

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council News



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Summer 2021

WELCOME

By Cllr Tony Nicholson, Chair of the Parish Council

I AM delighted to have been re-elected by residents of Cusworth Ward to serve a second term as their parish Councillor.

It was also my privilege to be elected Chair of Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council by my fellow parish councillors.

We now have a new look parish council, with eight new faces, all elected to give their time freely supporting the community as unpaid volunteers. I welcome them all and look forward to working with them. I would also like to thank former Chair, David Holland, for his leadership and commitment during his term in office.

Time has stood still for over a year but happily we are finally emerging from rules and restrictions that have dictated our lives for well over a year and your parish council, while learning from the past, can look forward to playing a key role in helping our local communities recover and rebuild.

Already we are developing exciting plans for the future, keen to become more involved in the community, by supporting the many groups and organisations that help to make Sprotbrough and Cusworth tick.

If you read through this newsletter you will learn about recent grants we have made to various community groups to support their excellent voluntary work and we are keen to reach out and support many more. We also have lots of ideas and the collective enthusiasm to make them happen so please get in touch if you think we can help.

You can follow the work of the parish council by visiting our website - www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

attending our monthly meetings, or by following our regular social media updates on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

And finally, please do get in touch if you have any ideas and suggestions for how the parish council can help make a real difference to the lives of our residents.



Best wishes
Tony

Green light for Neighbourhood Plan

THE Chair of the group of 'neighbourhood champions' who spent their own time developing and writing the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Plan has thanked those residents who voted to adopt the document.

Eric Mirfin said: "As Chair of the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Planning Group (SNPG), I would like to send my heart felt thanks to residents for voting in favour of the plan being adopted in the recent referendum.

"The Plan was six years in the making and represents the thoughts and wishes of residents, in terms of what's good about Sprotbrough and therefore what needs to be protected for the future, and what isn't so good with clear recommendations made for change.

"As a group we are very proud of what we have achieved and we hope that you, and future generations of Sprotbrough residents will be too."

The vote was 633 in favour of 'wanting Doncaster Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Sprotbrough to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area', with 138 against and two rejected.

Doncaster Council are expected to agree to adopt the Plan - which has been supported along its development journey by Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council and Sprotbrough Ward Councillor Cynthia Ransome - at their meeting on 23 September, 2021.

Coun Tony Nicholson, Chair of the Parish Council paid tribute

to the tireless work of the SNPG members.

He said; "It has been a complicated process, ensuring the documentation meets all the Government's detailed requirements before it could be submitted. Six years is a long time to be involved but the final product will be a valuable planning guide for the area for many years to come.

"Thanks again to the Group for carrying out this work for the benefit of all the residents of Sprotbrough."

The Plan will play a key role in helping determine how Sprotbrough will grow in the next 15 years. It was produced following wide consultation with local people over the years.

In 2017, a questionnaire was pushed through the letterboxes of over 3,160 homes and businesses in Sprotbrough. Some 697 were completed and returned - a 22 per cent response rate - which in marketing terms was considered to be highly successful. The findings led to the production of a 22-page report, which set the direction of the Plan.

The Autumn 2017 edition of this newsletter - which was door-dropped into every home - carried an extensive report on residents' responses, grouped around the questionnaire's themes of: Use of facilities; Future facilities; Houses; Work; Traffic and parking.

● If you would like to read the Plan and accompanying documentation please visit this page on our website:

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

OH YES WE HAVE!

WE have organised our first Christmas pantomime. On Sunday 12 December 2021, TaleGate Theatre Company will stage two performances of *Beauty and the Beast* at the Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough Road, at 2pm and 6pm. Ticket details will be announced soon. Keep watching our website and local social media.

Meet your parish councillors

WE have 17 parish councillors and elections take place every four years. You can see the results of the May 2021 elections by visiting this page on Doncaster Council's website: <https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/the-council-democracy/parish-elections-2021>

Central Ward

Councillor Glenn Bluff

"I moved to Sprotbrough in 1989 as a child and attended Richmond Hill Primary School. After getting married, I moved away for work but returned in 2011. We have three children, who attend local schools. My interests are walking in the beautiful area we live in and history, technology, swimming and cycling. I am also a councillor for Doncaster Council's Sprotbrough Ward.

Councillor Laura Bluff

"I moved back to Sprotbrough in 2011 with my husband and three children. Our two boys go to Ridgewood and our daughter is at Copley Junior. I am also a DMBC councillor for Bessacarr Ward. I enjoy walking our Romanian rescue dog, spending time with our family and friends, reading and creating abstract art."

Cusworth Ward

Councillor Fiona Cahill

"I am an advocate activist and artist. I work with people struggling with inequality and to prevent climate and biodiversity catastrophe. I am a carer for my disabled son. I founded and project managed the Real Junk Food project in Doncaster as one of the first food waste projects in the country. I am a self-taught natural historian and I write about the environment locally. I forage and grow lots of my own food and write about recipes that inspire natural connections to food. I moderate bird watching and other social media groups."

Councillor Tony Nicholson

"Successfully campaigned to get Doncaster Council to declare a climate emergency and was the Green Party representative on the climate commission ensuring policies like cleaner, greener transport and cheaper, warmer, safer housing and support for small local business got on to the agenda. I am involved with litter-picking campaigns and work hard to protect and enhance our local green spaces - calling for re-wilding, more trees and better protection for our playing fields and open spaces."

Councillor Pat Haith

"I have lived in Cusworth Ward of the parish for over 43 years. I am currently the longest serving parish councillor, with over 25 years experience. This year I retired as a councillor for Doncaster Council's Roman Ridge Ward, having served for nearly 20 years. I am also chair/parish councillor for Brodsworth Parish Council. I am a volunteer at Scawthorpe Community Library and a governor at Rosedale School."

Councillor Leanne Hemphsall

"I was elected councillor for Doncaster Council's Roman Ridge Ward, which includes Cusworth, this year. I chair the scrutiny panel for Children & Young People and I am vice chair of Brodsworth Parish Council. I work for the exams officer at Don Valley Academy, along with being a governor at Castle Hills Primary School. My passion is children's education. Devoting time to rewarding volunteer work in the community has given me a great understanding of our residents' needs."

Danum Ward

Councillor Jane Nightingale

"This is my first term as a Sprotbrough and Cusworth parish councillor and I would like to pay tribute to the excellent work carried out by Danum Ward's previous councillor, Dawn Longley. Since 2012 I have been a councillor for Doncaster Council's Bentley Ward, which includes a section of Sprotbrough from the traffic lights at the bottom of Sprotbrough Road to Anchorage Crescent and nearby streets. A key focus of my work is on trying to find ways of curbing anti-social behaviour."

East Ward

Councillor Lynette Chipp

"I taught at Richmond Hill School for 10 years and was a member of the group that worked to save Sprotbrough Library from closure, helping to run the new Community Library as a volunteer for six years and I am still involved with it now. A parish councillor for over 15 years, I worked on the upgrade of New Lane playground in 2008 and have been a member of the 'Sprotbrough Champions' working group, to deliver the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Plan."

Councillor Angela Curtis

"I have lived in Sprotbrough since 1984 and have been a parish councillor since 2017.

My background is in nursing and management. I am passionate about people's health and well-being and the vital part our environment has in affecting both. I have long been a campaigner for cleaner air in Doncaster and have promoted the planting of trees in Sprotbrough. My hobbies are cycling, walking, reading, and local history."

Councillor Frank Calladine

"The parish councillor role is very important to ensure that local issues or concerns or ideas for the local area are heard and put forward to be considered by Doncaster Council. I have been a parish councillor for 15 years and am so happy to now be given the opportunity to serve my local community of Sprotbrough since moving here three years ago. I look forward to working with and promoting community unity to improve all local issues. Let's make this area better for all."

Councillor Lauren Hogg

"I am a first time councillor. I live in the Sprotbrough Ward with my family and am passionate about community cohesion to make where we live the best it can be. I am a director of a Doncaster Youth Charity that works with disadvantaged young people borough-wide. I am looking forward to bringing my expertise to my role as a councillor."

Park Ward

Councillor Martin Greenhalgh

"Carol and I, together with our three teenage children, moved to Park Avenue in late 1999. They have all moved on now. I am presently also a Borough councillor for the Tickhill and Wadworth Ward. Our interests are the grandchildren, antiques, aviation, motoring pursuits and, of course, the parish council, this being my 13th year representing Park Ward."

Councillor Cynthia Ransome

"I am also a councillor for Doncaster Council's Sprotbrough Ward. In the past I have run my own businesses and been a business development manager. I enjoy working with local parish councils, hate litter and fly tipping, want to keep residents safe by being tough on crime and anti-social behaviour and encourage the development of local community groups to end loneliness."

Stadium Ward

Councillor Tony Rawlings

"Son of a labourer, long serving dad and probate solicitor. I am interested in enabling people to reach their goals, whatever they might be and trying to preserve what is left of the welfare state. My hobbies are politics and cricket, I am a Life Member of Yorkshire County Cricket Club."

Councillor Judith Rodgers

"Married to Kevin, I was born in Germany and have a background in IT. I am currently the personal assistant to the operations director at the Doncaster works of DB Systel UK Ltd. I have been a parish councillor since 2011, including a term as vice chair. My interests include baking and I am a member of Scawthorpe Methodist Church."

Stone Cross Ward

Councillor Stephen Swift

"Moved to Sprotbrough in 1986 and started my own local gardening business in 1988. I am a member of the Friends of Cusworth Park steering group; Don Gorge Community Group and the Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Champions. Hobbies and interests include reading local history books and autobiographies; spending time with my grandchildren; motoring and listening to vinyl records."

Councillor Dave Glover

"I've lived in Sprotbrough with my family for over 30 years. I come from a family of councillors, my grandad was the Leader of South Yorkshire County Council and was also the Mayor. I run a mobility and healthcare company and support Doncaster Rovers. My main interest and hobby is building and racing drag racing cars. I enjoy socialising and eating out."

Photos of all the
councillors can be seen
on page 4

DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR GRANTS

EVERY year the parish council awards a number of grants to local good causes that benefit residents living in the area we serve.



Through the decades such donations, which are called Section 137 grants, have helped make a big difference to many voluntary organisations that do fantastic work in our communities. Recently we have awarded grants of £300 to a play group at Sprotbrough Methodist Church (Goldsmith Centre) to pay for toys and books; £400 to the Sprotbrough Scarecrow Festival; £800 to the 28th Doncaster Guides; £1,000 to the health and well-being programme at Sprotbrough Library; and £326 to the Don Gorge Community Group to pay for their annual insurance. Their volunteers have recently restored this stone-wall near Sprotbrough Falls

So don't miss out on the chance to boost your funds as we steadily move out of the pandemic. You can see if you are eligible by visiting:

www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/grants. You can either complete the online form or print the pdf and send a completed version to the parish council office at the Goldsmith Centre.

Greening the parish

A BIG thank you to our friends at environmental consultancy Wildscapes for generously donating and planting 100 hardwood saplings on our Anchorage Lane Park.

Pictured are Wildscapes employee Jordan Porter and his daughter, Amira, 9, with one of the young trees. Jordan who lives locally, has planted 40 English oak, 30 common alder, 20 hawthorn and 10 rowan on the edges of the park.



Wildscapes, a subsidiary of Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust, has been actively involved with Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council in restoring two heavily silted ponds at Newlands Park,



Cusworth, to create suitable habitats for endangered great crested newts.

The Cusworth nature ponds are developing well as these two recent photographs show.



Centurian Lilian

CONGRATULATIONS to a well-known long-standing former Sprotbrough resident and true 'character' on clocking up her 100th birthday.

Lilian Haw reached her century in April this year. She lived with her son Trevor Miller at the former rectory on Boat Lane and then at Park Drive, before ill health meant a move to residential care at Tickhill, where she has been for the past seven years.

Lilian, a self-confessed petrolhead, passed on her love of cars to Trevor and the pair regularly went to rallies together for decades, as he built up a superb collection of vintage vehicles. Her first car was a 1964 Ford Consul Corsair, which later fell to bits, as did her next car, a Volvo, 10 years later. This was followed by a run of five BMW 3-series, which Trevor says "all developed engine problems at 100,000 miles".

A former nurse at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Lilian's first husband, businessman William Miller, sadly died in the mid-1960s. She was later a teacher at Scawthorpe's Jossey Lane Infants School where she met her second husband, Christopher Haw.

Trevor said: "Many readers will remember Mum, she was very active in Sprotbrough village life and met the Princess of Wales in 1987 through her work for the Doncaster and District Association for the Welfare of the Disabled. She is now in a poor state of health but I treasure this picture of the last time I took her out for a car ride after picking her up at the care home."



Parish Council meetings

- you are welcome to attend

Month	Venue
Thurs 16 September 2021	Scawsby Community Centre
Thurs 21 October 2021	Goldsmith Centre
Thurs 18 November 2021	Goldsmith Centre
Thurs 16 December 2021	Goldsmith Centre

Please note that these dates are subject to change if required due to Covid-19 regulations. All meetings are scheduled to start at 7pm unless specified in the agenda. Further information can be found on our website:

www.sprotbroughandcusworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

and our facebook and twitter social media pages.

TAR FOR THAT!

FOLLOWING a request from local residents we have paid for improvements to the footpath on the New Lane play area and grounds.

The footpath, which skirts around the site, now has a tarmac surface along its entire route. Previously an unmade section near the children's play area had frequently become muddy during rainy weather.



Backing a popular community event

THE parish council is sponsoring this year's Sprotbrough Scarecrow Festival (Sept 4-5) to the tune of £400 following the popularity of this community event in previous years. You may well have seen our logo on promotional leaflets.

Benefiting from this year's festival are two excellent local good causes - Phoenix - a charity that provides help, support and advice for women, men and child victims of domestic violence and abuse and Doncaster Foodbank, which helps local people in crisis.

- Also look out for the Labyrinth - pictured - at New Lane park on the afternoon of Sunday 5 September. Residents will be encouraged to walk through a series of interconnected paths whilst asking reflective questions, all part of a wellness initiative from Sprotbrough Library that we are supporting. Local band Skin Tones will also be there, with instruments that children and adults can play.



Vandals target children's play area

OUR showpiece Anchorage Lane play area, which we only opened last year, continues to be the target of vandals.

Lately, a whole section of the climbing frame has been dismantled using specialist tools. Luckily we recovered the piece that had been removed and as we were still - just - in the warranty period the contractors repaired it at no cost.

But if it happens again we will have to pay, which will be costly. We have used anti-tamper screws but we know how determined some lowlives can be and they will potentially try again.

The fencing around the play area has also been damaged, costing £100 to repair, and it cost the same amount to replace one of the damaged safety mats.

This is just mindless vandalism, targeting a community asset, and it's becoming an on-going problem. As we have said before, if you see vandalism taking place please ring 999. We all suffer because of the despicable actions of a few.



SPICK AND SPAN

A REMINDER that if you want to help keep Sprotbrough and Cusworth clean and tidy, the parish council has litter picking equipment that you can borrow.

Simply ring our office on **01302 788093** to arrange (answerphone operates outside office hours).

WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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