

Spelthorne Borough Council
Bulletin magazine
Summer issue no. 119

Welcome to the summer edition of the Spelthorne Bulletin.

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Letter from the Council Leader

Dear Residents,

With Heathrow expansion seemingly one step closer in light of the Government's recent vote, it's now more important than ever that we ensure our communities are properly considered. We have published a list of ten key requirements from Heathrow which we see as crucial to ensuring that our communities get the best possible deal. More details on this can be found on page 7.

There is clearly an urgent need for better public transport to the airport. We don't just want an occasional bus service which may be withdrawn a few years later. We are actively promoting an innovative Southern Light Railway solution which we believe is the best way to achieve seamless journeys to the airport from the south, whilst also benefiting our residents and minimizing environmental harm.

We have recently announced that we are planning to build a brand new, state-of-the-art, facility to replace Spelthorne Leisure Centre. We are consulting on the options and there will be further consultations as the scheme evolves so please ensure you have your say.

Neither are we forgetting the importance of the day job. We think it is really important to ask residents what kind of services they want to see going into the future so we are planning to consult residents on budget choices in the autumn. Again, I would urge you to take part in helping to shape our future.

As I write this, the sun is shining and I hope that continues so you can get out and about to one of our events featured on page 11, or indeed just enjoy what our Borough has to offer with a walk along the river, on Staines Moor, or in one of our many beautiful parks.

Rest assured that during the summer my colleagues and I will be continuing to work hard for the Borough and all our residents.

Cllr Ian Harvey
Leader of the Council.

A new Mayor for Spelthorne

Cllr Jean Pinkerton OBE was elected as the new Mayor for Spelthorne at the Annual Council Meeting on Thursday 17 May. Cllr Mary Madams was elected as Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Pinkerton was first elected to the Council to represent Staines South in 2003. Over the last 15 years she has been a member of, and chaired, various committees and held Cabinet positions with responsibility for Communications, Housing, Health and Wellbeing and Independent Living. She was also elected as Deputy Leader in 2012 and 2013.

Staines has been Cllr Pinkerton's home town for 39 years. She has three daughters, five grandsons and a great granddaughter. Prior to her retirement, Cllr Pinkerton had a long and rewarding career in education and worked as a Headteacher for over 17 years. In 2013 she was awarded the OBE for services to education.

During her term as Mayor, Cllr Pinkerton will be supporting the following charities:

- east to west – offering support to children, young people and their families on a range of emotional and practical issues
- Rentstart – assisting single people and childless couples to access accommodation in the private rented sector
- Shopmobility – helping people with mobility problems to get around Staines town centre
- The Penrose Club – providing social activities for adults with special needs

After being sworn in as Mayor, Cllr Pinkerton said: “My theme for the year is that ‘Spelthorne is special’. I want people to be aware of all the very positive aspects of our Borough and the many talents within it.”

I have been elected by my fellow councillors to this prestigious post and I will do my best to carry out the role with integrity and be a good ambassador for our Borough. I hope you will all support me and therefore my charities, in any way that you can.”

Earlier this summer, the Mayor launched an exciting creative competition for schools called ‘what I love about Spelthorne.’ You can find more details about the competition and how to get involved on page 11.

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

Property to let?

Hosted by the Council and Spelthorne Rentstart, the Borough's second Landlord Forum was held on 8 May at Shepperton Studios.

Landlords were introduced to the Council's Rent Assure Scheme which guarantees to pay landlords the full market rent for their properties for up to two years.

The Council will find the tenants and, when approved by the landlord, draw up the agreements free of charge. A free inventory check is carried out at the beginning and there is the reassurance of a six-week repair bond. Ongoing support for both the landlord and the tenant is available for the duration of the tenancy.

If you are interested in the Rent Assure Scheme and have a two-bedroom property to let, please call Spelthorne Council on 01784 448611 or email on sra@spelthorne.gov.uk

For landlords who have accommodation more suited to single households, such as shared accommodation, studio flats and one-bedroom properties, please contact Spelthorne Rentstart on 01784 446422 or email info@spelthornerentstart.org.uk

Pot holes in Surrey

The state of the roads is frustrating many of our residents who contact us by the hundreds by phone, email, social media and even visiting the Council. However, it is Surrey County Council who are responsible for the upkeep of our roads and pavements, not Spelthorne Borough Council.

A petition has been set up to ask the government to debate Surrey's pothole issues in the Houses of Parliament. The online petition asks the government to reform the funding formula which decides how much cash should be given for road repairs. Surrey County Council says the method for calculating the amount penalises the County because it is calculated on the length of a road and not the volume of traffic.

Visit <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/217930> to sign the petition. To find out more about Surrey's pothole plans or to report a pothole, visit www.surreycc.gov.uk

Surrey County Council Cuts

Earlier this year Surrey County Council announced that they need to make savings of £66m to balance their budget for 2018/19.

Full details of how Surrey's cost saving programme will affect Spelthorne residents are not yet known but it is likely to affect the services provided, or funded, by Surrey. Some of Surrey's saving initiatives, such as changes to fire stations, were announced last year but further significant reductions are on the horizon.

Here are some of the reductions which have recently been announced:

Service	Surrey County Council's proposed reductions/changes	How is Spelthorne responding?
Telecare support for patients being discharged from hospital	In 2017/18 Surrey withdrew Telecare services such as smoke alarms and bed sensors for clients who failed to meet a new threshold meaning an estimated 98% clients will no longer receive free Telecare	Spelthorne stepped in to continue funding part of the service
Support to help vulnerable people stay in their rental property	Surrey has reduced the funding given to Spelthorne Council by £20,000 per year	Spelthorne has funded the deficit to try to prevent vulnerable people becoming homeless
Recycling	Funding given by Surrey to Spelthorne for recycling is being reduced from £387,000 in 2017/18 to £104,000 in 2020/21	Spelthorne will have to absorb this loss of income by making savings whilst continuing to encourage people to recycle more
Highway verges	Spelthorne has been managing highway grass cutting on behalf of Surrey. For 2018/19 Surrey reduced the amount it pays Spelthorne for the service by 36% or £47,000	Spelthorne has had to offset this loss of income by making changes to grounds maintenance arrangements

At Spelthorne Council we are closely monitoring the situation and doing all we can to minimise the impact on our residents but the scale of the cost savings which Surrey need to achieve mean it will not be possible for Spelthorne to step-in in every single instance.

Surrey will be making more announcements about their savings programmes in the coming months so sign up to their e-newsletters, and check their website and social media channels to find out more and take part in their consultations

Spelthorne calls for Heathrow compensation for residents

Heathrow's recent consultation showed just how much the planned expansion is likely to affect people's day to day lives. Although the Council has been a long-standing supporter of Heathrow expansion due to the economic benefits, it is imperative that residents are properly compensated.

The Council is particularly concerned that, under the current proposals, Spelthorne residents will not benefit from the package of measures known as the "Wider Property Offer Zone." These measures include residents being able to sell their home at the market value of the property "as if expansion had never been promised or taken place" plus a 25% uplift. Excluding south of the airport from the WPOZ suggests that Heathrow has come to the conclusion that Spelthorne communities will not be newly impacted by expansion. That assumption is simply wrong.

We believe that communities will be newly impacted by:

- airport development brought far closer to homes, families and schools
- construction, bringing enormous disruption to the local area
- more flights, both before and after expansion, with associated noise and air quality challenges
- more traffic coming on to local roads due to planned reconfiguration of routes
- more airline passengers parking in local roads to avoid airport parking costs
- more taxi and private hire vehicles waiting in residential roads with associated littering and annoyance to local residents
- loss of valued open space
- ecological impact on Staines Moor
- loss of community spirit
- affect on property prices and being able to sell their homes

Cllr Ian Harvey, Leader of Spelthorne Borough Council, said: "Whilst we recognise the economic benefits that expansion can bring to the local area as well as nationally, it is important that we continue to fight for our residents to be properly compensated and left with community legacy benefits. We must not be the poor relation in terms of the compensation packages on offer elsewhere."

Leaflets were sent to residents in Stanwell and Stanwell Moor in May to raise awareness of the likely impact of Heathrow expansion and what the Council is asking Heathrow to do to address it.

Visit <https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/17291/Heathrow-consultation> to read the 10 demands that the Council has given to Heathrow.

Spelthorne backs Southern Light Rail to Heathrow

Spelthorne Borough Council welcomes the fact that the Government is actively looking at rail access to Heathrow, and recognises that this needs to be addressed. We also welcome the fact that the announcement says the Government is looking at innovative solutions. As a major beneficiary, we would expect Heathrow Airport Limited to contribute financially to any final scheme.

We are promoting a proposal to introduce a Southern Light Rail scheme (SLR) to open up access to Heathrow from the entire south western railway network. This would also improve access to the airport for Spelthorne residents, including those who work at the airport, and bring economic opportunities to Staines town centre.

Light rail solutions for airport surface access have been tried and tested across the globe with similar schemes in locations such as Dubai, Bangkok, Beijing and Vancouver. This technology is widely recognised as a reliable, resilient and convenient transport solution. This system could be constructed quickly and in time to align with, or ahead of, the airport expansion timetable.

A light rail proposal could offer a frequent service from the existing station at Staines-upon-Thames with prospective intermediate stops for airport park-and-ride facilities.

The construction cost would be much lower than a heavy rail scheme and therefore deliver a cost effective solution to meet Heathrow's aim to improve access to the airport through greater use of public transport. The Government is currently looking at the options and is expected to report back in the autumn. More details will appear on our website and in the Bulletin as the scheme develops.

New service vehicles

Look out for Spelthorne's fleet of eye-catching service vehicles travelling around the Borough. They are used for refuse and recycling collections, street cleaning and the maintenance of parks and open spaces. Purchasing a brand new fleet of vehicles demonstrates the Council's commitment to provide quality services for its residents.

Choose a charity

Each year we donate a proportion of the money raised from the textile collection service to a local charity.

The 2017 choice was the Manna Food Bank and donations this year will go to CREST Cancer Support and Home-Start Spelthorne.

We would like you to vote for which Spelthorne charity will receive the donation in 2019. The choices are:

- Purple Angel Ambassadors – raising awareness of dementia and providing support for sufferers

- Princess Alice Hospice – providing ‘end of life’ care at home or at the hospice
- Transform Housing – providing housing and support for homeless and vulnerable people

To vote for a charity visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/textiles or post your choice to Textile Nominations, Spelthorne Borough Council, White House Depot, Kingston Road, Ashford TW15 3SE.

Avoid bin smells this summer

Use our weekly food waste collection service and have your textiles and small electricals taken away at the same time – 3 services in 1, weekly. Make sure food waste, textiles and small electricals are in separate bags, tied and kerbside by 6am.

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

Helping schools to recycle more

We are currently working with schools in Spelthorne to help them reduce their waste, recycle more and introduce food waste recycling. We hope the initiative will help schools to save money and learn more about recycling whilst also helping Spelthorne meet its target of recycling at least 50% of its waste by 2020.

If you would like your school to be involved please email Francesca Lunn at f.lunn@spelthorne.gov.uk

Summer workshops and competitions

Summer art open day (Resource Centre logo with address)

Saturday 21 July, 10am-2pm

Pop along to the Resource Centre and have fun with your children making summer themed crafts. Entry fee £1 per child (50p for siblings). No need to book.

Info: For more details visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/resourcecentre

What I love about Spelthorne

This summer, a new creative competition is open to children and young people aged 5-18, launched by the Mayor of Spelthorne.

Tell us what you love about Spelthorne and you could win a prize. Entries can be anything creative such as a piece of 2D art, a film, display, or a song. There will be

a series of creative workshops throughout the holidays, so you can pick up some new skills to help you with your project.

Info: For more details visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/whatson

Animation in a day

Wednesday 1 August, 11am-4pm (7-12 years)

This workshop will guide you through the process of creating your own animated short film!

As the day progresses you'll learn how to storyboard, use professional animation software and get the most out of a DSLR camera.

Venue: Ashford Youth Centre, Kenilworth Rd, Ashford, TW15 3EL

Cost: £10

Art printing workshop

Friday 3 August, 10am-12.30pm (5-7 years) and 1.30-4pm (8-11 years)

Learn how to create your own special printed artwork on a range of materials.

Venue: Spelthorne Resource Centre, Staines Park, Commercial Road, TW18 2QJ

Cost: £10

Film in a day

Friday 10 August, 11am-4pm (12-18 years)

Dive straight into the essentials of how to make your own short film. Including planning, camera technique, acting and editing, transitions and special effects with specialist software.

Venue: Stanwell Rose Community Centre, Mulberry Avenue, Stanwell, TW19 7SF

Cost: £10

Music production workshop

Wednesday 8 August, 10am-4pm (13-18 years)

Form your own band and write and produce your own music in this exciting one-day music workshop. Instruments and professional equipment will be provided.

Venue: Open Door Centre, Green Street, Sunbury, TW16 6QQ

Cost: £10

Use our online form to book your place on one of our workshops
www.spelthorne.gov.uk/leisurebookings or call Leisure Services on 01784 446433.

Xplorer – family orienteering

Xplorer is the perfect outdoor activity for families, offering a friendly navigation challenge that is educational and fun. The aim is to find a number of markers that are located around the park using a simple map. Events will be taking place on:

Monday 30 July
Kenyngton Manor Park, Sunbury-on-Thames

Tuesday 7 August
Orchard Meadow, Lower Sunbury

Wednesday 15 August
Long Lane Recreation Ground, Stanwell

Thursday 23 August
Ashford Recreation Ground, Clockhouse Lane

The events are free and take place between 10.30am - 12.30pm.

For more details email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446433. Visit www.xplorer.org.uk

Sunbury Amateur Regatta

11-12 August at Rivermead Island, Sunbury-on-Thames

Admission and racing starts at 9am. Bars open at 11am and entertainment starts from midday. Fireworks from 9.15pm. For more details and admission fees, visit www.sunburyregatta.com

Spelthorne Sports Week

6 – 10 August

Spelthorne Council is working with local sports clubs this summer to host affordable sports coaching during the summer holidays.

Coaching is available in a number of sports during the week and there are sessions for children and young people aged 8 – 16.

The cost is £10 per day.

Date	Sports available for children aged 8 – 12	Sports available for young people aged 12 - 16
Monday 6 August	tennis, badminton	-
Tuesday 7 August	badminton, squash	rowing
Wednesday 8 August	squash, tennis	-
Thursday 9 August	table tennis	tennis
Friday 10 August	martial arts	table tennis

For more details and to book, please visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/sportsweek, email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446433.

Music in the Park

Come and enjoy a free afternoon of music in the beautiful surroundings of either the Walled Garden in Sunbury-on-Thames or The Lammas Band Stand in Staines-upon-Thames.

All performances start at 2pm and finish at 4pm. A limited number of chairs are available at the Walled Garden or you are welcome to bring your own. For concerts at the Lammas Band Stand you will need to bring your own chairs/picnic blankets.

The Walled Garden, Thames Street, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 6AB

Sunday 29 July: Dale Harris (guitar)
Sunday 5 August: Thameside Harmony Chorus
Sunday 19 August: Magna Carta Chorus (2pm), Ivor Game (3pm)
Sunday 26 August: Linden Wind Orchestra

Lammas Band Stand, Lammas Park, Wraysbury Road, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 4XZ

Sunday 22 July: Saxophany
Sunday 12 August: Staines Lammas Band
For more details email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446433.

Leisure Directory 2019

Do you run a sport or leisure club, arts group or interest group in Spelthorne which would benefit from a free listing in our Spelthorne Leisure Directory 2019?

Our directory is distributed throughout the Borough at places such as leisure centres, doctors' surgeries and libraries and it's also available on the Council's website.

To be included, complete the online form at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/leisuredirectory or email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk by Friday 5 October.

Plans for a new leisure centre announced

Spelthorne Council has announced plans to build a new leisure centre in the Knowle Green area of Staines-upon-Thames.

Spelthorne Leisure Centre, the Council's current facility in Staines, has served the community well since it was initially opened as a swimming pool in the 1960s before being extended in the late 1980s to become a leisure centre. However, customers' leisure requirements have changed over time and surveys have indicated that a considerable investment would be needed to extend the life of the centre beyond 2021.

The Council is proposing to build a new 'flagship' leisure facility which will offer a fresh modern design and meet the high expectations of residents well into the future. The old centre will remain open while the new one is being built to ensure continuity of service. A section of Staines Park which is owned by the Council and currently occupied by tennis courts and a bowling club has been identified as a strong contender for the location of the new leisure centre.

Sunbury Leisure Centre is not affected by the changes.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the public consultation events in June. The feedback received has been invaluable in helping us to gauge what facilities residents would like to see provided at the new leisure centre. Our online consultation closes on Monday 23 July so there may still be time for you to give us your views if you haven't already. A second consultation is planned for September.

For more information visit www.spelthorneleisure.info, email info@spelthorneleisure.info or call Zara Williams on Freefone 0800 061 4979.

Specsavers Surrey Youth Games 2018

Congratulations to Team Spelthorne for coming third in the Specsavers Surrey Youth Games.

Young people from across the Borough represented Team Spelthorne in 23 teams at the competition event at Surrey Sports Park, Guildford in June. Around 300 participants enjoyed seven weeks of free coaching sessions across 12 sports in the lead up to the event.

Sponsorship from Everyone Active, Shepperton Studios and The Jockey Club enabled the Council to offer the free training sessions.

Gold	Silver	Bronze
Squash u13 (mixed)	Football u11 (girls)	Badminton u14 (mixed)
Hockey u11 (boys)		Squash u10 (mixed)
Tennis u8 (mixed)		
Lacrosse u15 (mixed)		

Thank you to all the volunteers and coaches and congratulations to everyone who represented Team Spelthorne.

Spelthorne Sports Awards 2018

The Spelthorne Sports Awards is a celebration of sport in Spelthorne. We need your nominations to make it a night to remember!

There are categories for coaches, players, volunteers and teams. The winners will be acknowledged at an awards ceremony at Shepperton Studios on Tuesday 9 October.

Nominations can be made online at www.surreysportsawards.activesurrey.com or call Leisure Services on 01784 446433 for a form.

The deadline for nominations is Sunday 9 September.

Capture Spelthorne

Thanks to everyone who entered our Capture Spelthorne photography competition - the standard of entries was excellent and we received lots of fantastic pictures showing the Borough at its very best.

The under 16 category winners received £50 and a pair of tickets for the Pinewood/Shepperton Studios cinema. The adult category winners received £50 and Shepperton Studios book 'A Visual Celebration'.

All the winners will also have their photographs printed in a local publication. The overall winners both received £100, a pair of tickets for the Pinewood/Shepperton Studios cinema and the Shepperton Studios book. The adult winner's photograph is also printed on the cover of this Bulletin. You can see the best 25 photos on display at an exhibition in the Elmsleigh Shopping Centre in Staines-upon-Thames from 12-15 July.

Supporting clients in recovery from mental ill health

Amigo matches trained volunteers with people who require support to move forward on their journey of recovery from mental ill health whilst becoming independent from mental health services. Volunteers help individuals to make connections with local community activities whilst helping them to boost their confidence and motivation to reintegrate themselves within the community.

To find out more, email Lynnette or Laura at buddy@voluntarysupport.org.uk or call 01276 707565.

Spelthorne Rentstart

For over 20 years, Spelthorne Rentstart has been helping single people and childless couples on low incomes to find homes. To date we have successfully housed more than 1700 people. We are always looking to recruit new landlords and we would love to hear from you.

For more details please call 01784 446422 or email info@spelthornerentstart.org.uk

Staines-upon-Thames Valuation Days: Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 September

Paul Martin from Flog It is coming back to host the next Valuation Days event taking place on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 September in the Market Square. Come along and get your prized possessions valued by Paul and a team of experts from Grand Auctions.

Visit www.visitstaines.co.uk/whats-on/

Can you support families in Spelthorne?

Home-Start is a family support charity which offers friendship and practical support to young families who are experiencing difficult times. Our volunteers visit families in their own homes for a few hours a week to offer confidential, flexible support. If you would like more information and an application pack for the free volunteer course which starts soon, visit www.home-startspelthorne.org email home-startspelthorne@tiscali.co.uk or call 01784 463200.

Shop 'til you drop

There have been lots of changes to Staines-upon-Thames over the years with the introduction of many new shops and leisure venues but the one thing that stays constant is the opportunity to buy everything you need.

Together with the Elmsleigh Centre, Two Rivers, the High Street and Debenhams, Staines-upon-Thames offers a well-rounded shopping experience. Unlike many towns in the UK, it remains a vibrant place to shop and whatever you're looking for, it's all here in Staines-upon-Thames.

The opening of the new Primark store has proved popular with shoppers and there are more changes afoot with Europe's number one sports retailer, Decathlon, opening in the Elmsleigh Centre this summer.

Visit www.visitstaines.co.uk for the full list of shops, restaurants, cafés, pubs, bars and events.

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) – the law is changing

The law has changed to expand HMO licensing, meaning that from 1 October, houses in multiple occupation with five or more people, regardless of the number of storeys the building has, will need to be licensed. Currently only HMOs with three or more storeys and five or more people living there need to be licensed. The aim is to give tenants more protection and safer homes, and drive up standards in the private rented sector.

A house in multiple occupation is a property occupied by three or more people forming two or more households, and there is usually some sharing of basic amenities such as kitchens and bathrooms.

Further details of Spelthorne's HMO licensing scheme will be available in due course. In the meantime, if you are a landlord or a private tenant in Spelthorne and would like further advice or information please visit the website www.spelthorne.gov.uk/hmo email: eh.residential@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446251.

New refreshment kiosk opened at Lammas Park

The Mayor of Spelthorne opened the new refreshment kiosk at the Lammas Park in Staines-upon-Thames on Friday 25 May. The spray ground has also now reopened for the summer season and is open 10am-12.30pm and 2- 4.45pm daily until September (times subject to change).

Heat Surrey grants, are you missing out?

Grants are still available from Heat Surrey for boiler upgrades and home Insulation. The grants are available for people with a household income of £35,000 or less, after tax and after paying for your rent or mortgage, Council tax and energy costs. For more details call Heat Surrey on 01784 653635.

Spelthorne powers ahead with solar panels

The Council has recently installed solar panels at the Community Centres in Ashford (Fordbridge) and Staines-upon-Thames.

The renewable energy generated by the solar panels will be used to run the centres, reducing the energy required from the grid and contributing to the Council's ongoing work to reduce its own carbon emissions.

As well as providing a cheaper source of energy, the power generated provides an income through the Government's Feed-in Tariff, representing a net profit of £90,000 over the 25 year lifespan of the panels.

Spelthorne Takes Shape

The Council is currently working on a new Local Plan which will detail how much development is needed in the Borough over the next 15 years and where it should go. The finished Local Plan will contain policies for deciding planning applications and allocating sites for housing, commercial units and other forms of development.

During May and June, the Council consulted on the first stage of the new Local Plan, known as Issues and Options. The consultation paper set out the key issues affecting Spelthorne to 2035 and outlined the four strategic options the Council will consider in order to meet the Borough's needs. As well as identifying the challenges and constraints, it also looked at the opportunities for growth in Spelthorne.

Thanks to everyone who came along to the information events and responded to the consultation. Our staff spoke to lots of residents and gained a good understanding of the local issues that are important to our communities. The Council will now be developing 'preferred options' for the new Local Plan, using feedback from the consultation, before holding two more consultation stages. The plan will then be submitted to the Secretary of State who will confirm if it can be recommended for adoption.

For details visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/localplan

Spelthorne's budget choices

The Council is planning to consult residents in the autumn about its budget priorities and choices for the next financial year. The consultation will include an online survey, workshops and focus groups and will be widely publicised. The Council has appointed advisors Research Today, who have significant experience of helping Councils to undertake consultations on budget choices. The exercise will also help shape the next Council Corporate Plan for 2019-22. Look out for the consultation in the autumn.

Make sure you are registered to vote

The annual voter registration form will be delivered to every household in Spelthorne at the end of July/beginning of August 2018 in preparation for the publication of the register on 1 December 2018.

You can return the form by post or register by phone or online if your household details haven't changed. This facility is quick and easy and will save the Council money. Full details of how to use these services will be included in the envelope alongside your registration form.

When the Electoral Register is published it will be used for the Local Council Elections scheduled for 2 May 2019 and any other elections or referenda that may take place prior to 30 November 2019.

The Electoral Register also proves where you live and credit agencies use it to help make decisions on applications for mortgages, bank accounts, loans, mobile phone contracts and other credit facilities.

Contact the Electoral Services team by email at electoral.services@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 444218.

Top tips for boarding your pet

- Make sure the kennel or cattery is licensed with the Borough Council in which it is located. Licensed premises must meet certain standards and it is illegal to run a "boarding establishment" without one
- Are your dog's vaccinations up-to-date? It will need vaccinations against canine distemper, canine adenovirus, leptospirosis and canine parvovirus. You will need to show a copy of your vaccination certificates (your vet can reprint these if required)
- All licensed catteries must insist on seeing an up-to-date vaccination card, showing recent (within the last 12 months) vaccinations against cat flu and enteritis

Finally, enjoy your holiday! Many pets love boarding and thoroughly enjoy their holiday away from home.

For further details please send an email to eh.commercial@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446293.

Spelthorne Business Plan Competition

The Spelthorne Business Plan Competition final was held on 24 May at BP's headquarters in Sunbury-on-Thames. Six finalists pitched in a Dragons' Den style final for a chance to win £3,500 and a year's package of business support to help them get their business started.

First place went to Louise and Levi Yearwood for their proposal to create 'The Rustic Bar Company', making unique and attractive home bars and furniture from recycled wood.

Second place and a prize of £1,500 went to Rachel Hewett who presented 'Love Home Décor', another original idea for upcycling furniture and vintage homeware.

Third place and a prize of £500 was awarded to students from Brooklands College. Ariphon Farrell, Jordan Bhadye and Somersby Lock pitched their idea for A&E Time Tracker, a unique interactive patient scheduling system.

The winners' prizes were presented by Kwasi Kwarteng MP.

For details on how to enter 2019s competition, email spelthornebusinessplancomp@gmail.com

Spelthorne Skills and Careers Fair

The Spelthorne Skills and Careers Fair 2018 is taking place from noon to 7pm on Wednesday 19 September at Kempton Park Racecourse.

With over 60 of Spelthorne's leading employers and skills providers taking part, this will be a fantastic opportunity to look for your next role, find out about training opportunities and meet the wide range of employers located in the Borough.

This year's event is a collaboration between Spelthorne Borough Council, Kenyngton Manor Children's Centre, Job Centre Plus, A2 Dominion, Surrey Chambers of Commerce and Spelthorne Business Forum. Sponsored by Heathrow Airport Limited and Contract Options.

Spelthorne Means Business Awards

There's still time to enter the Spelthorne Means Business Awards which celebrate the achievements of local companies and showcase the 'best of the best.'

Open to all businesses with a Spelthorne address, there are seven award categories available to enter:

Exporter of the Year
Sponsored by Heathrow

Creative Business of the Year
Sponsored by Shepperton Studios

Healthy Business Award
Sponsored by Everyone Active

Best New Start-Up
Sponsored by the TW Magazines

Best Business in Staines-upon-Thames
Sponsored by the Staines-upon-Thames BID

Independent Business of the Year
Sponsored by the Spelthorne Business Forum

Best Small Business
Sponsored by A2 Dominion

The awards will be presented at a gala awards dinner hosted by Shepperton Studios on 11 October and one business will be named as overall winner of the 'Best Spelthorne Business' award.

For more details visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/SMBA

Entries close on 31 August

Heathrow Launch Pad

Thanks to the enterprising spirit of local residents and ongoing efforts of the Council to create a positive environment for new business start-ups, Spelthorne is consistently ranked in the top ten places to start a new business. But the work doesn't stop there and Spelthorne Council recently announced that it plans to open a business incubator in Staines-upon-Thames in spring 2019.

Christened 'Heathrow Launch Pad' this new space will be located in Staines-upon-Thames, the closest town to Heathrow airport and will benefit from the excellent transport links that connect the town to the South East and beyond. The incubator will initially provide a co-working environment for fledgling businesses alongside an exciting programme of business support.

Working in partnership with organisations such as SET Squared and Royal Holloway University, the new Heathrow Launch Pad will provide a base for entrepreneurs with an idea for a new technology product or service, or existing high-tech companies looking to launch a new idea. The Heathrow Launch Pad

community will provide a vibrant environment for businesses to turn an innovative spark into a strong commercial enterprise.

This new facility will offer hot desks, permanent desks and serviced office facilities to new businesses and provide a range of workshops, seminars and events for the wider Spelthorne business community. A virtual membership of Heathrow Launch Pad will allow local businesses to access these on a regular basis and to use the base for informal one-to-ones.

Several meeting rooms, holding up to 40 guests, will be available to hire for business events and the hope is that the Heathrow Launch Pad will become the hub for the local business community.

For details email Ruth Lambert r.lambert@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 444223.

Thanking local volunteers

The work of dedicated local volunteers was recognized at an awards ceremony in April. Spelthorne Civic Awards were given to Catherine and Richard Black from Sunbury Riverside Arts Centre, Audrey Brown from the Greeno Centre, Tony Harman from the Samaritans, Sally Pemberton from Spelthorne Tree Wardens and Jean Rogers from Homestart.

Letters of commendation also went to Beryl Wilkins from Spelthorne in Bloom, Kheraj Chouchan from Stanwell Medical Centre and Owen Miles, a Shepperton Estate Agent.

Queen's Awards for Voluntary Service

Congratulations to the Swan Sanctuary and the Spelthorne Natural History Society for both being awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK.

Founded by Dorothy Beeson, the Swan Sanctuary is a charity dedicated to the care and treatment of swans and waterfowl with an established international reputation.

Spelthorne Natural History Society started work at Splash Meadow in Shepperton in 2006 where its task was to restore the pond and increase the biodiversity of the site. In 2008 work was undertaken in Nutty Wood on the opposite side of the M3 where work still continues with volunteers.

An OBE for Colin

Many congratulations to Colin Squire who was awarded an OBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list in recognition of his services to the horticultural industry and to charity.

Squire's was founded by Colin's father D.J. Squire 81 years ago as a nursery and landscape business. Colin formally joined the family business in the late 1950s and over the last 60 years his determination and sound business acumen has helped propel the company to one of the best known independent groups of garden centres in the country.

In addition to his horticultural work, Colin also works with many charities in the Borough including the Spelthorne Civic Awards Trust. In 2013 he was made an Honorary Freeman in recognition of his services to the Borough.