

Spelthorne Borough Council
Spring Bulletin
Issue no. 112

Letter from the Leader

Dear residents,

I am honoured and privileged to be entrusted with the position of new Leader of the Council. For those of you who don't know me; I was elected as a ward councillor for Sunbury East in May 2013, having served as Chairman of my local Conservative branch for three years. I am married with two sons and have lived in Lower Sunbury for 18 years. I am a keen photographer and enjoy skiing and travelling.

I would not have put myself forward as Leader unless I was confident that I could give my full commitment and best efforts to the job in hand and drive forward the important and challenging decisions that need to be taken to protect the services the people of this Borough value, deserve and rely upon.

The task is challenging and not to be underestimated. Given the much mooted reduction in future funding it is vital that we generate significant additional income and savings. My vision is to transform the way we deliver services by introducing a more business-like approach to assets and maximising income generation.

I am determined to get some of the important projects, whose ultimate objective is to protect services, back on track. We have many important tasks and I am keen to focus on three main priorities: to protect the financial stability and sustainability of the Council; to improve the provision of affordable and emergency accommodation, whilst reducing the cost of this; and to promote economic development – Spelthorne was recently rated the best place to start a business in the UK.

I am confident that by working together, councillors, management and staff will successfully rise to meet these challenges in order to provide the very best for the residents and businesses of this fantastic Borough. Spelthorne truly is a great place to live, work and run a business.

Cllr Ian Harvey, Council Leader.
email cllr.harvey@spelthorne.gov.uk

Letter from the Mayor

Dear residents,

I'm sad to say this is my final letter as Mayor and in May it will be time for me hand over the reins.

It's been a fantastic year and I am so proud to have had the opportunity to be Mayor of such a remarkable Borough. My wife Catherine and I visited many

charities, schools, businesses and community groups during the year and we would like to thank them all for making us feel so welcome.

I was fortunate to attend lots of special events and engagements during the year and was glad to have the chance to meet many of you. I was pleased to see such a large turn-out for the Magna Carta celebrations in June 2015, they were tremendous fun and reminded us of our wonderful rich heritage.

I was also very honoured to have the opportunity last September to meet some Second World War veterans and sail as part of a flotilla of little ships which were involved in the historic evacuation at Dunkirk.

I'm delighted to have been able to help raise money for my chosen charities - the Samaritans, the Well and the Fordbridge Centre. They are all amazing organisations and I hope the funds raised help them to continue their excellent work.

I must end by thanking Deputy Mayor, Cllr Alfred Friday and his wife Kaye, who attended many events on my behalf, and my wife Catherine for her tireless support throughout the year.

It has been an absolute privilege to represent Spelthorne and I wish you all the best for the future.

Cllr Mark Francis, Mayor of Spelthorne.
email mayor@spelthorne.gov.uk or call **01784 446275**.

Mayor's Charity Ball

Saturday 9 April 2016, 6.15pm at the Runnymede-on-Thames Hotel, Egham, TW20 0AG. Tickets cost £60 per person (or a table of 10 for £550) - this includes a welcome drink, three course dinner, Master of Ceremonies - Ian Cullen (ZCars and Dr Who fame), Nigel Mead - Magician, live entertainment, dancing, raffle and auction. Dress code: black tie. Carriages at 12.30am.

All proceeds raised will go the Mayor's chosen charities: North West Surrey Samaritans, The Well and The Fordbridge Centre.

To book your place please contact the Mayor's Office on **01784 446275** or email mayor@spelthorne.gov.uk

Thank you to our sponsors: Headline: Timeless IT Business Limited.
A Pain in the Grass, A-Plan Insurance Limited, A2Dominion, Lotus Landscapes.

Riverside apartments proposed for Staines-upon-Thames

Bellway Homes submitted a planning application in early January for the redevelopment of the Council car park in Bridge Street in Staines-upon-Thames. The proposal is to build 205 homes (a mix of one, two and three bed apartments) and a restaurant with a glass frontage and panoramic views of the River.

The application also includes a gym for residents, 140 parking spaces and a pedestrian walkway with seating and landscaping which forms part of a larger area of public open space running through the site and down to the River. The apartments will have their own communal garden square.

Consultation letters were sent to local residents in January and, at the time of going to print, the planning application was due to be considered at the March Planning Committee. The outcome of that meeting will appear on the Council's website and in future editions of the Bulletin.

For more details visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/bridgestreet or call Heather Morgan on **01784 446352**.

Staines Moor: a haven for bird wildlife

Staines Moor is a large area of unspoilt flood-meadow situated at the southern end of the Colne Valley. The area, which covers some 500 hectares, has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to its rare floral species and importance for resident and migrant birds.

The Moor is very popular with birdwatchers and many species of rare and threatened birds including Skylarks, Lapwings, Redshanks, Cuckoos, Song Thrushes and Linnets can be seen there. During the winter, wildfowl from the reservoirs such as Tufted Ducks, Pochards, Goosanders and Shovelers feed on the Moor.

Birds to look out for:

Resident birds: Little Egret, Kingfisher, Red Kite, Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Green Woodpecker, Reed Bunting, Linnet, Cetti's Warbler, Little Owl

Rare birds: Brown Shrike, Black Stork, Barred Warbler, Hen Harrier, Great Grey Shrike

Migrating birds

Summer: Redshank, Lapwing, Cuckoo, Common Tern, Sedge Warbler, Common Whitethroat

Winter: Water Pipit, Short-eared Owl, Stonechat, Redwing, Little Grebe, Grey Wagtail

Spring and autumn: Wheatear, Whinchat, Yellow Wagtail, Ring Ouzel

Visitors can walk anywhere on the Moor but during the ground nesting season which is 1 March – 31 July, dogs should be kept on a lead (no longer than 2m) and away from the key nesting zones (shown right).

For more information email customer.services@spelthorne.gov.uk or call **01784 451499**.

P&G Surrey Youth Games 2016

Are you aged 7-16 and interested in trying a new sport? Then sign up for the Team Spelthorne P&G Surrey Youth Games training sessions.

The P&G Surrey Youth Games, sponsored by Procter & Gamble, is the largest annual youth sports festival in Surrey. The aim of the Games is to provide opportunities for young people to try new sports. Over 2000 young people, aged 7 to 16, will experience a competitive countywide sporting event when they take part in the Games on **Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 June 2016**.

In preparation for the competition weekend, Spelthorne Council is holding between four and eight weeks of coaching for each sport, which will begin in April/May. The training sessions are free and offer a fantastic opportunity to try a new sport or improve on existing skills. At last year's Games, Spelthorne coached 540 children, entered 29 teams and won 10 medals.

There are a wide variety of sports on offer, including badminton, boccia (disability), boxing, girls' cricket, girls' football, hockey, judo, lacrosse, netball, squash, swimming, table tennis, girls' touchrugby, tennis and touch tennis. All sessions will be led by qualified coaches and, from the coaching sessions, teams will be chosen to compete in the Games at Surrey Sports Park in Guildford.

To be eligible for Team Spelthorne you must either live or go to school in Spelthorne and if you already play a sport, you must be below county standard.

Full details of coaching sessions, age ranges and eligibility can be found on the website. You must register in advance of the sessions at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/surreyyouthgames For more information email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call Leisure Services on **01784 446433**.

Book your free NHS health check

Spelthorne Leisure Centre has been appointed to offer NHS health checks which aim to help prevent conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, stroke and kidney disease. The checks are available to residents aged 40-74 who haven't had one in the past five years and don't have any pre-existing medical conditions.

For more information or to book your free health check visit www.everyoneactive.com/free-nhshealth-check-spelthorne/ or call the Leisure Centre on **01784 493493**.

Sing Spelthorne

Do you enjoy singing? Want to make new friends? The Sing Spelthorne community choir is looking for new members. They meet once a week from 7–9pm on Thursday evenings in Ashford and sing a wide variety of songs. Membership costs £3 per session, paid termly with one week's free trial.

For more information or to book a place, email leisure.services@spelthorne.gov.uk, call **01784 446433** or find them on Facebook (search: Sing Spelthorne Choir).

Spelthorne parks tennis league

A new Spelthorne parks tennis league is being set up to give local players the opportunity to come together and enjoy friendly, competitive tennis on nearby courts. The first round starts in April and is open to anyone aged over 18. The flexible format of the league allows players to arrange their own matches at times to suit.

For more information or to join the league please visit www.localtennisleagues.com/spelthorne

Staines 10k

The Staines 10K road race is being held at 9am on Sunday 15 May. Organised by Staines Strollers and Runnymede Runners with support from Spelthorne Council, the race starts and finishes outside the Council offices in Knowle Green.

Entries for the race are now closed but please come along and support the runners. Further information is available at www.staines10k.co.uk

Art mailing list

Sign up to receive free emails with news, advice and opportunities for arts activities in Surrey by emailing Catherine Learmonth at Spelthorne Council at **c.learmonth@spelthorne.gov.uk**

Get Active 50+

Get Active 50+ is a new project offering opportunities for adults aged 50 and over to become more active.

Sports on offer include rowing, badminton, jogging, swimming, walking football, golf, dance/yoga/pilates, multi-sport (disability sport), bowls and touch tennis.

Visit **www.spelthorne.gov.uk/getactive50** for more information, email **leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk** or call **017 84 4464 33**.

Tennis at Fordbridge Park

Following a consultation last year, the Council has agreed to lease the tennis courts and adjacent land in Fordbridge Park in Ashford to Community Tennis Limited to provide a tennis centre.

Community Tennis Limited is the parent company of Tennis Focus Academy which has been running a tennis coaching programme at Fordbridge Park since April 2014. The new facility will offer an expansion of the current programme and a pavilion and flood lighting are also being added to the site.

There will be a charge to use the courts but a number of free hours will be made available each week for community use. More information about this will be published soon on the Council's website.

For details email **leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk** or call **01784 446433**.

Stanwell gets new skate park

A new skate park has opened in Long Lane Recreation Ground in Stanwell which has a variety of ramps and slopes designed for BMXs, skateboards and scooters.

The new park was installed after young people requested a skate facility and worked with the local Police and youth officers from Spelthorne Borough Council and Surrey County Council to raise funding.

Funding totalling £50K was received from Surrey County Council's Community Improvement Fund, the Heathrow Community Fund and County Councillor, Robert Evans. Spelthorne Borough Council also provided funding and managed the project.

email leisure.services@spelthorne.gov.uk for details or call **01784 446 433**.

New playground

A natural play area was recently installed in Orchard Meadow in Sunbury-on-Thames. Designed for children under 11, it includes climbing logs, play boulders and a balance structure which fit in with the natural surroundings.

Spelthorne Council received external funding for the project from Surrey County Council's Community Improvement Fund and Fields in Trust. Thanks to both agencies for their contributions.

For more details email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call **01784 46433**.

Picture perfect pavillion

The pavilion at Kenyngton Manor Recreation Ground in Sunbury-on-Thames is now home to Colne Valley Girls and Ladies Football Club after undergoing a complete refurbishment. A grant of nearly £8 0,000 was awarded to Spelthorne Council by the Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund to pay for the addition of a new roof, club room and refurbishment of the changing and kitchen areas.

email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk for more details or call **0178 4 4 4 6433**.

Cycling for Health

The Spelthorne Cycling for Health scheme runs organised rides (between 7-12 miles) each fortnight starting in the Borough and riding through surrounding areas. Rides take place during the week and are aimed at adults who are getting back into cycling.

The rides are free and meeting points are often close to a coffee shop where riders can stop for a drink and a chat.

Go TRI Spelthorne

GO TRI is a fun way to access triathlon for the first time. Shepperton Open Water Swim will be hosting beginner events which will consist of a 200m swim, 7k cycle and 3k run on the following Monday evenings - 6 June, 4 July, 1 August and 5 September. Registration is at 6pm, ready for a 6.30pm start.

Each event costs £7 which includes wetsuit hire. For more information or to register, email info@sheppertonopenwaterswim.co.uk, call **07531 74 513 3** or please visit: www.sheppertonopenwaterswim.co.uk

Don't throw them away

Textiles (any condition)

Please include:

- clothing, shoes and slippers (in pairs)
- blankets and towels
- curtains and bedsheets
- cushions and soft toys

Please do not include:

- pillows and duvets
- rugs and carpets
- items with paint or oil on

Small electricals (excluding batteries)

Please include:

- toasters, kettles and irons
- hairdryers, clocks and lamps
- mobile phones, laptops and radios
- remote controls, cameras and torches

Please do not include:

- TVs
- microwaves
- fridges or freezers

Collections

- please put your textiles and small electricals in separate tied carrier bags or clear plastic sacks, we cannot accept textiles and small electrical items if they are in the same bag
- your collection will be on the same day as your rubbish/recycling, but at a different time. Please leave your
- bags of textiles and small electricals out all day, from 6am
- clear plastic sacks are available from the Council Offices or Community Centres (you can have up to five per visit)

Type your postcode into <http://my.spelthorne.gov.uk> to check the day of your textiles and small electrical collections or call Customer Services on **01784 451499**. Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/kerbsidecollections for a list of the items you can include.

What can go in your recycling bin

Your light green bin is for recycling. After collecting your recycling we take it to a local sorting facility. It is then sent to be made into new products.

Keep items loose, not in plastic bags/bin liners.

Glass

- bottles and jars, any colour

Plastics

- pots eg yoghurt, coleslaw and pasta sauce
- tubs eg margarine, butter and ice cream
- trays eg ready meals and meat products (chicken, chops, mince)
- bottles eg milk, water, fizzy, squash, cleaning products, toiletries

Paper and cardboard

- newspaper/magazines/junk mail
- shredded paper
- envelopes
- cardboard

Cans and tins

- food and drink cans/tins (rinsed and as clean as possible)

No thanks

- plastic bags
- food
- clothes and shoes
- polystyrene
- garden waste
- nappies

For further information on recycling please visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/recycling or call **01784 451499**.

Recycling bags

We have a stock of free recycling storage bags. These are lightweight and sturdy reusable bags which you can keep indoors to collect your recycling so you can take items to your outside bin easily.

One free bag is available per household from the Council Offices in Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 1XB.

Garden waste

Join the garden waste collection scheme. For details please visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/gwform or call **01784 45149 9**.

The Spelthorne Business Plan Competition 2016

Many people have a great business idea but few go on to make it happen. The Spelthorne Business Plan Competition could help you do exactly that.

Budding entrepreneurs are being asked to think of a business idea and complete an online entry form for a chance to win £3,500 plus mentoring support and free website and logo design.

The five best entries will be asked to present their business plan to a panel of expert judges at a Dragons' Den style final hosted at BP on 26 May.

The competition is open to Spelthorne residents aged over 16*. Entries are welcome from individuals or teams of up to four people. To enter or for more details visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/businesscomp or search 'Spelthorne Business Plan Competition 2016' on Facebook. Applications must be received by **21 April**.

For more details, please email Michael Craig at michael.craig@parliament.uk *as at 31 August 2016.

New laws for dog owners

New legislation is coming into effect from 6 April which means that all dog owners will be required to have their pets microchipped.

We will publish more details on our website as they become available.

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections: Thursday 5 May

What are the elections for?

On Thursday 5 May, electors across Spelthorne will be asked to choose the next Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Surrey. Elections are held every four years with the last PCC election held in November 2012. There will be elections in 41 police force areas across England and Wales.

What does the Police and Crime Commissioner do?

The PCC is responsible for holding the Chief Constable and Surrey Police to account on the public's behalf. The PCC oversees the work of Surrey Police, helping to tackle the issues that are important to Surrey residents and aims to ensure Surrey Police is providing a good service.

Am I registered to vote?

You must be on the Electoral Register to vote. Register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. The deadline for registering to vote in these elections is 18 April.

For more information, please email electoral.services@spelthorne.gov.uk or call **01784 444218**.

EU Referendum: 23 June 2015

Make sure you can vote in the EU referendum on Thursday 23 June.

To check if you are registered to vote, email electoral.services@spelthorne.gov.uk or call **01784 444218**. If you are not registered to vote, go online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Register as soon as possible as you may be required to provide further information in order to complete your registration. The last day to register to vote in the EU Referendum is 7 June 2016.

If you will be away on 23 June 2016, you can apply to vote by post or you can appoint a proxy. Postal vote applications forms must be received by 5pm on 8 June 2016 and proxy applications must be received by 5pm on 15 June 2016.

For further information please email electoral.services@spelthorne.gov.uk or call **01784 444218**.

Report it!

If you come across a problem, please tell us about it. Everyone has a role to play in making sure our streets are clean and clear of unsightly and hazardous litter. We can't do it without you.

What should I report?

The Council can help when the following types of problem occur on public land. Issues affecting private land should be reported to the relevant owner.

Abandoned vehicles

An abandoned vehicle is a vehicle that has no known owner, which has been dumped. If a vehicle is found to be abandoned, we affix a notice for it to be removed, either a 24 hour or one week notice, depending on the condition of the vehicle and its location. One indication of whether a vehicle is abandoned is

whether it has current road tax. This can be checked by anyone at www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax

Dog fouling

Failure to clean up after a dog is a criminal offence and owners can be fined and even prosecuted in court. If you are aware of specific individuals who allow their dog to foul, please report it.

Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste onto land that does not have an environmental permit. It includes, but is not limited to, general household waste, white goods, mattresses, garden refuse, and commercial waste such as builders' rubble, clinical waste and tyres.

We clear up waste which has been dumped on public land and try to establish ownership of the waste with a view to taking legal action.

We all have a duty of care over our waste, even after it has left our home or premises. If you or your business pay someone to remove your waste - a man-with-a-van, builders, gardeners or other tradespeople - ask to see their waste carrier's licence and make sure you know where your waste will go.

Fly posting

Fly posting includes posters, banners and leaflets put up without permission. If you see someone fly posting, call Streetscene or complete the online form (details below).

Graffiti

We are responsible for removing graffiti from public buildings which face the highway, street furniture and public areas. We aim to remove offensive graffiti on the day it is reported.

Dead animals

We remove dead animals (including cats, dogs, badgers and deer) from most roads and council-owned land. Dead animals are collected as soon as possible following a report.

If a dead animal is causing an obstruction on a road and you think it may cause an accident, please report it to Surrey County Council by calling **0300 200 1003**.

Litter bins

There are more than 450 public litter bins in Spelthorne. Depending on the location they are emptied either every day or once a week. To report a damaged or overflowing litter bin contact Streetscene (details below).

How do I report problems?

Spelthorne website: www.spelthorne.gov.uk/report

Spelthorne app: www.spelthorne.gov.uk/spelthorneapp
Phone: **01784 446411**
email: streetscene@spelthorne.gov.uk
online form: www.spelthorne.gov.uk/report

Save the date ...

Ashford on the Map Summer Fun Day: Sunday 5 June

This year's Ashford on the Map Summer Fun Day is being held from 11am - 5pm on Sunday 5 June. This is a great day out for all the family and features over 120 stalls, dance and music displays, fairground and pony rides and refreshment stalls. The event is being held in the grounds of Brooklands College (Ashford campus) in Church Road and everyone is welcome to come along.

Entry for adults costs £1 which includes a 'lucky programme' - under 16s are free. Funds raised by the Ashford on the Map Committee have helped fund many community local improvements including the Christmas lights in Church Road and flower displays in the town centre.

If you wish to get involved in organising this event or want your organisation to be represented at the Summer Fun Day please contact Pat Amos on **01460 929396** or Barry Muggerridge on **07759 619884**. Visit www.ashfordonthemap.org.uk for more details.

Shepperton Village Fair 2016: Saturday 11 June

Since 1973, Shepperton Village Fair has been a major annual family event attracting thousands of visitors and this year's event is being held on Saturday 11 June. Held close to the Thames on Manor Park, the Fair kicks off with a large procession through the High Street, followed by spectacular arena displays, fairground rides, stalls, competitions, a circus workshop, petting farm and climbing wall.

The procession begins at 11.15am near Shepperton Rail Station and the theme this year is 'colourful carnival'. It's the year of the Rio Games, so let's get in the mood. The Fair runs from 12 noon to 5pm and entry is free.

The Fair is organised by Shepperton volunteers and supported by local charities, organisations and businesses. For more details visit www.shepperton-fair.org or email enquiries@shepperton-fair.org

Staines-upon-Thames Day: Sunday 26 June

Sunday 26 June will see the return of the ever-popular Staines-upon-Thames Day. Held in Memorial Gardens, the Market Square and the High Street, there will be an abundance of events and activities for all ages to enjoy.

From 11am until 5pm, the day will be filled with live music on the main stage; demonstrations, routines and live acts in the performance arena; boat rides, donkey rides and fairground rides; vintage car display, dragon boat and duck racing; kayaking and canoeing taster sessions; craft and community stalls; as well as a variety of food and refreshments on offer.

Sponsored by local businesses and supported by Spelthorne Council, Staines-upon-Thames Day is a great day out, showcasing some of the best talent the Borough has to offer. Visit www.stainesuponthamesday.co.uk to find out what's on throughout the day. Local bands and musicians craft, sport and community groups and caterers wishing to get involved can visit the website or email admin@stainesuponthamesday.co.uk

Are you cybersafe?

For most of us the internet has become an essential tool in everyday life but make sure you follow some basic rules to keep yourself safe online. Here are some top tips:

Do

- ✓ use strong, memorable passwords
- ✓ install anti-virus software on new devices
- ✓ check privacy settings on social media
- ✓ shop safely online – always check online retail sites are secure
- ✓ download software and application patches when prompted
- ✓ set up spam filters on your email account

Don't

- X give your full PIN or full password to anyone
- X reply to emails or phone calls asking for personal or security information
- X open or forward emails which may be spam
- X open attachments, click on links or respond to emails from unknown sources
- X make purchases or charity donations in response to spam email

For more online advice including tips about social networking, online dating and protecting your family, visit www.surrey.police.uk/Keeping-Safe/Protecting-you-and-your-family/Staying-safe-online or call **01483 571212**.

Sale of Ashford car park

After Lidl UK withdrew their bid to purchase the multi-storey car park in Ashford, the Council has been speaking with other potential buyers and is still

planning to sell the site. A number of options are being considered and the Council is aware that many residents are keen to retain some parking facilities on, or near, the site.

We will keep residents updated on the progress of the project in the Bulletin and on our website.

Look for the sticker

Food Hygiene Rating Scheme can help you avoid any nasty surprises.

After an inspection by Environmental Health Officers, food businesses are given a rating ranging from 0 (urgent improvement necessary) to 5 (very good).

Businesses should display their rating sticker in a visible place such as in their window but if you can't see it, you can ask the staff, or check it online at

<http://ratings.food.gov.uk/>

For more details about the scheme please visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/foodhygiene or call the Council's Environmental Health team on **01784 446291**.

Spring energy check

Spring is the perfect time to review the energy use in your home. Here are some top tips from Action Surrey:

- check your cavity walls are filled and that you have enough loft insulation (270mm is recommended)
- ensure your boiler is serviced and consider replacing it if it's more than ten years old
- consider switching energy suppliers. Energy bills are the number one worry for consumers but there are considerable savings to be made by changing to a new deal. Visit www.actionsurrey.org/switch
- once you've done the things listed above, you may like to think about renewable energy. Ofgem has estimated that electricity prices will rise by 20% by 2020 so it could be a good time to invest in solar panels
- solar panels generate a tax free income for 20 years through the feed in tariff (FIT) and can generate electricity even on a cloudy day. They generally cost around £4,000-£6,000

Action Surrey can help with contacting trusted installers and funding for insulation and boilers (subject to eligibility/availability). For more details contact Action Surrey by email at info@actionsurrey.org call **0800 783 2503** or visit www.actionsurrey.org

Don't stop his family having a home

Spelthorne cracks down on tenancy fraud

Spelthorne and other councils in Surrey are cracking down on social housing tenancy fraudsters who are preventing families from moving into permanent homes and a campaign was launched at the end of last year to raise awareness of the problem.

Tenancy fraud comes in many forms and includes sub-letting a social housing property, leaving a social housing property empty, passing a social housing property to a relative or friend and providing false information on a housing application.

Spelthorne Council has already identified tenancy fraud amounting to £90,000 but more information is needed to help recover properties. Residents are asked to report any suspicions they may have to the Council's confidential hotline on **01784 444290** or via email at **investigations@spelthorne.gov.uk**

Free boccia

The Greeno Centre in Shepperton is holding a free boccia session at 4pm on Wednesday 6 April.

Boccia is a disability sport, similar to bowls and petanque. The aim of the game is to propel leather balls close to a white target ball (the jack). It is played from a seated position and the ball can be moved with players' hands, feet or an assistive device such as a head or hand pointer.

For more details call the Greeno Centre on 01932 246173.

Open day at Sunbury Bowls Club

Sunbury Bowls Club is a friendly club located in lovely surroundings at the cricket ground on Lower Hampton Road in Sunbury-on-Thames.

The Club welcomes new and experienced bowlers and is holding an open day on Saturday 23 April between 11am and 3pm. Come along and see if you may be interested in joining. Free coaching is available by arrangement.

For more details call Dave Chatterton on **01932 783092** or James Whelan on **01932 784311**.

Sunbury Park: cattle grazing trial

Spelthorne Council undertook an eight-week cattle grazing trial in Sunbury Park last autumn with the aim of reducing dominant grasses and encouraging a greater diversity of wildflowers.

The trial worked well and feedback received afterwards indicated that the majority of local people would favour a return of the cattle.

In light of the positive results, the Council has decided to introduce another small herd of cattle from April 2016, for approximately 12 weeks. The Council also plans to improve the entrance gates by Green Street car park to ease access for mobility scooters and push chairs.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to give their views.

For more details please email customer.service@spelthorne.gov.uk or call **01784 451499**.

Fancy volunteering?

To find out what opportunities are available, come along to one of the VAIS (Voluntary Action in Spelthorne) drop-in sessions which are held throughout Spelthorne, six days a week. Employees of local businesses are often keen to offer their support for projects which help their community. VAIS matches and sets up projects with the group in need.

For more information, email VAIS at info@vais.org.uk or call **01784 465536**.

Come and see our Community Centres

We have four Community Centres in Spelthorne which provide a warm and welcoming environment for older people and the wider community. The centres offer a range of opportunities to meet people and keep fit. They also serve hot and cold food and organise regular trips and outings. Membership costs £15 a year for Spelthorne residents and £22 for people outside the Borough.

The Greeno Centre in Shepperton and Fordbridge Centre in Ashford are holding open days on the weekend of 2/3 April to give you the opportunity to have a look round and see some of the activities or have a meal. On both days, we will be giving vouchers which offer new customers discounts on activities.

Greeno Centre, Shepperton - open weekend

Saturday 2 April 10am - 2pm

We will be running cookery and cake decorating demonstrations as well as tours of the Greeno Shed where you can take part in a welding workshop. Full English breakfast is available from 10.30am for £3.50 and includes sausages, bacon, hash browns, mushrooms, baked beans and fried bread or toast. Hairdressing will also be available - see discount voucher below.

Sunday 3 April

We will be serving a roast chicken dinner with all the trimmings (see menu), followed by Bingo. The cost is £5, please call **01932 246173** to book. Hairdressing is also available.

Menu - Sunday 3 April

Roast chicken, roast potatoes, Yorkshire puddings, peas, carrots and sprouts

Trifle

A glass of wine is included

£5

(Call 01932 246173 to book)

Fordbridge Centre, Ashford - open weekend

Saturday 2 April 10am - 2pm

We are holding a number of demonstrations and skills workshops covering a range of interests including crochet, knitting, bridge, watercolour painting, CV writing skills, computing and mobile phone skills. There will also be the opportunity to talk to organisations which support older people and carers.

Hearing aid repairs/cleaning will be available (NHS models only) and the mobile clothes shop will be visiting. Free coffee, tea and biscuits. Hairdressing is also available - please see discount voucher below.

Sunday 3 April

We will be serving a three course lunch at 12.30pm (see menu), followed by Bingo. The cost is £5, please call **01784 243880** to book.

Menu - Sunday 3 April

Carrot and coriander soup with bread **or** Brussels pate

Roast breast of turkey with all the trimmings **or** Stilton and mushroom wellington

Black forest gateau **or** Cheese and biscuits

A glass of wine is included but you can bring your own drinks

£5

(call 01784 243880 to book)

Hairdressing discount voucher

Valid on Saturday 2 April at Greeno and Fordbridge Centres, for new customers only

Trim: £2.50 (usually £7.50)

Shampoo and set: £2.50 (usually £7.50)

Perm: £29 (usually £34)

Please book in advance by calling **01784 243880** (Fordbridge Centre) or **01932 246173** (Greeno Centre) and bring the voucher with you.