

Spratton Parish Council – Chairman’s Annual Report

Presented by Jane Marshall, Chair, Spratton Parish Council - 1st April 2025

Good evening and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting. As Chair of Spratton Parish Council, I am pleased to present this report, reflecting on the past year and outlining our priorities for the future.

Our Mission

The Parish Council exists to serve the residents of Spratton, ensuring that our village remains a wonderful place to live, work, and visit. Our mission is to preserve and enhance the village’s character, support community initiatives, and advocate for the best interests of our residents in all local matters.

We are pleased to have been able to award grants and provide support to various village groups, including:

- Grants to the Recreation Committee for recreation field maintenance and a contribution toward the car park barrier.
- A grant toward new windows for the Village Hall.
- Donations to the Royal British Legion and the Christmas Hampers initiative.

Moving Forward After a Challenging Period

The past year has not been without its challenges, but I am proud to say that the Parish Council has worked hard to navigate difficulties and is now in a strong position to focus on the future. We remain committed to working collaboratively for the benefit of the whole village, ensuring that Spratton continues to thrive as a vibrant and supportive community.

Engaging with the Community

We want to hear from you. The Parish Council values resident feedback and encourages you to share your thoughts on village priorities.

What matters most to you? Whether it’s road safety, green spaces, community events, or other local issues, we are here to listen and act where possible within our powers. Some of the recurring concerns raised by residents include:

- Dog fouling, potholes, road closures, and pavement conditions.

These issues are the responsibility of West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), and we will continue to work with them to achieve the best possible outcomes. For concerns such as potholes and pavement conditions, residents can report issues directly via **FixMyStreet**.

If you have any other concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out—through our meetings, the Parish Council website, or directly via the Parish Clerk.

Parish Council Elections

This year sees the election of a new Parish Council. If you are passionate about your community and want to make a difference, we encourage you to consider standing as a councillor.

Serving on the Parish Council is a great way to help shape Spratton's future and ensure that local voices are heard in decision-making. **Nominations for the election on 1st May close tomorrow at 4pm.**

Key Focus Areas

Looking ahead, the Parish Council will focus on the following priorities:

1. Infrastructure and Environment

- Working with WNC on road safety, traffic concerns, and the upkeep of public spaces.

2. Community Facilities

- Supporting the transition of the Sports and Social Club into the new **Spratton Community Club Ltd CIC**.
- Collaborating with community groups to ensure their continued contribution to village life.

3. Planning and Development

- Carefully reviewing planning applications to ensure that any proposed changes benefit the village and maintain its unique character.

4. Financial Responsibility

- Managing public funds prudently.
- Exploring grant opportunities.
- Investing in projects that enhance village life.

5. Resident Engagement

- Improving communication with residents, clubs, and organisations.

- Increasing transparency in our decision-making process.

Looking Ahead

The Parish Council is excited for the future and is dedicated to working for the benefit of everyone in Spratton. We are here to represent you, and your input is invaluable in shaping the direction of our village.

Let's work together to build a thriving, welcoming, and sustainable community for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support—I look forward to hearing your views and working alongside you in the year ahead.

Jane Marshall
Chair, Spratton Parish Council