

Spelthorne Borough Council
Spring Bulletin 2020

Letter from the Leader

Dear Residents,

As you may already be aware, we are working hard to deliver hundreds of new homes for residents in the Borough over the coming years and have set-up our own housing company 'Knowle Green Estates' to manage these new properties on our behalf. You can find out more about the work of Knowle Green Estates and the progress of our current housing projects on page 17.

If you haven't already done so, there is still time for you to take part in our leisure centre consultation. We are proposing to build a brand new state-of-the-art facility in Knowle Green and would like your feedback regarding the location, design and services. There's more on this on page 22.

Local businesses are the lifeblood of our Borough and I am looking forward to recognising their achievements at this year's Spelthorne Means Business Awards. We have award categories to suit all businesses - large or small - so if you are proud of your company's achievements, let us know! The deadline for entries is 31 August.

You may have read in the press that the Council recently purchased the Elmsleigh Centre in Staines. We have owned the freehold since 1980 but buying back the leasehold will give us more control over how the Centre develops in the future and the opportunity to introduce more leisure and community facilities.

We have some fantastic events planned for the VE Day celebrations from 8 - 10 May and I hope you can join us.

Cllr Ian Harvey, Leader of the Council

Farewell from the Mayor

Sadly for me, as you read this, my wonderful mayoral year will be in its final quarter. This role has been an absolute honour and privilege for me and I am so grateful to all the organisations, faith groups, charities and clubs that have invited me to spend time with them.

Over the year, I have spent time in every town and village across the Borough, plus quite a lot of time on our lovely stretch of the Thames. Spelthorne is a truly wonderful Borough with many volunteers and groups working hard to improve the lives of residents and I want to thank them all so much for the good work they do.

My Mayoral Ball is on Saturday 25 April at the Runnymede Hotel and everyone is welcome. This will be my final fund raising event and your support would be greatly appreciated. You can book tickets by contacting my office or visiting spelthorne.bookinglive.com/home/mayoral-events

My thanks go to my predecessor, Jean Pinkerton, who kindly 'showed me the ropes' during a most enjoyable year as her Deputy; and to my own Deputy, Cllr Colin Barnard and his wife Barbara, who have helped ensure a mayoral presence at virtually all our invitations. Also to my consort, Andrew Hopgood, who has accompanied me to so many events and given great support throughout the year, and my pastor, the Reverend Andy Saville of All Saints Church in Laleham.

Finally, thank you to my Secretary, Sheila Kimpton, who has kept me on track, organised my diary and basically run my 'mayoral life' for the past year! She has been wonderful to work with and a truly efficient ally.

I am very much looking forward to May when I will be able to present my two main charities with the results of all our fund raising efforts. Midas Plus and Eikon do such good work in our community, helping vulnerable residents and young people to improve their lives, and I'm very pleased to have been able to support them.

I look forward to meeting and supporting even more of you during my final months. It has been a great year and my gratitude goes to all those involved. Thank you.

Cllr Mary Madams, Mayor of Spelthorne

Contact the Mayor's office by email mayor@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446275.

Who do I contact?

In Surrey we have a two-tier local government system which means that some services are looked after by the borough council (Spelthorne Council) and some are the responsibility of Surrey County Council. This list may help you decide who to contact about a particular topic.

Spelthorne Borough Council	Surrey County Council
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Planning and building control Housing and housing benefits Council Tax Rubbish and recycling Parks Environmental health and food safety Car parks Elections Fly tipping Licensing Community Centres Meals on Wheels Leisure Centres Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk Call 01784 451499	Roads Pavements Potholes Footpaths Bus passes Disabled parking badges Education Social services Libraries Birth/death/marriage registration Street lighting Trading standards Fire and rescue Visit www.surreycc.gov.uk Call 03456 009 009
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A few words about food waste

In recent months we have been doing a lot of work to promote food waste recycling in the Borough, particularly rolling out the service to blocks of flats where it was previously unavailable.

Over 91 communal food waste bins have been delivered since October last year and we are seeing more and more people starting to recycle their leftovers. We have also been out-and-about in the Borough talking with residents about our waste services and held a roadshow just before Christmas in Staines town centre to promote food waste collections. From the conversations we had with shoppers, two questions were asked more than any others:

Where can I get a food waste bin?

If you live in a house (or any property where you have your own bins) you will need two food waste bins – a small grey caddy to keep in your kitchen to collect your leftover food, and a larger green kerbside food bin with a locking lid. We provide both of these bins free of charge. You can pick them up from either the reception at the Council Offices in Knowle Green or the Council depot on the Kingston Road in Ashford (TW15 3SE). Food waste is collected weekly so make sure you put your green kerbside food waste bin out with either your rubbish or recycling on your collection day.

If you live in a block of flats, or have a bin store with communal bins, you will still need a small grey caddy for indoors and a blue communal food waste wheelie bin. If you don't have a food waste collection at your block of flats, please get in touch. We provide all the bins for free and also give you information on what you can recycle.

What should I use to line my food waste caddy?

To help keep your food caddy clean, we recommend lining your caddy before you start collecting your food waste. The best thing to use is a plastic bag - any kind is fine apart from black bin liners. We ask you to use plastic bags because they keep everything contained, don't leak and can be tied up when the caddy is full. The bags all get removed by a machine at the food waste processing plant and are used to generate electricity.

The best bags to use are the ones you already have at home – bread bags, salad bags or old carrier bags. Alternatively you can buy rolls of pedal bin liners which are inexpensive and tend to have drawstring closures so they can be easily tied up when the bag is full.

For more information email neighbourhoodservices@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446411. Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/foodwaste

A reminder about garden waste

With spring in the air (or just around the corner) our thoughts turn to our gardens. This year why not subscribe to our garden waste collection service?

It's easy, hassle free and makes disposing of your garden waste a doddle. There is an annual charge of £57 for fortnightly collections between April 2020 - March 2021 and a one-off payment of £25 for the garden waste bin. We will recycle all your grass cuttings, prunings and plant waste into compost at a local facility in Trumps Green.

For more information visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Remembering the fallen

The Council has fulfilled its commitment to plant a tree in memory of every local soldier killed during the First World War. The commitment was made in 2018 as part of the centenary commemoration events, with the first 100 trees being planted at the Centenary Wood by Laleham Park. Since then, the planting has continued and all 851 trees - one for every soldier lost - have now been planted as a tribute to the fallen.

Life in cold blood: Amphibians and reptiles

As this Bulletin is being compiled, many of our cold-blooded friends are coming out of hibernation, on the search to mate and recover following their winter slumber.

Unlike warm-blooded animals (mammals and birds) which can regulate their core temperature through insulation and feeding; amphibians and reptiles are affected by their local climate. Their body temperatures are governed by the surrounding air and water temperatures and certain species may be observed basking to increase

their temperature. Thanks to its aquatic habitats, Spelthorne provides an ideal home for amphibians and reptiles. Ponds, wet margins and rivers are ideal locations to spot these species but please do so respectfully – Shortwood Common, Studios Walk and Splash Meadow offer some chance encounters.

Common Frog (*rana temporaria*)

The Common Frog is a familiar species across the UK, found in a wide variety of water bodies. Colours vary from olive green to brown, with adults reaching up to 10cm in size. Spawning takes place as early as January in the south of England, females can lay up to 4,000 eggs!

Smooth Newt (*lissotriton vulgaris*)

The Smooth Newt is our most widespread newt species (also known as the common newt) which can be found in garden ponds. Typically brown in colour with a size up to 11cm, the spotted pattern under the throat differentiates this from similar species. Males develop a crested tail during the mating season.

Grass Snake (*natrix helvetica*)

The Grass Snake is the largest of the three snakes native to the UK (up to 160cm). Non-venomous and very secretive, a chance encounter is a real treat. Due to its roaming nature and love for water, Spelthorne's river corridors are vital to this species which feeds on fish and amphibians.

How to help

- Pond creation – even small garden ponds can attract wildlife, especially common frogs. A sunken washing up bowl will even do! Try to incorporate a slope into the pond for other wildlife.
- Log piles – many species will travel great distances from their pools so stacking logs, branches and other organic matter will provide hibernating opportunities and shelter. Grass snakes lay their eggs in rotting vegetation.
- Keeping it wild – leaving parts of your lawn unmown or creating a small wetland area can encourage wildlife.

Join the Great British Spring Clean

Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean,' is running across the country from 20 March - 13 April. The campaign is about demonstrating that you love where you live – whether that's by 'pledging to pick' while you're walking the dog or taking the kids to school, hosting a clean-up or joining someone else's event.

Together, we can make a massive difference. All our individual actions can help to transform our Borough for the better, creating cleaner streets and parks, protecting our wildlife and, ultimately, stopping the tide of plastic that is doing so much damage to our oceans and marine life.

Spelthorne Council will be holding a special clean-up of Staines High Street for the campaign with the help of local schools and volunteers. If you would like to arrange

your own clean-up event, the Council can help by providing equipment and removing the rubbish.

Contact Neighbourhood Services for more information: email neighbourhoodservices@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446411.

Spelthorne in Bloom: enter now!

Spelthorne in Bloom is an annual competition which encourages people who live and work in the Borough to take pride in their local environment. The competition is free to enter and the winners receive prizes or vouchers.

- Best front garden
- Best community garden/public building
- Best hanging basket
- Best riverside garden
- Best kept allotment
- Best war memorial
- Best kept place of worship
- Best kept pub
- Best environmental planting project
- Best new entrant
- Best in show
- Spelthorne schools in bloom (best scarecrow, best recycling project, best school garden)

To request an entry form, email spelthorne.inbloom@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446411. Entries must be received by Friday 12 June.

Abandoned vehicles

Changes have been made to the online form on our website to make reporting an abandoned vehicle easier. You will need to have the following information to hand:

- make, model and colour of the vehicle
- vehicle registration
- length of time the vehicle has been at the location
- evidence that the vehicle has not moved for a period of time e.g. flat tyres, build-up of debris, broken windows

Before reporting a vehicle, please be aware that we are unable to investigate if:

- the vehicle is taxed and in roadworthy condition (check if it's taxed at www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax)
- the tax on the vehicle expired within the last four weeks
- the vehicle has been parked for less than four weeks

Exception:

- a vehicle which is burnt out, extensively damaged or in a dangerous condition can be immediately reported

Dangerously or obstructively parked vehicle

If you are concerned about a vehicle which is dangerously or obstructively parked, please report it to the police by calling 101.

Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/abandonedvehicles for more information and to report an abandoned vehicle

Prime Minister visits Charter Building

Spelthorne's Leader Cllr Ian Harvey welcomed Prime Minister Boris Johnson and local MP Kwasi Kwarteng to the Charter Building in Uxbridge where they were addressing a meeting of female entrepreneurs on 17 January.

Spelthorne Council purchased the Charter Building as an investment in August 2018 and it is now home to a community of local, national and global businesses.

Speaking after the event, Cllr Ian Harvey said: "It was a pleasure to welcome the Prime Minister to one of our investment properties in Uxbridge today. He was interested to hear about the Council's commercial strategy and said he was impressed with our investment."

The Spelthorne Business Plan Competition 2020

Kwasi Kwarteng MP is pleased to announce that his initiative to inspire residents in Spelthorne to start their own business has officially opened again for entries.

This is an opportunity for another Spelthorne resident to make their dream a reality and launch their business, with the winner receiving a prize of £3,500 plus mentoring support from local business experts. The six best entries will be asked to present their business idea to a panel of expert judges at a Dragons' Den style final hosted at BP on 11 June 2020.

Entries are welcome from individuals or teams of up to four people, with at least one being a resident of the Borough. To enter visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/businesscomp or search 'Spelthorne Business Plan Competition' on Facebook. The competition is open to Spelthorne residents aged over 16. Applications must be received by Sunday 12 April.

If you would like more information or need help with the application process, please email Tracey Carter at tracey.carter@parliament.uk

Spelthorne Means Business Awards

Entries are now open for the Spelthorne Means Business Awards 2020

Recognising the hard work and achievements of local businesses, this event will showcase the 'best of the best' with awards for the following categories:

- Best New Start-up
- Best Business in Staines BID
- Best Corporate Social Responsibility
- Best Small Business
- Exporter of the Year
- Best Franchise of the Year
- Creative/Innovative Business of the Year
- Healthy Business award
- Best Sustainable Business of the Year
- Best Business in Ashford and Stanwell
- Best Business in Shepperton and Charlton
- Best Business in Staines-upon-Thames and Laleham
- Best Business in Sunbury and Halliford
- Best Business in Spelthorne

The deadline for entries is 31 August 2020.

To find out more and to enter, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/SMBA

Capture Spelthorne 2020 photography Competition

Spelthorne Council is looking for the best photographs of the Borough. This is a chance for you to get outside, explore our beautiful Borough and show off your photography skills.

You don't need an expensive camera to take part, any camera or smartphone will do, as long as the photograph was taken in Spelthorne within the last two years.

We are looking for pictures that tell a story about Spelthorne, in the following categories:

My Spelthorne

What does Spelthorne mean to you? Judges will be looking for pictures that capture the essence of Spelthorne and bring to life community events, places and landmarks.

Spelthorne through the seasons

Spelthorne in the spring, summer, autumn or winter, we are keen to receive photographs which depict the Borough in any of the seasons, whether in glorious sunshine or a covering of snow!

Spelthorne means business

Spelthorne is a vibrant place to do business and we are looking for photos which showcase this side of the Borough. Whether a photo of an iconic building, in the workplace, let your imagination do the work.

Spelthorne in action

We want to see your action shots. It could be a sporting moment or an animal in action, as long as it's taken in Spelthorne. An opportunity to share those captured moments in time.

Under 16s

We can accept entries from under 16s for any of the above categories.

Prizes:

All finalists will be invited to a private screening of their entries at the Korda Theatre at Shepperton Studios. The overall winner will receive a trophy, £100 and also see their photograph on the cover of the Council's summer Bulletin magazine.

Each category winner will receive a certificate, £50 and a pair of tickets for Pinewood Cinema.

Additionally, all finalists will have their photographs displayed at various public locations within the Borough.

The closing date for entries is 30 April 2020. For terms and conditions and full details on how to enter visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/capture

Specsavers Surrey Youth Games 2020

Are you aged 6-16? Interested in trying a new sport? Then why not come along to the Team Spelthorne free training sessions for the Specsavers Surrey Youth Games.

Surrey Youth Games, sponsored by Specsavers, is the largest annual youth sports festival in Surrey. The main aim of the Games is to provide opportunities for young people to try new sports and increase their activity levels. Around 1500 young people, aged 6 to 16, will experience a fun, countywide sporting event when they take part in the Games on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June 2020.

In preparation for the Games weekend, Spelthorne Borough Council is holding between four and eight weeks of coaching for each sport, which will begin in April. The training sessions are free of charge and run by qualified coaches, giving young people a fantastic opportunity to try a new sport.

There are a wide variety of sports on offer including badminton, boccia, boxing, obstacle challenge, girls' football, hockey, Judo, netball, squash, street basketball, table tennis and tennis

After 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. All sports are aimed at total beginners and participants must not be part of a club or receiving coaching in their chosen sports. Details for the coaching sessions, age ranges and full eligibility can be found on the website. You must register in advance of the sessions.

Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/surreyyouthgames, email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446433.

Walking and cycling for health

The Spelthorne Walking for Health scheme offers short led walks to encourage residents to improve their health and fitness. Designed for beginners, they are between one and three miles in length and take place three times a week in various parts of the Borough and surrounding areas.

If walking isn't your cup of tea, we also offer a Cycling for Health scheme with organised rides of between seven and twelve miles every fortnight, starting in the Borough. The rides take place during the week and are aimed at older adults who are getting back into cycling.

The walks and rides are free of charge and often include a stop-off at a café along the way.

For more information visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/walkingforhealth or www.spelthorne.gov.uk/cyclingforhealth. Alternatively email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446433

Music in the parks

Join us most Sundays between June and August at either the Walled Garden in Sunbury-on-Thames or Lammas Park in Staines-upon-Thames for a free afternoon of music in beautiful surroundings. All performances start at 2pm and finish by 4pm.

A full programme of dates and artists will be published beforehand at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/whatson.

Xplorer - family orienteering

Xplorer is an outdoor navigation challenge where the aim is to find a number of markers that are located around the park using a simple map. It involves a healthy mix of physical activity and decision making which the whole family can enjoy together.

Join us for the following free events:

Orchard Meadow, Sunbury Park
Tuesday 7 April, 10.30am-12.30pm

Clockhouse Lane, Ashford
Thursday 16 April, 10.30am-12.30pm

For more information visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/xplorer

Leisure Directory

Pick up a copy of the new 2020 Leisure Directory from your local library, leisure centre, or community centre. It's packed full of special interest clubs, social groups and sporting activities to help you make the most of your leisure time. You can also view or download a copy at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/leisuredirectory or call Leisure Services on 01784 446433.

If you run a local activity or are part of a club or group and would like to be included in our 2021 directory then please complete our online form.

Staines-upon-Thames Day, Sunday 28 June, 11am-5pm

Staines-upon-Thames Day returns with lots of entertainment and activities for all the family at Memorial Gardens, Market Square, the High Street and by the River. Attractions include bands all day, dance performances, craft and food markets, falconry displays, Punch and Judy, rides, pedalos, kayaking and much more.

Visit www.stainesuponthamesday.co.uk

Spring art open day: Saturday 4 April, 10am-2pm

Come along to the Resource Centre and have fun with your children, aged 3-11 years, making spring-themed art and crafts (booking not required). Entry fee £1 per child (50p for siblings).

Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/resourcecentre

Shepperton Village Fair: Saturday 13 June, 11am-5pm

Join us for this fantastic family event on Saturday 13 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 huge marquee and the famous Great Nauticalia Raft Race. Entry is free!

Visit www.shepperton-fair.org

Workout in the park!

An outdoor gym is the perfect way to exercise if you enjoy the fresh air, and the good news is it's completely free. Outdoor gym equipment is already available at Hengrove Park in Ashford, Shepperton Recreation Ground and Stanwell (corner of Clyde Rd). New fitness trail equipment has recently been installed in Staines Park (funded by London Marathon Trust and Fields In Trust).

Celebrating freedom

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The commemorations for VE Day (8 May) and VJ Day (15 August) will be the central part of our national remembrance.

These significant milestones provide an opportunity to reflect on the enormous sacrifice of the millions of people from all walks of life, at home and abroad, who gave so much to ensure we all enjoy the freedom we share today.

VE Day 75

To mark the occasion Friday 8 May has been designated a national Bank Holiday and kicks-off the start of a three-day international celebration. At 3pm commemorations will be held across the United Kingdom and the world to mark the moment Winston Churchill made his historic address declaring Victory in Europe. In Staines a special ceremony will be held at the War Memorial in Market Square.

On Saturday 9 May, from 11am to 3pm, the Visit Staines BID and Spelthorne Council will be hosting a Picnic in the Park in Staines Memorial Gardens with live music, food and entertainment. This free event will enable everyone to come together as a community to celebrate peace in Europe, as people did 75 years ago.

Concluding the weekend on Sunday 10 May, services commemorating VE Day 75 will be held at 9.30am at St Hilda's Church, Ashford and 10am at St Mary's Church, Sunbury. All welcome.

If you are inspired, why not organise your own 1940s themed street party over the Bank Holiday weekend. To help you get started our website has a useful guide to help you plan your event at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/streetparty.

Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day on Saturday 27 June is a chance to show your support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community, everyone who has ever served their country, their families and cadets.

On the evening of Friday 26 June, Staines Brass will perform at St Peter's Church in Staines with a medley of music to entertain, delight and inspire you. They will also be holding a Grand Raffle to raise funds for local cadet groups. Tickets will be

limited, for further information please contact Christine Bannister at chris55bannister@aol.com.

To find out what's on visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/AFC, www.visitstaines.co.uk, or follow us on social media.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Spelthorne Council held a special memorial event on 27 January to mark Holocaust Memorial Day which reflects on the horrors of the Holocaust and other genocides throughout history.

The commemoration began with a flag raising ceremony during the day and continued in the evening with music, poems, readings and a heartfelt account from Holocaust survivor Marion Strehlow who witnessed the horrors first hand. Representatives from six religions lit candles to show unity in keeping with this year's theme, 'Stand Together'.

Leading up to the commemorations, 300 children from local primary schools took part in a collaborative art project, decorating discs which were joined together to form the Holocaust Memorial Day emblem. The artwork will be on display throughout the Borough during 2020.

Heathrow expansion

Heathrow has announced that it will undertake another eight-week consultation to finalise its proposals for airport expansion. The consultation will run from April - June and the responses will feed into the final planning application, to be submitted to the Planning Inspector towards the end of 2020.

Spelthorne Council has welcomed the news, having strongly argued that Heathrow's previous consultation, which closed in September 2019, lacked the level of detail necessary for the local authority, residents and other stakeholders to comment on the airport's expansion plans. Heathrow is expected to announce more details about the consultation in due course.

Heathrow noise

If you are disturbed by noise from the airport you can report this to Heathrow by emailing noise@heathrow.com or calling 0800 344844.

Introducing Knowle Green Estates

What is Knowle Green Estates?

Knowle Green Estates (KGE) is a housing company, owned by Spelthorne Borough Council to provide new homes for local residents. It is controlled by the Council and

provides the specific tools and skills needed to manage a rapidly growing portfolio of housing.

What does KGE do?

KGE manages the residential properties, lettings and tenant agreements that the Council develops. The company's primary purpose is to meet the housing needs of local residents by providing a range of different types of housing, including affordable and private rented accommodation and key worker homes.

KGE is currently developing and planning over 600 new homes across the Borough for Spelthorne residents to rent by the end of 2023, many of which will be affordable or key-worker homes.

KGE has already delivered:

- Three two-bedroom homes in Churchill Way in Sunbury
- Eight apartments on the Upper Halliford Road in Shepperton

Currently under construction for KGE:

- 55 new homes at Ceaser Court in Sunbury (formerly Benwell House)
- 25 apartments at the Council Offices in Knowle Green

Future plans:

- 36 additional homes at Ceaser Court in Sunbury
- 115 homes on Victory Place in Ashford (most will be for key workers)
- 140 homes on South Street in Staines (formerly Thameside House)
- A residential development and refurbishment of a listed building for cultural purposes on the Kingston Road in Staines (Oast House site)

Why was KGE set-up as a separate company?

As a limited company, KGE has the flexibility to offer a wide-range of tenancy agreements and can make operational and commercial decisions quickly. It has been designed for this specific purpose. In addition, the company insulates the Council from potentially negative impacts of fluctuations in the housing market.

Does KGE make a profit?

Generating a profit is not the primary purpose of KGE but any that is made is returned to the Council or retained by KGE to reinvest in more housing initiatives.

How is KGE controlled and scrutinised?

Because KGE is a 'controlled company' of the Council, its activities and decision-making are open to inspection and scrutiny by the Council's auditors, councillors and the public.

In addition, the company is regularly reviewed by Cabinet, Audit Committee and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and its accounts are separately audited.

To find out more visit www.knowlegreenestates.co.uk

Spelthorne purchase the Elmsleigh Centre

Spelthorne Council has announced that it has purchased the Elmsleigh Centre in the heart of Staines-upon-Thames which provides around one third of all the retail space in the town and was opened in 1980 by Her Majesty the Queen.

This purchase is a major step forward in Spelthorne Council's wider plan to regenerate Staines-upon-Thames. The Elmsleigh Centre is pivotal to the future health of the town and offers the Council the opportunity to transform Staines and act as a catalyst for further inward investment. It will enable the Council to play a leadership role by considering facilities which help support the town centre which a traditional investor would not, such as leisure and community services.

Cllr Ian Harvey, Leader of the Council, said: "Along with our other recent acquisitions (the Oast House and adjoining car park, Communications House, Thameside House and Hanover House) the Council is now firmly in the driving seat to deliver the revitalisation of Staines-upon-Thames.

"Being a major landowner gives us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to look holistically at how we want to see our town centre develop for future generations by providing a sustainable and liveable community with housing, community uses, social infrastructure and open spaces, as well as opportunities for an improved leisure and cultural offer."

Police and Crime Commissioner Election: 7 May 2020

On 7 May you will be asked to vote for a Police and Crime Commissioner to oversee your local police force.

What do Police and Crime Commissioners do?

The Police and Crime Commissioner is responsible for holding the Chief Constable and police force to account on the public's behalf. The Police and Crime Commissioner oversees how crime is tackled in their area and aims to make sure the police are providing a good service. The Police and Crime Commissioner role includes:

- meeting the public regularly to listen to their views on policing
- producing a police and crime plan setting out local policing priorities
- deciding how the budget will be spent
- appointing Chief Constables and dismissing them if needed

How are they elected?

When you vote in the Police and Crime Commissioner elections you use the Supplementary Vote system. This system is as follows:

There are two columns of boxes alongside the candidates' names on the ballot paper. One column of boxes is for voters to mark their preferred candidate with an X and one in which to mark their second preference.

Voters don't have to mark a second candidate if they do not wish to. There is no benefit voting for the same candidate in both columns as the second vote will not count. If only two candidates stand in your area, the first-past-the post system is used.

Who is eligible to vote?

To vote in the Police and Crime Commissioner election a person must be registered to vote and also:

- 18 years of age or over
- a British Citizen / EU Citizens
- resident in the UK
- not be subject to any legal incapacity to vote

For more details contact the Electoral Services team: email electoral.services@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 444218.

Spelthorne Local Plan

Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend one of the ten public briefings or to respond to the Local Plan Preferred Options consultation which closed on 21 January. Strategic Planning Officers are currently considering all of the responses and will publish a summary of the feedback soon.

The next stage in preparing the Plan is to:

- redraft policies as required
- decide which sites to take forward
- produce new supporting evidence and studies
- commission the Staines Masterplan

We will keep you updated on the next opportunity to get involved in the production of the new Local Plan for Spelthorne.

Creating positive change in Spelthorne

Anyone who's ever wondered how they can implement change in their local area could take their example from a nine year old Sunbury schoolgirl. Rosie Gurney, who attends Chennestone Primary School decided that she would try to get something done about an ongoing issue impacting her and her schoolmates.

To get to school, Rosie needs to cross close to the busy four-way road junction in Sunbury, where The Avenue crosses Manor Lane. She lives 300 metres from Chennestone School, but is not allowed to walk there without an adult because, as she says, the road is "too dangerous to cross." Rosie decided that something needed to be done to make her journey to school safer. She submitted a petition to the Spelthorne Joint Committee asking for measures to be taken to make the journey safer.

As a result, the local Spelthorne Joint Committee, made up of councillors from Surrey County Council and Spelthorne Borough Council, has agreed that a Road Safety Outside Schools assessment will be undertaken. The results of this will be presented to a future meeting of the Joint Committee.

The next meeting is on Monday 23 March, where the Esso Southampton to London pipeline renovation will be discussed with members of the team managing the project. Spelthorne residents are very welcome to attend and participate in the meetings by asking a question in person or submitting a written question or petition.

For more information, visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/spelthorne or call 01932 794081.

New housing at Brooklands College

FABRICA are nearing completion of the first phase of the Brooklands College redevelopment in Ashford.

Located at the rear of the site is a collection of just ten houses which offer three spacious bedrooms, a private garden, and a focus on well-designed premium finishes. Available for shared ownership, these ten houses will be ready to move into this spring and offer a unique opportunity to buy a high-end product at an affordable price.

For more details visit www.fabrica.co.uk/new-homes/futuredevelopments or call 020 3925 1892.

A new jetty for Staines

A new 5m long riverside jetty is being installed at Memorial Gardens in Staines-upon-Thames for the passenger boats which provide tours up and down the Thames. The jetty has been commissioned by the River Thames Task Group and

will be installed in the spring with the aim of improving facilities for river users and encouraging more visitors to the town.

Where your Council Tax goes

We collect Council Tax on behalf of Surrey County Council and the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner. Each £1 of Council Tax received is shared in the following way:

Spelthorne Borough Council	10p
Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner	14p
Surrey County Council	76p

Council Tax bands Council Tax is charged at eight different levels, (bands A to H) depending on your property value. The table below shows the total Council Tax chargeable for each property band for 2020/2021:

Council Tax band	Total charge for 2020/21
A	£1,324.72
B	£1,545.50
C	£1,766.30
D	£1,987.08
E	£2,428.66
F	£2,870.22
G	£3,311.80
H	£3,974.16

Council meetings

For a list of all the Council meetings for 2020, please visit our website at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/meetings or call 01784 451499.

Consultation: a new Leisure Centre for Spelthorne

Feedback from the last public consultation in 2018 showed there was strong support for a new leisure centre in Spelthorne but the main concern raised was the proposed location in Staines Park. The Council took on-board all the comments from residents and is now proposing to build the leisure centre between the Council offices in Knowle Green and the current leisure centre site (which will ultimately be used for customer parking).

The current centre will remain open whilst the new one is being built. The proposed location benefits from being within walking distance of the bus and railway stations and close to bus stops.

Cllr Ian Harvey, Leader of Spelthorne Borough Council, said: "We still believe that building this new facility, featuring elite sport and community facilities, in the

Borough is the best for our residents, improving the wellness of our local community. The previous consultation exercise provided a great deal of useful information on the facilities people wanted to see in a new leisure centre. We received over 2,300 feedback forms which have shaped these design proposals, together with extensive research and consultation with users, sports groups and Sport England.”

The Council is proposing to offer the following facilities:

- 25m, 8 lane main pool (with 250 spectator seats)
- 20x10m learner pool (with moveable floor to enable use for different activities)
- splash zone (water fun/confidence area for children)
- health and fitness suite (200 stations - including cycling, running, rowing machines etc. plus weight training)
- 6 court sports hall (with LED floor lights enabling adaptation for different court sports)
- 3 squash courts (which are also convertible into 2 additional badminton courts)
- 2 multi-activity studios (may be used for fitness classes and other activities or creche)
- spin studio (cycling machines used for fitness activities)
- 4 small-sided outdoor 3G pitches (for 5-a-side football)
- multi-purpose room (including a youth zone, bar and lounge)
- sauna, steam room and spa
- 2 physio rooms (capable of being used for physiotherapy and massage)
- soft play (fun area for children)
- Interactive climbing facility
- cafe (100 seats with poolside viewing)
- roof garden
- car parking (300 spaces)

Your views matter

We want to know what you think about our proposals including the revised location, the facilities we are planning to offer and the latest designs. To read the full details and complete our survey visit consult.spelthorne.gov.uk

Alternatively you can email your comments to leisurecentre@spelthorne.gov.uk or write to: Communications, Spelthorne Borough Council, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 1XB. Paper copies of the consultation documents and the questionnaire are available to view at the Council Offices, libraries and at Spelthorne and Sunbury Leisure Centres.

If you would prefer a hard copy of the questionnaire to be posted please call 01784 446432 or email your postal address to leisurecentre@spelthorne.gov.uk. The deadline for comments is Friday 27 March 2020.

Speak to a GP online

Residents in Spelthorne will soon be able to access online GP appointments from their nearest community centre thanks to the work of local councillor Maureen Attewell.

LIVI is an NHS service which enables residents to see a GP by video from their PC, mobile or tablet. It is ideal for patients who aren't able to get an appointment with their own GP but some residents told Cllr Attewell they didn't feel confident using the technology.

Councillor Attewell said: "Although this is a great service, technology like this can sometimes be off-putting for many people. We have therefore made it possible for residents to come along to their community centre where we provide a private room, a PC and staff who can help them with the technical side of things. It gives residents who don't need a physical examination a good way to 'see' a GP."

For more details, email independentliving@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446389.

Social prescribing

Social prescribing is a way of linking people with social, emotional and practical needs to a range of local non-medical support services. Spelthorne Council can support adults in a variety of areas including:

- Physical and mental wellbeing
- Community centres
- Financial support
- Advice and information
- Leisure services
- Housing options advice and adaptations
- Council services
- Befriending schemes
- Family support

For more information, email socialprescribing@spelthorne.gov.uk, call 01784 448631 or speak to your GP.

New alarm improves independence for residents

Spelthorne Council is committed to offering residents the best technology to help them stay safe and live independently.

Our new GPS alarm allows you to call for help whenever and wherever you need it. Unlike the traditional SPAN alarm, the Pebbell works when you are out and about and even enables your family to track your location with up to 10 metres accuracy.

It also has a fall detector and can alert your contacts without the button being pressed.

For more details, including prices email independentliving@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446389.

Your local Community Centres

Drop in and see the great range of activities available at our Community Centres. They are welcoming, helpful, cheerful places.

Hot meals are available in most centres.

Benwell Community Centre

Downside, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 6RT
01932 784232
benwell.centre@spelthorne.gov.uk

Fordbridge Community Centre

Clarendon Road, Ashford, TW15 2PU
01784 243880
fordbridgecentre@spelthorne.gov.uk

Greeno Community Centre

Glebeland Gardens, Shepperton,
TW17 9DH
01932 246173
greeno.centre@spelthorne.gov.uk

Staines Community Centre

Thames Street, TW18 4EA
01784 463073
staines.community.centre@spelthorne.gov.uk

To become a member simply visit your nearest centre or call 01784 446389. Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/communitycentres for more details.