

## Spelthorne Partnership Assembly – 4 November 2024

### 1. Cllr Sexton welcomed residents and guests from the Environment Agency

### 2. Environment Agency

Natasha Gibbs and Darsha Gill answered the question raised by residents (attached). As explained prior to the meeting, their role doesn't cover the River Thames, so we will endeavour to get a Thames representative from the Environment Agency to a future meeting as requested by residents.

### 3. Update on Street Cleaning

Jackie Taylor Group Head of Neighbourhood Services provided an update on the work they do in relation to removal of graffiti, emptying litter bins, removal of fly tipping and street sweeping.

#### Graffiti

The council will undertake to remove it asap, but there will be delays in certain situations. Eg marker pen is quick and easy, but paint on the ancient wall of the walled garden required specialist removal to prevent damage.

#### Litter Bins

There are 550 street bins throughout the borough. The frequency of emptying depends on the location. Some are emptied twice a day. The Spelthorne Litter Pickers provide welcome assistance.

#### Fly Tipping

Reports of fly tipping will be acted upon immediately to ascertain the identity of the perpetrator. When disposing of waste, residents are requested to check that they are giving it to an authorised company that is registered with the Environment Agency. **The link below takes you to the Environment Agency site where it is possible to search for a company, name address or registration number.** [Waste Carriers, Brokers and Dealers](#) A registered company will also provide a document to prove it has been correctly disposed of.

#### Street Cleaning and Mechanical Sweepers

These teams work between 5am and 9pm. They sweep channels and the kerbside of roads.

The council has one 18 ton road sweeper. The team try to visit streets once every 20-25 days. This can sometimes be difficult due to parked cars. Despite promoting on social media sites, displaying notices and issuing parking notices, this continues to be a problem. Resident Associations are very useful to the team as they help to get the message to residents about moving cars on street cleaning days. If a resident association highlights a particular problem area the team will endeavour to help. The schedule may also be affected during autumn when there are lots of leaves, extreme weather and staffing shortages.

Leaves are swept away in November and December to clear channels and footways. Please report street cleaning requests via the Report It forms mentioned below.

The [`Report IT`](#) function on the website can be used to make the following requests:

- A street cleaning request eg leaves, litter, litter bin issue, street sweeping or other request
- Fly tipping
- Graffiti
- Littering
- Dog fouling

There are several other `Report It` forms via the link above.

If you are unable to use the online form, please phone the Council Depot on 01784 446411.

The Council will soon be creating Quick Response (QR) codes that will be fixed to litter bins. Residents can scan the QR codes to report a full litter bin and a report will go straight to the council depot.

Lime bikes are becoming a problem. 30 are currently stored at the council depot. Lime will be charged if it continues to be a problem.

**Action –SBC to add `Lime'bikes to `Report it' form. (Done. These can be reported via the fly tipping form)**

**Action – Neighbourhood Services to undertake inspection of Village Way Ashford re leaves blocking soakaways/drains This will be done week commencing 16 December.**

**Action – Roisin to send details of flooding issues in her road/local road to Cllr Sexton.**

**Action –Spelthorne Borough Council and Surrey County Council are continuing to work together to ensure that grass cutting is carried out before street cleaning.**

There were comments about weeds at the side of the roads and in channels. This is due to less weed spraying by Surrey CC and less grass cutting.

**A gentleman from Ashford raised an issue regarding Chesterfield Road and Thames Water. If this is still a problem which requires Cllr involvement, please email [Lisa I.stonehouse@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.I.stonehouse@spelthorne.gov.uk) .**

#### **4. Borough Actions from the August meeting - Stanwell Moor**

SBC officers continue to liaise with `Connect Plus` re the collection of redundant road signs/bollards.

Cllr Beatty and Surrey County Cllr Evans have liaised with Moureen re lorries turning at speed within the village and County Council engineers have visited. An option was a mini-roundabout but residents do not want this.

Additional public space protection order signs have been erected in Stanwell Moor as requested. Over 100 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued and 1000 warnings. Horton Road is much better. County Cllr Evans has also been raising awareness amongst taxi drivers.

We passed the thanks from Stanwell Moor residents to Martin Cole for prompt ticketing of vehicles and Jackie Taylor for prompt action in resolving issues,

## **5. Surrey County Council Actions from Last Meeting**

Cycling on Staines High Street is a safety hazard - Several Surrey County Cllrs raised the issue of deliver drivers in several areas and on Staines High Street. Surrey CC are currently working with delivery providers to take more responsibility for driver conduct. Companies taking more responsibility is currently favoured over enforcement. **The existing Traffic Regulation Order for High Street, Staines makes the use of any vehicle (including bicycles) along the road prohibited between the hours of 5pm-9:30am. Electric Scooters and other “powered transports” such as electric scooters are not permitted on the public highway at all. At the request of Councillor Mooney new signing indicating no cycling will be erected along the length of the road shortly. There are also plans being developed to control the flow of vehicles into the High Street outside of the access times. This will also involve altering the access times, but the prohibition of cycling will continue. Additional signage at the entrance to the High Street (at the junction with Clarence Street) will be considered as part of this scheme.**

The cycle path on station path (nearest the High Street) is unusable due to vegetation from both the Network Rail land and the land between the footpath and cycle path (The central reservation). The appearance of the central reservation has deteriorated since SCC took over grass cutting. **I logged this issue some months ago and have received the most recent update from Network Rail: ‘Thanks for your patience about Station Path, Staines. Further to attending during the day to carry out work, the area near to the under pass was very busy with pedestrians when we were on site, so for safety we'll carry this out during the night. It will be done next week - week ending Saturday 30 November.’**

There is no provision for children with Special Educational Needs for short breaks/child care in Spelthorne. This was raised with Surrey a while ago, but no change as yet. **Ongoing Action - Surrey CC – Cllr Attewell said that Surrey CC are aware of this issue and Cllr Curran is addressing this next year.**

The footpath that leads from Woodthorpe Road near to Ferndale Road is very over-grown. **Cllr Turner Stewart reported this. It is being dealt with this week 4/11/24**

1. The Consultation process regarding the plan to make Commercial Road no entry from Laleham Road, Staines was poor. **The consultation process for Commercial Road followed the Consultation Matrix and consultation guidelines set out by SCC. All key stakeholders were made aware of the consultation and plans, letter drops were carried out and signage indicating the consultation period were visibly in place. These measures ensured that the number of responses to the consultation was significant with nearly 400 respondents replying and providing their feedback on the proposals.**
2. Please could a right turn be considered at the junction of Kingston Road and Staines High Street? **To allow a right hand turn from Kingston Road would not be as simple as it seems. It would require significant modelling of traffic flows around the whole of Staines as any change could have major unintended impacts on traffic flows around the whole town and any changes would require signal changes and timing/phasing alterations, which would be a significant piece of work. I (County Cllr Mooney) will make further enquiries regarding this matter.**

The line markings on Sunbury Cross roundabout have disappeared. Cllr Boparai said that they are due to be repainted in the financial year 25/26. Residents felt that this was too long to wait as it was a hazard. **Action Cllr Boparai and Cllr Turner Stewart (Please see update below).**

Surrey have recently allocated 1.9 million to street marking. Cllr Boparai and Cllr Turner Stewart have both worked to try and get this resolved. Cllr Bopari and Cllr Turner-Stewart reported that the stop lines were refreshed in September as these were identified as safety critical and could be completed using mobile traffic management.

Cllr Boparai received this further update:-

“Lane closures are required to enable the contractor to work safely when refreshing road markings. It was proposed to refresh the markings with a longer lasting, more durable material. This would reduce significantly the frequency of visits to refresh the markings at this location. However, the contractor has been refused a permit to work on this junction before December at the earliest due to on-going utility works in the vicinity. The stop lines were refreshed in September as these were identified as safety critical and could be completed using mobile traffic management.

The materials that are being proposed for Sunbury Cross require temperatures ideally around 10 degrees centigrade or above to be able to bond and cure. It is highly unlikely that these conditions can be met during the winter months, hence the decision to defer the refresh of Sunbury Cross roundabout until early in the new financial year, as soon as weather conditions permit.

This roundabout is part of the cyclical refresh programme for the main road network in Surrey, so would be refreshed as part of that programme when in Spelthorne. Unfortunately, due to the volume of traffic at Sunbury Cross, the

road markings can require at least partial refresh before the junction is due its next refresh on the cyclical programme. When the complexities of getting all the permissions in place to complete the work are factored in, it makes sense to refresh the junction in materials that have higher durability and hence greater longevity. This is the approach now being taken, but it has taken more time than originally anticipated to agree suitable materials with the contractor.

Surrey Highways appreciates that there has been a significant delay in refreshing the road markings at Sunbury Cross since the issue was first raised, but they say that that is unfortunately a reflection of the length of time it takes to get the necessary permissions in place to work on the highway at this location.

Please be assured that the refresh of all the road markings at this junction is a high priority and will be carried out at the earliest opportunity in the new financial year.”

## **6. Any Other Business**

### **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Services for children**

Several Cllrs and residents raised concerns about Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) services in Spelthorne and Surrey wide and highlighted that the issue isn't just financial, but that several aspects of the service requires improvement. Spelthorne is particularly poorly served eg

- The huge distance that children have to travel for school and health appointments, eg Woking and Guildford
- Changes to transport arrangements
- Poor attitude of officers.

The Leader of SCC has apologised, but parents felt they were still being blamed for something that was SCC responsibility.

There is a facebook group to address some of these issues. Cllr Sexton, Cllr Boporai and Cllr Evans are members. **They encourage other Cllrs to join. Please contact them for further details.**

**Action - Cllr Sexton to speak to a resident who has a child with SEND and is living near the Shepperton Studios development. Cllr Sexton provided the Surrey County Councillor details for this area.**

### **Fairfield Avenue Staines**

This road is in a dreadful state following the two new buildings surrounding Fairfield Avenue.

**Action – Cllr Mooney**

### **Fireworks for Diwali and Bonfire Night Causing Disturbance and Danger**

More guidelines on the legislation would be useful

**There was an article about fireworks in the latest Borough Bulletin. The SBC website was updated in October 2024. [Remember Remember! - Spelthorne Borough Council](#). The communications team have been asked**

**to update social media prior to New Year 2025, bonfire night and Diwali next year.**

The member of parliament for Luton is bringing a private members bill to stop the sale of fireworks.

### **Member of Parliament – Lincoln Jopp**

It was agreed that the MP would be invited to a future meeting.

### **Design Code**

Cllr Sexton provided an update on the Spelthorne Design Code and Local Plan. The Design code meetings will commence in 2 weeks including weekend meetings and will be completed in Spring /Summer 2025. An update will be provided at the 3 February meeting.

### **Local Plan**

Cllr Sexton provided an update on the Local Plan

On Thursday (24 October) the full Council resolved to:

- 1.Note that the Environment Agency had signed a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG),
- 2.Agree to keep the Green Belt allocations in the Local Plan as submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 25 November 2022,
- 3.Agree to delegate authority to the Group Head of Place, Protection and Prosperity in consultation with the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, to undertake any further consultation required by the Planning Inspector; and
- 4.Agree to delegate authority to the Group Head of Place, Protection and Prosperity in consultation with the Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, to prepare a main modification to the Local Plan, for the new policy on 'Local Plan Early Review'.

Officers are currently in discussions with the Planning Inspector to confirm dates to resume the Examination hearing sessions which are likely to be January/February.

### **Thameside House**

Cllr Williams provided an update.

The council are looking at options that do not involve residential and not tower blocks, but also fit in with Environment Agency requirements and what residents want. The challenge for the council is to ensure that they meet their legal obligation for Best Value which takes into account the cost of the building, social value and local amenity.

### **Network for Renters**

A resident has set up a network for renters and the group aims to raise awareness of the requirements of the local demographic for property eg family homes and 1&2 bedroom properties, whilst still appreciating the borough requirements. He is aware that many of the properties in Eden Grove had been purchased abroad.eg some had been marketed in Kuala Lumpa. Cllrs stated that the council do not have any powers to prevent this and developers can sell to anyone.

### **Catering for the local demographic when building housing**

A resident mentioned the importance of ensuring that there is sufficient local infrastructure for the local demographic when planning housing developments eg GP surgeries and schools.

## **7. Theme for the November Meeting**

Residents were disappointed that Surrey CC highways did not attend. Cllr Sexton will write to them to again request their attendance.

Other suggestions for themes for future meetings included:-

The Environment Agency (Thames Team)

Planning was suggested but may clash with Local Plan meetings. A specific planning topic could be considered at the next meeting.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

A letter will be sent to Surrey CC highways and the Surrey CC team responsible for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

**Monday 3 February 2025**