

# Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News

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## Councillors Welcome New Planning Guidance

PARISH councillors have welcomed proposals aimed at making sure new developments in residential areas only get the go-ahead if they meet strict guidelines.

They gave a positive response to a draft consultation document from Doncaster Council that sets out what needs to be taken into account when considering developments in back gardens (backland) or between existing properties (infill).

In Council-speak, backland is defined as the development of land behind the rear building line of existing housing or other development and is usually land formally used as gardens or partially enclosed by gardens. Infill is the development of a small gap - for example one to five properties - in an otherwise built-up frontage, usually consisting of the frontage plots only. Doncaster Council says that careful consideration is now required when designing such developments and that each application will be judged on its merits.

Chairman of Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council's Planning Committee, Coun Alan Smith, said: "The document sets out clear guidance and we believe it is a positive step forward for Doncaster borough as a whole and our parish in particular. The parish council has often raised concerns about infill developments only to find that these applications have later been granted by the borough council.

"We particularly want to safeguard those areas of the parish that have a defined character and design. Any new building proposals should be considered sensitively and seek to manage and enhance future development in a similar way to proposals that are made within the Sprotbrough village and Newton conservation areas."

The guidance sets out what Doncaster Council expects applicants, agents, developers and designers to consider before they submit their plans. Jordan Butler, a Senior Planner at Doncaster Council, said: "It will promote high quality design and development which is sensitive to the context in which it is located."

Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council is currently liaising with Sprotbrough Residents Action Group (SPRAG) on the production of a 'design statement' which will initially cover the 'village' area of Sprotbrough. Parish councillors Alan Smith and Kim Rolt are actively involved in preparing the document which is hoped will define and hopefully preserve Sprotbrough village and its many unique features across the built and natural environments.

Coun Smith said: "We hope the design statement will be added to any supplementary guidance and used when considering future developments. The parish council supports SPRAG's plans to consult widely with local people and community groups about how best to define and preserve the village area and we hope this initiative progresses to encompass the whole of Sprotbrough and Cusworth".

### Key points from the document:

- The starting point for designing a new residential development is to assess the existing local surroundings. Even proposals that will not be visible from public view should be designed to complement the locality in which they are situated.
- A backland or infill should make a contribution to the character of the existing locality. In broad terms, a proposal that fails to complement the local areas in terms of design, density levels and layout will be refused.
- Designers will need to consider the characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood so that the development can positively contribute to the character and function of the existing place.
- The proposed building plot should be of similar dimensions, in size and shape, to the existing plots within the immediate locality. Proposals that would lead to over-development of a site or the appearance of cramming will be resisted.
- Plots must be sufficiently wide enough to site a building or buildings of an appropriate size that allows adequate separation between buildings.

For more information about the Residential Backland and Infill Development: Draft Supplementary Planning document go to: [www.doncaster.gov.uk/spd](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/spd)

# NEWTON PUT UNDER THE CONSERVATION MICROSCOPE

PLANS to enhance the character of a 600 year old conservation area within the parish have been broadly supported by parish councillors.

Doncaster Council has produced a draft appraisal of the Newton Conservation Area, which was presented to the full parish Council in December. It sets out measures that could be used to preserve or enhance the special character and appearance of the conservation area and be considered when assessing planning applications.

Newton, which has a handful of residential properties, is defined in the document as "having an agricultural feel to it". The hamlet, which was mentioned in the 1379 poll tax returns, is accessed by road along Newton Lane, with the River Don forming a natural boundary to the south east. It was designated a conservation area in 1992.

One of the proposals is to widen the boundary of the existing conservation area, taking in all of the farmland up to Black Pond, which if adopted would almost double it in size.

Another of Doncaster Council's suggestions is to develop a strategy for the management of trees and other landscape features within the conservation area and to encourage the reintroduction of hedgerows.

Parish councillors were united in their desire to maintain and protect the uniqueness of Newton, though not every one supported the proposal to extend the conservation area by including the grassland. Councillors felt there was merit in maintaining the area as green belt but were unsure of the benefits of widening the boundary.

Doncaster Council is committed to reviewing the Newton Conservation area every five years and said that most, if not all, of the actions itemised in its recommendations would have to be financed from its own funds, with possible additional help from outside sources like the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage.

To read the draft appraisal go to: [www.doncaster.gov.uk](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk) then type in Newton Conservation Area in the search box.

## A REFRESHING CHANGE

THE Goldsmith Centre's committee room has had a refreshing makeover which is going down well with hirers.

Anyone booking the room can now enjoy a brew, thanks to the installation of a new sink and drink making facilities.

The room, which can seat up to 30 people, is generally available for hire during the day and on several evenings.

In addition, the Goldsmith Centre hall, which can house up to 80 people seated or 120 standing, is currently available for hire on Tuesdays 7.30 to 9.00pm; on alternate Wednesdays 12.30pm to 5.00pm; and Fridays 7.00pm to 9.30pm.

For more information ring Deputy Clerk Tom Hinds on **Doncaster 788093** Monday-Friday 10.00am to 12noon.



## Report Vandalism

COUNCILLORS have condemned a recent bout of vandalism at Cusworth's Wroxham Way children's playground, which put play equipment out of action. More than £400 of knife and fire damage was caused to swing equipment when the vandal - or vandals - struck.

The police have been informed and are making regular visits to the site, particularly when they receive reports of youths drinking alcohol and generally causing a nuisance.

The good news is that at January's meeting of the parish council's Policy and General Purposes Committee, councillors agreed to replace the damaged equipment in the Spring.

● In a separate incident, over £100 of damage was caused to tarmac and a waste bin at Sprotbrough skate park. Please report anti-social problems if you see them by ringing the police on 01142 202020 or contacting the Edlington Safer Neighbourhood Team - which covers Sprotbrough and Cusworth - on Doncaster 385178.

**Don't forget that we all have to pay the cost of repairing vandalism.**

## Quarry Plans Outlined

PLANS for future mining at Cadeby quarry will be unveiled to the Parish Council Panning Committee at 7pm on Thursday 19 February - and members of the public are welcome.

Parish councillors will quiz Paul Clarke, from the Lafarge Group, who will outline his company's proposals at the Goldsmith Centre meeting.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

- **SPROTBROUGH** & Cusworth Parish Council has received a clean bill of health from auditors appointed by the Audit Commission to examine our finances for the 2007/08 year.
- **THE** parish precept - our income - for the 2009/10 year has been set at £138,318, which represents an increase of £1.05p per elector over this year. The money goes towards the cost of running parish council facilities, including the Goldsmith and Scawsby community centres and upkeep and maintenance of the four play areas and skate parks.

## RUNNERS WANTED

**THE** call has gone out for runners to sign up for this year's Sprotbrough 6.5 kilometre road race, which takes starts at 2pm on Sunday 21 June.

The popular annual event celebrates its 23rd birthday this year and as usual will be staged alongside the scouts' gala at the New Lane playing field, with all proceeds swelling the coffers of the 67th Sprotbrough group. Full details and a downloadable entry form can be viewed at [www.sprotbroughscouts.co.uk](http://www.sprotbroughscouts.co.uk) Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council are supporting the event by letting organisers have free use of the playing field.

## Inspiration on Bald Head Island

**IMAGINE** yourself sitting on a white rocking chair on the deck of a 100 years old wooden house while watching pelicans and dolphins feeding just off shore. Warm, even in November.

That's what Sprotbrough artist Terry Chipp found when he travelled to Bald Head Island, near Doncaster's twin town of Wilmington, North Carolina, USA.

Terry, who is married to Sprotbrough and Cusworth parish councillor Lynnette, had been invited to the No Boundaries International Artists' Colony for two weeks along with 17 other painters from several countries. Many visitors came to the cottages to see the artists at work and returned to see the finished works at a closing exhibition on the mainland, where Terry sold some of his artwork.

- More information about Terry's paintings and his trip to Bald Head Island can be found on his website : [www.terrychipp.co.uk](http://www.terrychipp.co.uk)



*Jack, Sarah & Daniel*

## Richmond Hill's Double

**WHIZZ-KIDS** at a Sprotbrough primary school have won a top national competition for the second year on the trot.

Jack Iveson ,7, and Daniel Jopling ,6, were selected by their teacher, Sarah Lewis, to enter an engineering challenge organised by the Primary Engineer project, which supports technology teaching in schools. The boys, who are Key Stage 1 pupils at Richmond Hill, worked together to design and build a four-wheeled vehicle that can be seen in the local environment. They created a recycling truck and called it 'Richmond Recycling'. The young boffins came first at the regional finals, held at Ridgewood School, then maintained their winning streak by taking first prize at the national finals, held at Telford, Shropshire.

Jack said, "We even got to learn all about the new 'bloodhound' project that is going to beat the world record for a land speed vehicle in 2011."

At Telford, they had to test their vehicle before being interviewed by judges. They won individual prizes and a large computer package for the school. More than 16,000 pupils around the country were involved in the challenge, with just 46 making it through to the national final. Last year, Richmond Hill pupils Jack Yates and Zachary Morris came first with their milk float design.

## EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

A **SPROTBROUGH** teenager told parish councillors about his once-in-a-lifetime trip to Nepal that turned out to be a week longer than planned.

David Lloyd, 16, was one of 24 cadets and adults from the Humberside and South Yorkshire Army Cadet Force who climbed 5,550 metres high Kala Patthar in the Nepalese Himalaya in what should have been a four week expedition.

But bad weather prevented the group from leaving the 500 metres long Lukla landing strip high in the mountain range, trapping them for an additional eight days and leaving no alternative but a three day trek to the next airfield before they could get home.

Cadet Sergeant, David, a pupil at Hallcross School, had to raise £1200 to take part in the expedition. He raised the cash through a series of sponsored events - including a painful leg-wax - and a contribution from the parish council.

"Reaching the summit of Kala Patthar took three weeks and every day we climbed the equivalent of the height of Ben Nevis. The views from the summit were absolutely incredible, said David, who recounted his experiences at a meeting of the parish council.



# NEW PLAY AREA

THIS grassed area at the back of the Goldsmith Centre will soon be transformed into a superb enclosed activity area, thanks to Government cash.

The funding has been made available to make sure the Goldsmith Centre playgroup can comply with Ofsted rules that require children to be able to play outside in a secure setting.

Contractors have now moved on to the site, which is enclosed behind metal railings, and started turning the area into a mix of tarmac and grassland, complete with a timber shelter, benches and planted areas.

The site will be wheelchair-friendly, meeting current disability access requirements and have a re-designed ramp, with safety railings, leading out of the Goldsmith Centre hall.

The playgroup meets four times a week and is one of the Centre's biggest hirers. Once complete, the new activity area will also be available to people who also hire the hall for activities like children's parties.



## Sprotbrough's New Park

THE area's newest park is a breath of fresh air to people living in Sprotbrough village.

The extension to New Lane playing field has been created from a piece of wasteland thanks to a deal between Doncaster Council and Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council, designed to benefit the local community.

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 on the adjacent Melton Road.

The cash funded the transformation of the site, including removing hundreds of self-set trees and plants, as well as paying for on-going maintenance costs.

The landscapers have now finished, leaving a magnificent open space, featuring new benches facing towards a central feature of established trees, all surrounded by grassland. Visitors can enjoy the area by using entrances at New Lane and Melton Road.

● The Friends Of New Lane Playground have started the year as they mean to go on, with fresh ideas for fund-raising and renewed enthusiasm for modernising the adjacent children's

playground. Exploring new funding opportunities and ways of making play fun and creative are just two themes which the group are considering. Staff from Groundwork (Dearne Valley), who project managed the development of the skate part for the parish council, are now advising the group. It's hoped that working partnerships will be formed to include Groundwork and the expertise they bring.

## eROW TOGETHER

DO you have a large rear garden that's getting overgrown and you're finding hard to manage? Then a small group of green-fingered local residents may be able to help. They are looking for small plots of land to grow their own vegetables on and would be willing to pay a small rent and/or share their produce in return.

If you would like to know more, ring the parish council office on Doncaster 788093.

## Bloomin' lovely

THE parish council has again supplied Spring bulbs to local schools and churches to enhance the area.

Council Chair, Coun Doreen Woodhouse, said: "The bulbs will bring a welcome splash of colour as we move towards the warmer, lighter, days. The project is also linked to the curriculum and helps local primary schools with their studies of the cultivation and development of plants."

## n Target

CRUSADERS, a successful local junior football club, have unveiled ambitious plans to establish a 'state-of-the-art' club base within the community.

The club, which has 200 members, has recently gained charter status for the way the club has developed, with assessors recognising its quality of coaching, child protection and delivery of football in the community.

More news in future editions.

## FLOWING AGAIN

A POPULAR local watering hole is back in business, thanks to Yorkshire Water and Sprotbrough Preservation Society (SPA).

Last summer, local walkers were left gasping and unable to top up their water bottles after Sprotbrough's village pump ran dry. The problem was caused by a leak on the pipe which supplies the pump from a mains point in the adjacent Old Rectory, on Boat Lane. But refreshment was soon back on tap after SPA's Secretary, Bernard Pearson, contacted Yorkshire Water to see if they could help and the utility generously agreed to repair the leak free of charge.

The pump and its Grade 2 listed stone structure were originally part of the old Copley estate. In 1987 Trevor Miller, former owner of The Old Rectory, paid the £558 cost of relocating the historic structure from its previous home, adjacent to 41 Main Street. It was rebuilt as part of The Old Rectory's boundary wall after being dismantled stone by stone, marked and reassembled by workers on a community programme.

● Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council have awarded a grant of £250 to support the voluntary work of Sprotbrough Preservation Society. The Association aims to 'preserve the environment and architectural character of Sprotbrough for the benefit of residents and visitors'. New members are always welcome - contact Bernard Pearson on 01302 857291 for more information.

# Freedom of Information Act

Information available from Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council This Publication Scheme is a guide to the information we hold. You are welcome to inspect the information by making an appointment via the Parish Council Office. To cover the cost of the administration time involved, we have to levy a charge of 50p sheet for photocopies.

Classes of information available for inspection	How it can be obtained	Cost
<b>Who we are and what we do</b>		
Who's who on the Council and its Committees	Website/Parish News	N/A
Contact details for Parish Clerk and Council members (named contacts where possible with telephone number and email address (if used))	Website/Parish News	N/A
Location of main Council office and accessibility details	Website/Parish News	N/A
Staffing structure	Hard copy via Council Office (if copied)	50p per sheet
<b>What we spend and how we spend it</b>		
Annual return form and report by auditor	Arrangements to view via Council Office	50p per sheet
Finalised budget	Arrangements to view via Council Office	50p per sheet
Precept	Arrangements to view via Council Office	50p per sheet
Borrowing Approval letter	N/A	
Financial Standing Orders and Regulations	Arrangements to view via Council Office	50p per sheet
Grants given and received	Arrangements to view via Council Office	50p per sheet
List of current contracts awarded and value of contract	Arrangements to view via Council Office	50p per sheet
Members' allowances and expenses	Arrangements to view via Council Office	50p per sheet
<b>What our priorities are and how we are doing</b>		
Parish Plan	Arrangements to view via Council Office	50p per sheet
Annual Report to Parish	Arrangements to view via Council Office	50p per sheet
<b>How we make decisions</b>		
Minutes of meetings	Website/PC notice boards/library/PC office	50p per sheet
Responses to planning applications	Contained in minutes - view as above	50p per sheet
Bye-laws	Arrangements to view via Council Office	50p per sheet
<b>Policies and procedures for the conduct of council business</b>		
Procedural standing orders	Arrangements to view via Council Office	50p per sheet
Code of Conduct(general)	Arrangements to view	50p per sheet
<b>Policies and procedures for the provision of services and about the employment of staff</b>		
Equality and diversity policy/statement )	Arrangements to view via Council Office	50p per sheet
Health and safety policy/risk assessments )		
Recruitment - current vacancies )		
Handling complaints - arrangements )		
Records management arrangements (as applicable)	Contact Council Office	50p per sheet
Data protection	Contact Council Office	
Schedule of charges for the publication of information	Contact Council Office	See attached
<b>Lists and Registers</b>		
Assets Register	Arrangements to view via Council Office	50p per sheet
Register of gifts and hospitality	Arrangements to view via Council Office	N/A
<b>The services we offer</b>		
Allotments	Contact Council Office - website	N/A
Community centres	Contact Council Office - website/Parish news	N/A
Parks, playing fields and recreational facilities	Contact Council Office - website	N/A
A summary of services for which the council is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees	Contact Council Office -website	N/A

## Schedule of charges

Type of charge	Description	Basis of charge
Disbursement cost	Photocopying @ £0.50p per sheet (black & white)	Actual cost reproduction+ staff time in preparation
	Postage	Actual cost of Royal Mail standard 2nd class
Statutory Fee		In accordance with the relevant legislation.
Other	Dependant on time required to answer enquiry	Costed on staff time taken/phone calls/ photocopying/etc.

Contact details: The Clerk to the Council,  
Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council, Goldsmith Centre, Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough, Doncaster, DN5 8BP  
Tel/Fax: (01302) 788093 • email: admin@sprotcuspc.wanadoo.co.uk

# HOW! ABOUT THIS?

A DERBY man has contacted Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish News to see if we can help him solve an 87-year-old mystery.

Dennis Salisbury is trying to find out more about this photograph, taken around 1922, which features a group of Sprotbrough scouts in Indian dress, with a banner in the background saying Boy Scouts Jamboree. On the back someone has written: 'With best wishes from the Sprotbrough Scouts. War Whoops! for Harry Birkinshaw'. Harry was Dennis's mother's uncle and the Birkinshaws lived at Lower Sprotbrough. If you can shed any light on the photo, such as where it was taken, or any of the people on it, please ring Dennis on 01332 873840 or email him at dennis826@sal51142.freerve.co.uk and let us know as well.



## Mike's mates rally round

AROUND 50 footballing pals donned their boots to take part in a very special match in honour of a well-known former Sprotbrough lad.

The players took part in a charity game to mark what would have been Mike Wilson's 21st birthday, with each paying £5 for the privilege and his younger brother, Elliott, (16) playing in his brother's old position.

Mike, a former Sprotbrough Crusaders player, died in 2004 during surgery for an undiagnosed cancer, Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

The match, and a charity race night

at Sprotbrough Country Club in the evening, raised a staggering £3,000 for Leukaemia Research, underlining Mike's popularity and how much he is missed. Dad Martyn said: "Mike's friends organised the match and race night to keep his memory alive, it was very touching. Many of the lads were at university in different parts of the country and travelled back home specially to take part." Councillors allowed the match to take place free of charge on the Newlands Park senior pitch as the parish council's contribution to Leukaemia Research and as a fitting tribute to Mike's involvement in community activities.



## APPEAL LAUNCHES

THE first of a series of events to raise the £200,000 needed to replace the roof on Sprotbrough's St Mary's Church will be launched on Saturday 21 February.

Doncaster Ladies Choir will start the proceedings at 6.45pm, followed by a four-course meal in the church hall, with the Bishop of Doncaster as main speaker. Tickets from Betty Brockman on Doncaster 852046 or Barbara Perry on Doncaster 853031. St Mary's is a Grade 1 listed medieval building. If you would like to make a donation to the appeal, any amount is welcome.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council meets on the third Thursday of each month at The Goldsmith Centre, starting at 7.30pm, with the exception of March and September when it meets at Scawsby Community Centre, Barnsley Road, Scawsby, at the same start time. No meetings are held in August. The Planning Committee meet immediately before the Parish Council, at 6.45pm.

The Finance Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month in January, March, May, July, September and November at the Goldsmith Centre at 6.45pm. The Policy, General Purposes and Local Agenda 21 Committee also meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, with the exception of August and December. Starting time 7pm or 7.30pm, if there has been a Finance Committee meeting immediately before.

## 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](http://www.sc-pc.co.uk)

## WHO'S WHO ON YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

### CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLORS

**Michael Goodwin (Conservative)**

14 Ingleborough Drive, Sprotbrough, DN5 7AD

Tel: 783275

**Paul Womack (Conservative)**

51 Clifton Drive, Sprotbrough, DN5 7NL

Tel: 785208

### CUSWORTH WARD COUNCILLORS

**Pat Haith (Labour)**

43 St Paul's Parade, Scawsby, DN5 8LJ

Tel: 562015

**Stephen Platt (Green)**

39 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JJ

Tel: 782928

**Carolyn Taylor (Conservative)**

6 Nottingham Close, Scawsby, DN5 8PH

Tel: 782522

**Brian Woodhouse (Conservative)**

159 Cusworth Lane, Cusworth, DN5 8JN

Tel: 783710

### STADIUM WARD COUNCILLORS

**Trevor Ashman (Labour)**

53 Wroxham Way, Cusworth, DN5 8JY

Tel: 785429

**Doreen Woodhouse Chairperson (Conservative)**

159 Cusworth Lane, Doncaster, DN5 8JN

Tel: 783710

### EAST WARD COUNCILLORS

**Lynnette Chipp (Green)**

250 Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 8BY

Tel: 785866

**Sheldon Ransome (Conservative)**

85 Tennyson Avenue, Sprotbrough, DN5 8EU

Tel: 785635

**Alan Smith Vice Chairperson (Conservative)**

38 Melton Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 7NJ.

Tel: 785578

**Debbie Wood (Conservative)**

23a Marlborough Avenue, Sprotbrough, DN5 8HA

Tel: 783043

**Malcolm Wood (Labour)**

119 Tennyson Avenue, Sprotbrough, DN5 8EU

Tel: 786864

### PARK WARD COUNCILLORS

**Norman Dent (Conservative)**

1 Melling Avenue, Sprotbrough, DN5 8EQ

Tel: 784218

**Kerry Wood (Conservative)**

23a Marlborough Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 8HA.

Tel: 783043.

### STONECROSS WARD COUNCILLORS

**Allan Jones (Conservative)**

38 Spring Lane, Sprotbrough, DN5 7QC

Tel: 858075

**Kim Rolt (Green)**

20 Fieldhouse Road, Sprotbrough, DN5 7RP

Tel: 850557.

### OFFICERS

**Anita Unsworth** - Clerk to the Parish Council

**Tom Hinds** - Deputy Clerk

**Ian Carpenter** - Editor and webmaster

### Sprotbrough & Cusworth Parish Council

Goldsmith Centre, 259 Sprotbrough Road, Sprotbrough,

DN5 8BP. Tel: 01302 788093 (Answerphone outside office hours)

Email: [admin@sprotcuspc.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:admin@sprotcuspc.wanadoo.co.uk)

Website: [www.sc-pc.co.uk](http://www.sc-pc.co.uk)