgeway School of Dance for over 50 years, until she sadly passed away in February this year.

Her daughter, Miss Rebecca, has taken over Ridgeway having already taught many pupils through her time as a teacher at the Goldsmith Centre. She said: "Many people have said Mum was an inspiration and made children believe they could achieve anything. She was proud of every dancer young or old that passed through the doors. She will be sadly missed by all in the dance community."

Ridgeway School of Dance is a small family run dance school. New members are very welcome, classes are held for children aged three and above as well as adult tap lessons. Ballet, stage and modern dance is also taught.

"Our pupils are given the opportunity to achieve in the dance world by passing exams and performing in shows. Dance classes are a great place to express yourself, help boost confidence, make friends and keep fit. We are now teaching children of former pupils which is great when you see next generations carrying it through, added Rebecca.

"All of our pupils and teachers are trained and qualified through the British Association of Teachers of Dancing (BATD)."

- **Ridgeway School of Dance** meets at the Goldsmith Centre every **Thursday 4.45 - 7.15pm** and **Saturdays 9am - 2pm**.

For more information please ring 07961 091708 or visit the Ridgeway School of Dance Facebook page.



Anita pictured in 2016 when she was presented with a certificate celebrating 50 years membership of the BATD

## Little Movers having fun

**YOU'RE** never too young - or old - to enjoy what's on offer at The Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough, and Scawsby Community Centre, as these babies agree. The Little Movers group meets every Wednesday at the Goldsmith Centre for active fun.

For more details ring: **07877 525087** or email: **Doncaster@littlemovers.net**.



## GREEN IMPROVEMENTS GO-AHEAD

**ENVIRONMENTAL** improvements are about to take place on a large area of green space neighbouring the St Chad's and Riverside Drive developments in Sprotbrough, thanks to local councillors.

Around 10 acres of land close to the A1 motorway will benefit from new pathways, tree planting, seating, mowed and wild-flower areas, funded by money allocated to Doncaster Council as part of previous nearby housing schemes.

Cllr Cynthia Ransome and Cllr Glenn Bluff, who are both DMBC and

parish councillors, pressed for the work to go ahead.

Cllr Ransome said: "I'm delighted, it's well overdue but the site will be transformed and routine maintenance will be an on-going feature of the improvements.

"The first stage will be to start cutting back the overgrown foliage so people should start seeing a difference very quickly. A big thank you to local residents who initially brought the issue to my attention and responded to local consultation."

## Trevor signs off after 15 years

A **BIG** thanks to Trevor Riley, who has retired after 15 years' service with the parish council, latterly as caretaker at Newlands Park after initially starting out as relief caretaker at the Goldsmith Centre in 2007.

Parish Chair Cllr Tony Nicholson is pictured presenting Trevor with a leaving gift.

Steve Hutchinson has taken over as Trevor's replacement.



## Joe's making savings

**KEEN** gardener Joe Hawkins is one of the first residents to take advantage of the parish council's subsidised water butts scheme, as part of our response to the climate change emergency.

Joe has built an imaginative water collection system at the Sprotbrough home he shares with wife Bron.

Joe said: "We have a big garden and by building this well away from the house it's going to save a lot of time and effort with our watering cans."

- Two sizes of water butt are available - 210 litre (£25) and a smaller 100 litres (£15). Ring our office 01302 788093 or email [sprotcuspc@btconnect.com](mailto:sprotcuspc@btconnect.com) to place your order.



# Clerk to the Parish Council's report for 2021/22

By Emma Garner

THROUGHOUT the year, Covid 19 created significant challenges for the operation and management of the parish council and our sites, with constantly changing restrictions impacting on our operations. But we worked through all the challenges and are now on a strong footing to move forward into 2022/23.

We faced some financial challenges during the year but by reviewing all our expenditure we move forward in a sound position. Income from the Goldsmith Centre and sports pitches reduced and we faced unexpected expenditure to deal with Covid and keep services running. However, this position improved from the previous year as hirers were able to return to some activity. We have worked alongside all our hirers to enable them to use the centre when permitted with confidence. All sites continue to be very well used by a variety of groups and we see no reason for this not to continue now restrictions have been lifted. Our outside spaces saw a significant increase in use particularly through the lockdown periods

and have been managed in accordance with the regulations throughout. Risk assessments for each activity and site were undertaken at regular intervals throughout the year.

The parish council maintains a General Reserve which can be used in case of emergency or for unbudgeted items of expenditure. As we emerge from the pandemic and with Covid 19 still with us it is very important to ensure the level of the General Reserve is maintained at an appropriate level.

Positively, against this backdrop the parish council was able to confirm a zero increase in the precept for 2022/23.

We 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>

## People Community Grants

We can 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 and asks for details of what the grant is to be used for. These grants were awarded between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

20/05/2021	Scawsby Girl Guides	£800
20/05/2021	Sprotbrough Scarecrow Festival	£400
17/06/2021	Sprotbrough Methodist Church play group	£300
21/10/2021	Sprotbrough Christmas Lights	£300
17/11/2021	Richmond Hill Primary School	£150

## Place Planning matters

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

Some 61 planning applications were considered by the parish council between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022. Full details of decisions and responses given are contained in the minutes and on our website:

<https://www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/planning-applications2.html>

A significant planning matter for the parish was the adoption of the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Plan in September 2021. The plan can be viewed at:

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

The Neighbourhood Plan is now being 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.

## Tree site maintenance

We own and manage four large sites within the parish which require regular maintenance. Play equipment at all the sites needs 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 started in 2021 on all sites and will continue each year to ensure our trees remain healthy and do not pose a risk to users and the neighbours of each site.

Significant work has also been undertaken at Newlands Park to maintain a culvert which runs under the site between Cusworth Park and Cusworth Lane/ St Martins Avenue.

## Public Realm

**Litter picking** - we set aside a budget to buy and provide litter picking equipment for local groups and residents to use to help improve 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 Ploggers - using the equipment throughout the year.

**Dog fouling and litter** - we have worked with Doncaster Council to provide additional signage and bins at all the sites we own and used our communication methods to promote awareness and responsible dog ownership and litter prevention. We encourage residents to report problem areas to Doncaster Council to enable additional enforcement patrols to be undertaken.

New bins have been purchased and installed at the Skate Park (Anchorage Lane) and Wroxham Way (Newlands). Two new bins are located at the play area at Anchorage. Additional signage has been added saying that no dogs are allowed in the play area.

### Footpath at New Lane, Sprotbrough

Work to tarmac the lower section of the footpath at New Lane recreation area was completed in August 2021. The whole of the path is now tarmac, making it more accessible.

## Climate Change

The first meeting of the Climate Change Working Group was in September 2021 and a draft action plan was agreed by the parish council in November 2021. Projects from the plan have been put in place including new recycling bins inside the Goldsmith Centre and providing subsidised water butts for residents. The working group meet regularly to discuss future projects including the potential for electric vehicle charging points at the Goldsmith Centre; schemes relating to food waste; and providing trees for residents to plant within their gardens - which is reported in this newsletter.

We are also working with Doncaster Council and other parish/ town councils on climate change as part of a working group looking at shared ideas and resources.

We planted an additional 40 trees at Anchorage Park - kindly provided by the Woodland Trust - and two fruit trees within the garden area of the Goldsmith Centre.

## Provision

### Christmas Trees and lights

We continue to support local residents with the Sprotbrough Christmas lights event. Trees were lit again at the Goldsmith Centre and we are looking to adding to this provision in 2022 as part of a wider Christmas festival on the Goldsmith Centre site.

### Christmas Pantomime

We hosted our first Christmas Pantomime on 19 December 2021. Two shows of Beauty and the Beast were performed by local theatre company Talegate Productions. Both shows sold out within a couple of hours - 160 tickets - and the event was a great success. Children received a gift from Santa and two residents kindly provided refreshments for attendees before the show and during the interval. Following the success of the event we hosted an Easter Pantomime on 24 April - Rapunzel - and will stage a Christmas pantomime in December 2022.

### Financial matters

We are required to undertake rigorous financial controls given our size and scale as a parish council. 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 at:

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

Our current reserve is £300,000. 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.

### Training and development

We are committed to training and actively encourage councillors and employees to attend regular training to raise awareness of their 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 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. A full record of all training is kept.

# A guide to who does what locally

IN Sprotbrough and Cusworth the provision of services is split between Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council and Doncaster Council. The parish council is the first tier of local government and exists completely independently from Doncaster Council

Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council responsibilities	
>	Five allotments at Windsor Walk
>	Management of the Goldsmith Centre, playground and recreation area
>	Management of Newlands Park and pavilion
>	Management of Anchorage Park including the children's play area, outdoor gym, skate park and Anchorage Pavilion
>	Management of New Lane recreation area and adventure playground
>	Joint ownership of Scawsby Community Centre with Brodsworth Parish Council
>	Management of Newlands Park and pavilion

Doncaster Council responsibilities			
>	Adults and Children Social Care	>	On street parking enforcement
>	Anti-social behaviour	>	Planning and building control
>	Benefits	>	Public rights of way
>	Births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships	>	Licencing
>	Bus pass issue	>	Tourist information
>	Car parks and fines (Doncaster Council owned and operated)	>	Street cleaning and bins (including dog fouling enforcement)
>	CCTV	>	Trading standards
>	Council tax	>	Public health
>	Housing advice and homelessness	>	Waste collection, fly tipping
>	Disabled parking (blue badges)	>	Fostering and adoption
>	Emergency planning	>	Household recycling and waste sites
>	Highways - including gritting, maintaining, street and traffic lighting, traffic signs, pot-holes, road markings, pedestrian crossing, road safety and verges.	>	School admissions, free school meals and school transport

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> The parish council comprises 17 seats with all 17 being elected councillors across seven wards. 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>

Several councillors serve as the parish council's representatives on various outside bodies, partnerships, liaison groups and regularly attend associated meetings.

## SPEED WATCH TRIALS

PARISH councillors Lynette Chipp and Angela Curtis joined local police on local Speed Watch trials, and within 20 minutes of setting up the camera three motorists were lucky it was just a test. The vehicles they were driving were well over the speed limit and potentially risking a £100 fine and three points on their licence when they raced past the Speed Watch crew, which was positioned close to Sprotbrough's Richmond Hill School at 2.30pm. More motorists could well have exceeded the speed limit had they not been alerted by other drivers flashing their lights. Parish councillors have discussed introducing speed reduction signs to encourage motorists to stay inside the limits.

● IN response to comments from residents about motorists ignoring people waiting at local zebra crossings, Doncaster Council's Safer Roads Team gave us this reply: Unfortunately, this seems to be a fairly common concern, affecting other types of crossing equally, and is likely to be due to a small section of the road using public who fail to drive in a safe and considerate manner, rather than there being a problem with familiarity or warning that crossings are in place.

There is good visibility at the approaches to these crossings, the road markings and illuminated flashing beacons and poles make them quite conspicuous, and especially in respect of regular users of Sprotbrough Road/Melton Road there should be no excuse for drivers not to be aware of the crossing location or of the need to stop as necessary in the presence of pedestrians waiting to cross.

I can only suggest that pedestrians exercise the necessary caution when crossing, to ensure that approaching vehicles have stopped before proceeding, and that any failure to stop especially where this might involve persistent offenders, should be reported to the Police so that appropriate action can be considered to deal with the individuals responsible.

## Donation

THE parish council has endorsed the statements made by the Local Government Association and the National Association of Local Councils which strongly condemns the multiple attacks and violations of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. A donation of £250 has been made to both the Red Cross and Disasters Emergency Committee to support the residents of Ukraine.

# WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

### CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLORS

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### CUSWORTH WARD COUNCILLORS

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### DANUM WARD COUNCILLOR

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### EAST WARD COUNCILLORS

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