bulleting 2025



















Local Government Reorganisation

12-13 Council Tax

7 King's Award for **Voluntary Service**











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Teddington · TW11 0JR

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Letter from the Leader



Dear Residents,

I hope you are keeping well and looking forward to spring with its lighter evenings and, fingers crossed, some nicer weather.

I would like to congratulate the **Spelthorne Litter** Pickers and Revelaires who received the King's Award for Volunteers at the end of last year. These are two fantastic local groups who work really hard to help others in the community and make the Borough a better place for everyone. You can read more about this on page 17.

You will soon be receiving your Council Tax bills. To keep costs down, we have decided to stop sending the leaflet that used to accompany the bills but all the information can be found here in the Bulletin and also on our website. The article on pages 12 and 13 explains that we collect Council Tax on behalf of Surrey County Council and the Police, as well as ourselves. The Spelthorne element of the bill represents just over 9% of the total bill (£4.40 per household per week, based on a band D property) and I hope you agree that Spelthorne's services represent excellent value for money.

The Government has decided to change the way local government is structured by replacing the current two-tier system of district and county councils with unitary councils. We have learnt that Surrey will be in the first wave of the reorganisation which means that, together with the other Surrey councils, we will need to submit an interim business case for reorganisation in March and a full business case in May.

Unfortunately, as part of this, the Surrey County Council elections in May have been cancelled. Like many, I am disappointed by this decision as I wanted residents to have the chance to exercise their democratic vote. The article on page 9 looks at this important change in more detail but please be assured we are firmly focused on representing the interests of this Borough and will endeavour to do everything within our power to deliver the best possible outcome for Spelthorne's residents and businesses.

As always, if you have any concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Cllr Joanne Sexton, Leader of the Council

cllr.sexton@spelthorne.gov.uk

Annual report

In 2024 we celebrated 50 years of Spelthorne Borough Council and our vision to 'put residents at the heart of everything we do' has never been more important. Over the last 12-months we have been focused on achieving the commitments that we set out in the Corporate Plan 2024 - 2028.

You can read more on what was achieved and delivered in 2024 and future plans in our annual report:

www.spelthorne.gov.uk/annualreport



Contents

Economic Development

Spelthorne Business Plan	
Competition	6
Spelthorne Business Awards	7

Leisure

Recycle your cycle	11
Walking for health	11

Community

Council lax	12 X	13
King's Award for volunteers		17
Five Swimmers sculpture		17

Independent Living

Meals on Wheels	21
Hear here	21

Environment

Make light work of your	
garden waste	22
Spelthorne in Bloom	23

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Sign up to our monthly newsletter: www.spelthorne.gov.uk/enews

Sign up to the Customer Portal: www.spelthorne.gov.uk/

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customerportal

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The Bulletin is available in large print and on CD. Please email I.king@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 444260.

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Farewell from the Mayor

As my tenure as Mayor of Spelthorne concludes. I reflect with pride on our shared journey during Spelthorne's 50th Anniversary year. Serving as the Borough's First

Citizen has been both an honour and a solemn duty, which I have carried out with unwavering dedication.

When I took office, I pledged to uphold the traditions and responsibilities of Mayor and be a visible and active leader in the community. My role has been multifaceted; besides presiding over council meetings and civic ceremonies, I represent Spelthorne at local and international events. supporting residents of all ages, advocating for business and raising funds for charitable causes while fostering collaboration among officers and councillors across political affiliations for the betterment of our residents.

A highlight of my term was the celebration of Stainesupon-Thames Day, featuring performances, craft stalls, entertainment, and recreational activities. This day marked the historic commemoration of the London Stone, where I participated in a traditional ceremony with the Lord Mayor and City dignitaries - an event last celebrated in 1857.

Youth engagement has been a priority, from recognising achievements at the Duke of Edinburgh's Award ceremony to supporting the RAF Air Cadets and Sea Cadets. These interactions with young people have reinforced my confidence in Spelthorne's future.

Community events like the Santa Fun Run and Christmas celebrations at various community centres have strengthened our Borough's unity. I have also advocated for local businesses through the Spelthorne Business Forum and Business Awards, recognising their vital role in our economy.

Health and wellbeing initiatives have been central to my term, including Walking for Health programmes and mental health awareness campaigns. The installation of the Samaritan-donated bench in Fordbridge Park serves as a symbol of hope and support for our community.

Our Borough's cultural diversity has been celebrated through various events, including the Poetry Festival, Festival of Lights, Nepali Mela, and Saraswati Puja. Environmental preservation has also been a focus, with initiatives supporting Surrey Nature Day and Spelthorne in Bloom.

I have revitalised our twinning relationships with Melun in France, and Grand Port in Mauritius, setting the foundation for future cultural, educational, and economic collaborations. Through various fundraising events, I have also supported my four nominated charities, addressing crucial community needs.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our residents, businesses, volunteers, and organisations whose dedication makes Spelthorne exceptional. Special thanks to the council staff and for the councillors' support. I must also express my deepest gratitude to my wife, Mayoress Madhuri, who has been a constant pillar of support throughout my mandate.

As I prepare to pass on the mayoral chain in May, I do so with deep appreciation and confidence in our Borough's future. Spelthorne's strength lies in its resilience, ambition, diversity and community spirit, and I am certain these qualities will continue to drive our success.

Cllr Med Buck, Mayor of Spelthorne

mayor@spelthorne.gov.uk 📞 01784 446275











The Mayor's charity ball

The Mayor of Spelthorne, Cllr Med Buck, is delighted to announce that his charity banquet ball is being held on Saturday 26 April at the Holiday Inn in Shepperton.

This year's ball promises an unforgettable evening with a James Bond 007 theme, casino table, professional photographer, raffle and dancing until late. It promises to be a night of elegance and entertainment.

Tickets cost £75 and include a champagne reception, three-course dinner with wine and entertainment. A table for ten guests can be booked for £700.

All proceeds go towards the Mayor's charities: Newlife, Manor Mead School, Stanwell Food Bank and Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals' Charity.

To book, email mayor@spelthorne.gov.uk or call **01784 446275**

Join the Mayor's race night

Join us on Thursday 15 May in the panoramic restaurant at Kempton Park Racecourse for a thrilling night of horse racing, delicious food and great company, all in support of the Mayor's charities. Tickets cost £48 and include a welcome glass of Prosecco, two-course meal and half a bottle of wine per person. Gates open 4.30pm, first race at 6pm.

To book your tickets, visit https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QQG4EEDY, email mayor@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446275



Connecting local businesses with the community

Wayfinder is an online platform designed to help businesses in Spelthorne grow and thrive by connecting them with local customers and other businesses.

For businesses:

- Put your business on the map and get noticed by local customers
- Build valuable connections with other businesses in the area
- Promote your products and services to the Spelthorne community



For residents:

- Discover trusted local businesses
- Support your community by shopping locally
- Find hidden gems, right here in Spelthorne

Businesses can create a profile in just a few simple steps. Add your details, showcase what you can offer and start being discovered by more customers.

Visit www.wayfinder.biz for more details

The Spelthorne **Business Plan** Competition



Do you have a great business idea but need support to bring it to life? The Spelthorne Business Plan Competition, hosted by the Spelthorne Business Forum, is your chance to shine!

Now in its 11th year, this exciting competition offers aspiring entrepreneurs the opportunity to win a fantastic prize package which includes:

- £4K in funding
- professional mentoring support
- free hot desk for 12 months at the Spelthorne Business Hub
- free ticket to the Spelthorne **Business Awards**

The six best entries will present their business plans in a Dragons' Den style final to a panel of expert judges at BP's headquarters on Thursday 26 June.

The competition is open to Spelthorne residents aged 16 and over, as individuals or teams with up to four members.

Submitting your entry is simple. Request a form from members@sbf. biz or search 'Spelthorne Business Plan Competition' on Facebook.

Applications must be submitted by 14 April 2025.

Don't miss this chance to take your business idea to the next level.



Photo from left to right: 2024 winners, third place - James New of New3D; first place - Anja Abaraou of Companionship Services Ltd; second place - Abi Davidson of Unplugged Club.



Hassle free letting for landlords

Spelthorne Rent Assure is a scheme available for landlords who are interested in renting their local property through the Council. We believe the scheme to be one of the most attractive currently on offer for landlords.

Under the scheme the Council quarantees to directly pay landlords the full market rent for their property for up to two years.

Other benefits include:

- one month's rent paid directly in advance
- five weeks' repair bond
- free tenancy agreements (including right to rent checks)
- property viewings arranged
- free professional inventory
- tenancy training for tenants
- no agency fees it's a completely free service

The Council will find the tenants and, if approved by the landlord, draw up the agreements free of charge. Ongoing support for both the landlord and the tenant is available for the duration of the tenancy.

Spelthorne Council is looking for private landlords with family sized properties, so please get in touch if you are interested in working with the Council.

If you would like to register your interest, please complete our enquiry form at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/sra





or call 01784 448611



SPELTHORNE BUSINESS AWARDS 2025

Now open for entries!

Back for its seventh consecutive year, the Spelthorne Business Awards are set to showcase the very best local businesses in the Borough!

These awards offer a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Spelthorne's most innovative, inspiring and successful businesses. With categories to suit every enterprise – whether you're a new start-up, a thriving small business or a larger organisation with over 50 employees – there's something for everyone.

The 2025 Spelthorne Business Awards are free to enter. Categories span a wide range of industries and business sectors, culminating in one outstanding business being crowned Spelthorne Best Business of the Year.

Key dates:

- Entries close: Midnight on Monday 30 June
- Finalists announced: Tuesday 15 July
- Awards ceremony: Friday 3 October at the Holiday Inn, London Shepperton

The black-tie award ceremony is a highlight of the local business calendar, where the winners will be revealed in a night of celebration and networking.

Why enter?

Previous finalists and winners tell us that the Business Awards have given them a competitive advantage, increased awareness of their products and services, helped them attract staff and provided valuable networking opportunities.

Last year's winner of the Best Business award, Joe Robert-Walker, Founder of Mejuicer, described the awards as a "fantastic opportunity" to connect with businesses such as Pinewood Studios and BP. He added, "It's not only the best night of the year, it has also amplified our presence in the local area, allowing us to grow within a supportive business network."

Get involved

If your business has a trading address in Spelthorne, you're eligible to enter – and it's completely free!

To enter or find out more, including full terms and conditions, visit www.spelthornebusinessawards.co.uk

Need help with your entry?

We'll be hosting events to guide businesses through the application process on 26 March, 30 April and 14 May. To register your interest, please email business.awards@spelthorne.gov.uk

Don't miss this opportunity to shine - good luck!













Nursery Places Available

Availability may be limited in certain age groups or booking patterns

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Local Government Reorganisation

In December 2024, central government published a White Paper on the topic of devolution – the de-centralisation of government power to local or regional authorities. The White Paper proposed the creation of more Mayoral Strategic Authorities in areas that don't currently have one - like Surrev.

This approach means that additional power is given to the local communities who know their areas best, giving them more control over decision making and implementation of services. The government also outlined plans to create more unitary councils to simplify and streamline local government.

How this impacts Surrey and Spelthorne

At present, Surrey has a two-tier council system, with 11 district and borough councils and a county council. As a result, different services are currently delivered by the district and boroughs councils, and the county council.

The government expects all two-tier areas to reorganise in the coming years and has confirmed that Surrey will be on an accelerated programme to do so. This means the county and district and borough councils will dissolve and be replaced by new unitary councils. A new Strategic Authority led by a Mayor could also be created.

Council leaders across Surrey have already agreed to rule out having a single unitary council for the county. The most likely arrangement will be for Surrey to be represented by two or three unitary authorities.

What are the next steps?

There are a number of different ways to go about local government reorganisation so the Government has asked the Surrey councils to submit an interim proposal by 21 March, and a final plan by 9 May. Government is then expected to conduct formal consultations sometime after May and make a decision on the best option for Surrey by autumn this year.

Are County Council elections going ahead in May?

No. The Government has cancelled the Surrey County Council elections. Elections for the new unitary councils are likely to be held in 2026.



Will there be an impact on services while this reorganisation takes place?

It is still 'business as usual' and there are no immediate changes to your services.

How do I find out more?

We will keep you updated as the plans develop. You can also follow us on social media for the latest news or visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/lgr













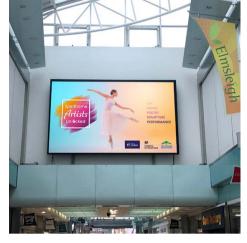
Spelthorne Artists Unlocked

Saturday 22 March and Sunday 23 March

We have a creative packed weekend with live performances, art exhibitions, workshops, artist demonstrations and community art displays. For all ages.

Venue: Staines town centre (multiple locations)

Cost: Free













For a full programme of free events and to book workshops, visit www.visitstaines.co.uk/event/spelthorne artists unlocked

Arts mailing list



Sign up to receive regular emails with news, events and opportunities about arts, culture and heritage activities in Spelthorne. Whether you are an organisation or an individual with an interest in the arts, email artsmailinglist@spelthorne.gov. uk to register your details.



Spring art open day

Saturday 5 April, 10am-2pm

Come along and make some spring crafts this holiday! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Spaces are first-come, first-served. Please try not to bring pushchairs and buggies due to fire safety and space restrictions. For children aged 4-11 years.

Venue: Spelthorne Resource Centre, Staines Park, Commercial

Road, Staines, TW18 2QJ

Cost: £1 per child, 50p siblings

Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/ resourcecentre

Saturday morning craft club

Saturday 26 April - Saturday 24 May, 10-11am

Take part in art and craft activities, learn new skills and have fun. With guidance from staff, the children will be able to make and create their own masterpieces to take home. For children aged 5-9 years.

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

Cost: £24 for the term (5 sessions)



Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/ resourcecentre



A two-year project funded by Arts Council England and local partners aims to change how young people engage with arts and culture in Spelthorne. There are several strands to the project including a wide range of arts activities for the new Staines library supported by a recently established Youth Collective, a schools' programme, community programme and the development of creative skills pathways.

We are looking for organisations in the creative sector, and local artists, to deliver some of the activities of the various programme strands. For further information about the project timeline, commission funding available and how to complete an expression of interest, please contact us.

cultureboxsurrey@surreycc.gov.uk























Walking for Health

The Spelthorne Walking for Health Scheme aims to improve the health and fitness of local people. Walks are 1-5 miles long and take place three times a week. They are held in the mornings during the week as well as evenings during the summer, with occasional afternoon and weekend walks. They are free and a great way to meet new people. If there's a café or pub nearby, the group often stop for a drink and a chat.

For more information and to view the current programme, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/ walkingforhealth, email leisure@ spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446433



Community allotment in Sunbury

Join us at our open day on Thursday 10 April from 1-3pm at our new community allotment on Groveley Road in Sunbury. Come along to help plant our first vegetables, participate in creative activities and find out how you can get involved.

Contact us by email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446433



Recycle your cycle

We will be running a bike amnesty where residents are encouraged to donate any unwanted bikes. A volunteer workforce will then repair them so they can be reused in the community. Drop off points for unwanted bikes will be available in Staines, Stanwell and Ashford, Please keep an eye on our social media and website at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/ recycleyourcycle for more information on when the amnesty will be running.

If you love bikes and want to give back to your community by volunteering your time then we would love to hear from you!

To find out how you can help, email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446433



VE Day

The 80th anniversary of VE Day will take place on Thursday 8 May. VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day, commemorates the surrender of German forces to the Allied powers at the end of World War II.

Please join us at 11am for a ceremony to mark the occasion outside the Council Offices in Knowle Green.



Staines 10K

The 2025 Staines 10K, organised by Staines Strollers, Runnymede Runners and Spelthorne Borough Council, will be held at 9am on Sunday 11 May, starting outside the council offices in Knowle Green. Proceeds go to local charities. Come along and support the runners.

To register, visit www.staines10k.co.uk



Free sports sessions for young people

We're offering six weeks of completely funded training in six different activities from April to June for young people aged 7-16. All sessions are for beginners and fully inclusive to help young people try something new, learn different skills and boost their confidence.

Following the training sessions, there will be showcase events in Spelthorne, Elmbridge and Runnymede where young people can show off what they've learnt. Activities on offer include judo, boxing, girls' football, dance, tennis and girls' cricket.

You must live or go to school in Spelthorne to sign up. Registrations open in April.

For more information, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/ surreycommunitygames, email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446433

Your Council Tax guide 2025/2026

The community facilities and local services that we all use are funded by Council Tax. Business Rates, government grants and income generating activities. The amount of Council Tax that we pay varies depending on the 'band' given to our homes, assessed on the value of the property. Spelthorne Borough Council collects all the Council Tax on behalf of Surrey County Council and Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner.

Yet, just over 9% (9.49p in every pound) of the Council Tax we collect is actually used to fund Spelthorne Borough Council services, with the balance distributed to the other authorities.

In 2025/26 Spelthorne Borough Council increased its share of the Council Tax by 2.9% to £228.86 per annum. which equates to an additional £6.45 for the year on a band D property.

The increase, which is below the rate of inflation, will help us fund our services for the next year. Some of the services we provide are mandatory e.g. waste collection, but many of them, especially supporting our vulnerable residents, are discretionary.

Surrey County Council has increased its element of the Council Tax charge by 4.99% and the Police have increased by 4.30%. This combined with the 2.9% increase from Spelthorne Borough Council will mean that residents living in a Band D property, will see their total annual bill increase from £2304.58 to £2412.78

The sheer breadth of these important services which Spelthorne Borough Council provide to you continues to be a responsibility we take very seriously. We are committed to delivering high quality and efficient public services that meet the needs of our residents and businesses and demonstrate value for money. We will use your money wisely to deliver the local services that you and your family can be proud of and which put our residents at the heart of everything we do.

Our services

Making a difference in Spelthorne

In Surrey we have a two-tier local government system which means that some services are looked after by Spelthorne Borough Council and some are the responsibility of Surrey County Council. We are committed to delivering high quality public services that meet the

needs of our residents and businesses and demonstrate value for money. Some of the services we provide are mandatory (e.g. waste collection) but many of our services. especially in supporting our vulnerable residents, are discretionary.



Affordable housing



Allotments



Biodiversity and conservation



Building



Business grants and support



Communications





Community grants



Community safety



Community transport



Council tax and business rates



Customer services



Flections



Electric vehicle charging points



Environmental health



Food and welfare Car parks network



Homelessness provision





Independent living



development



Leisure centres and services



wheels



Licensing



Public



toilets



Town centre management



• Birth/death/marriage registration

- Bus passes
- Disabled parking badges
- Education and libraries
- Fire and rescue
- On-street parking
- Pavement repair and footpaths
- Potholes
- Roads and drains
- Social services
- Street lighting
- Trading standards
- Trees on pavement/road



cemeteries



Recycling and waste collection



market cleaning



Plannina



Playgrounds

and parks

Tackling fly tipping

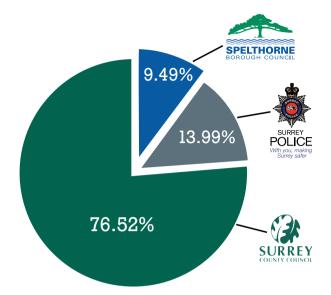






Where your Council Tax goes:

Your Council Tax pays for services provided by Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner and Spelthorne Borough Council.

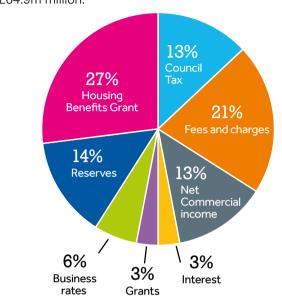


For every £1 of Council Tax:

- Spelthorne Borough Council receives just over 9p.
- Surrey County Council receives just over 76p.
- Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner receives 14p.

Where Spelthorne Borough Council gets its money from:

The Council needs to ensure that services are delivered in a cost-effective way which meets the needs of our residents but at a price the Council can afford. Spelthorne Council is largely funded by five separate income streams and with this income the Council must fulfil its statutory duties as well as deliver the Council's priorities. The 2025/26 income is £64.9m million.



Council Tax bands

Council Tax is charged at eight different levels, depending on your property value. The breakdown of how much each of the three Council Tax raising bodies retain per Council Tax band per annum for 2025/26 is as follows:

	Total	SPELTH R E B R UGH C U CIL	SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL	SURREY P LICE Rhy un king Surrey's for
Α	1,608.51	152.57	1,230.90	225.04
В	1,876.60	178.00	1,436.05	262.55
С	2,144.69	203.43	1,641.20	300.06
D	2,412.78	228.86	1,846.35	337.57
E	2,948.95	279.72	2,256.65	412.58
F	3,485.13	330.58	2,666.95	487.60
G	4,021.29	381.43	3,077.25	562.61
Н	4,825.56	457.72	3,692.70	675.14

Support available

Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/support to see lots of options for online help. If you'd rather speak to someone, call our Customer Services team on 01784 451499. We can help on a wide range of issues including benefits, debt, housing, health and wellbeing.

For more information, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/counciltax





Update from the Police Borough Commander

We've had a busy few months over the winter but we remain committed to actively working hard towards the crimes that you say you want us to focus on.

One of those is shoplifting, which is a priority for us. Due to ongoing work, our detection rate has risen to 20% (where someone is charged/ cautioned/other out of court punishment) and this continues to rise. We will continue to focus on this crime as we are aware it is a concern for both residents and retail workers.

Last month we released our rolling crime data statistics which can be found at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/ crimestats. As can be seen, whilst crime is up, our overall detection rate is up 6.5% on last year and nearly double the national average. We know that these are financially difficult times which means there may be tough decisions to make around policing, however we will do our best to maintain and improve this rate. Whilst this is down in part to our officers' hard work, this does not happen without the support of the public. I am truly grateful for your support, thank you.

My other priorities remain focused on tackling antisocial behaviour, violent crime (in particular violence against women and girls), drug supply and burglary. We are always keen to attend more community events so you can tell us what you think we should be tackling and why, so please send us your invites.

Matt Walton, Borough Commander, Surrey Police



Visit **www.surrey.police.uk**



Spelthorne Council has been welcoming local views about design elements in the Borough and how the Spelthorne Design Code can meet Spelthorne residents' needs and aspirations for the future. Local people have shared their thoughts through a series of walking tours, a drop-in session at the Elmsleigh Centre and the interactive map on the Design Code online engagement hub. This online tool gathered feedback from hundreds of various design elements across the Borough.

The team has also established a Citizens' Panel comprising more than 40 Spelthorne residents who were selected to be demographically representative of the Borough, This Panel is instrumental in co-producing the Design Code, ensuring it aligns with the community's vision for



future developments. To gain an inside look at the Panel's community engagement sessions, you can watch a short video featuring your fellow residents on the Design Code engagement hub.



What's next: have your say on the draft Spelthorne Design Code

The Design Code project has now reached stage 3 - the testing phase where baseline data and community feedback gathered from our local communities and other key stakeholders, along with the Citizens' Panel, has been translated and developed into a draft Design Code. The team encourage local residents to have their say about their future vision of their area's design by responding to the draft Design Code.

Scan the QR code to go straight to the engagement hub to find out more about the Spelthorne Design Code and share your thoughts on the draft, or visit designspelthorne.commonplace.is. You can also contact us by emailing designcode@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 444205





Dramatize Tea Room is positioned at the heart of Charlton Village, Shepperton offering a selection of cakes, beverages and a full lunch menu.



Dramatize Tea Room, Hetherington Road, TW170SP

Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10am-4pm

www.DramatizeTeaRoom.co.uk / @DramatizeTeaRoom / 07912183085

















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The King's Award for Voluntary Service

At the end of last year, two local groups were awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service which aims to recognise the outstanding work of volunteer groups.

Created in 2002 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee and previously known as The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS), the Award has been shining a light on the fantastic work of voluntary groups from all across the UK for many years. Equivalent to an MBE, KAVS is the highest award given to local voluntary groups in the UK.

The first group to receive the award, Spelthorne Litter Pickers, was formed in 2020, and organises volunteers for litter picking events throughout the borough, working closely with the Council to help to tackle litter and flytipping. They create a sense of community involvement by including children, young people and businesses in their voluntary work. The group enables people to get outside, be physically active and meet new people through group events, social media and email communication. Their aim is to make Spelthorne the cleanest, greenest, borough in the UK.

The second local group, the Revelaires, have been taking musical entertainment to care homes, dementia units, day centres and charities across



Surrey since 1953, offering fully costumed shows to offer a magical escape for those who can't get out. They perform weekly from September to March, taking free entertainment to around 25 homes, always presenting a new theme. Their members volunteer all year round, driven by a shared passion to uplift and entertain. New members are always welcome.

Congratulations and thank you to both groups. Follow them on Facebook to find out more about their work.

Five Swimmers sculpture returns to Staines

A much-loved local sculpture known as the Five Swimmers is on public view again after being loaned to Berkeley for their new Eden Grove development on the London Road in Staines-upon-Thames.

Created by David Wynne OBE in 1980, the sculpture was originally commissioned for the Elmsleigh Centre and gifted to the people of Spelthorne. It served as a centre piece and was used as a wishing well in the Centre until 1997 when it was removed and later reinstalled behind the Old Town Hall in Memorial Gardens. Unfortunately, the sculpture was damaged during the 2014 floods and vandalised many times, leading to its collapse in 2022.

Spelthorne's Corporate Policy and Resources Committee considered various possible new homes for the sculpture including the main square of the Elmsleigh Centre where it was once located. After looking at all the options it was agreed that the Eden Grove development was the preferred location, providing a secure location and protection from vandalism whilst still being accessible to the public.



It's good to talk

Fordbridge Park in Ashford has become the new home for a 'talking bench' donated by the Samaritans for the people of Spelthorne.

Talking benches have also been donated to Runnymede, Elmbridge and Woking, each with the purpose of combating loneliness by encouraging people to take a bit of time out of their day to sit and have a chat. Inscribed on the bench are the words 'it's good to talk, better to listen'.

The Spelthorne bench is the result of a collaboration between the Samaritans, the Weybridge branch of Men in Sheds, which built the bench, and the Ashford branch which installed it.

The Samaritans was formed 70 years ago to help prevent suicide by offering a confidential listening service. The organisation now who more than 200 branches and 23,000 volunteers which answer over 900,000 calls each year. To make a donation, visit www.samaritans.org/donate or call 03709 000 032.



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Do you have a business with more than 10 employees?

If so, there is a major shift in commercial waste legislation coming into force on 31 March requiring businesses to separate their food waste from the general waste.

Local solutions, real savings

Spelthorne Direct Services (SDS) provides a range of commercial waste services, including food waste collections, to help businesses recycle more, lower their carbon footprint and reduce waste collection costs. One Spelthorne restaurant exemplifies the potential saving - by simply separating their food waste, they slashed their annual waste collection costs by £6,000. This dramatic saving was due to a combination of reduced excess weight charges and the significant difference in disposal fees: £170-200 per tonne for general waste compared with just £10-15 for food waste.

Sustainable impact

Operating from their Ashford depot, SDS provides 140 litre commercial food bins with flexible collection schedules. The food waste undergoes anaerobic digestion, generating electricity and creating nutrient-rich compost for local farms. This approach not only ensures regulatory compliance but is also environmentally friendly. As part of Spelthorne Council, SDS' profits are used to support the local community by helping fund discretionary council services. By partnering with SDS, you can reduce your business costs, improve your environmental credentials and contribute to a more sustainable Spelthorne.







Your food wast

Spelthorne Council has provided a food waste collection service for some years now but we would love to see more residents making use of the service.

The food we consume - its production, transport and disposal contributes up to 73% of greenhouse gas emissions. Although we have little control over the production of food and the processes involved, we do control how much we consume and what we do with it.

A Surrey County Council study on what people actually put into their rubbish bins identified 25% of the contents of rubbish bins in Spelthorne as being 'avoidable food waste' meaning it could have been separated and put into a food waste recycling bin. So, there is a lot of food waste still in our rubbish.

The food waste collected in Spelthorne is taken to the Shepperton Lane Eco Park and used to generate green electricity and also make fertiliser for local farmers. It doesn't matter how little food waste you create - it all counts and helps save Spelthorne Council a considerable amount of money which can be spent on local services.

We collect food waste every week and accept all food including leftovers, peelings, bones, teabags and coffee grounds. If you don't already have food waste bins, they can be collected from the Council Offices or day centres.

For more information, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/foodwaste or call **01784 451499**



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Hear here

Fordbridge

Centre,

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Greeno

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Staines

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Shepperton

Community

Spelthorne Council's Community Centres now offer free services for residents with NHS hearing aids. These include cleaning and retubing, battery replacement, fitting checks, maintenance advice and referrals to the hospital for issues which can't be resolved. Please contact the centre to book a place:

First and

of each

month

Fourth

of each

month

Second

third Friday

Wednesday

Thursday of

each month







10am -

12noon

01784 463073

spelthorne.gov.uk

stainescommunitycentre@



Community Centres

Our Community Centres in Ashford, Shepperton and Staines provide a wide range of activities including yoga, pilates, quizzes, art, bridge, computer classes, singing, bingo, dancing, book club and language classes. Some also offer hairdressing, chiropody, and beautician services. They are great places to have a bite to eat, meet new people or try some activities.

For information about opening hours, activities and costs, visit www. spelthorne.gov.uk/communitycentres, email independentliving@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446389

Saturday opening at the Community **Centres**

The Greeno Centre in Shepperton and Fordbridge Centre in Ashford are continuing to extend their regular opening times by taking it in turns to open on Saturdays. Members of the Community Centres and nonmembers aged over 50 are welcome.

Please contact the Fordbridge Centre or Greeno Centre to check which day they are open. To book a place for lunch, call by the Wednesday before.

Fordbridge Centre:

01784 243880, email fordbridgecentre@spelthorne.gov.uk

Greeno Centre:

01932 246173, email greenocentre@ spelthorne.gov.uk



If you are caring for someone with a condition such as dementia, sight loss or immobility, you may be interested to know that the Greeno Centre in Shepperton runs a daily OPAL group from 9.30am-3.30pm for people with support needs. Our aim is to offer social interaction and stimulating activities, while you get some time to yourself knowing that your loved one is being well looked after. There is a daily charge to attend the group which can be paid privately or as part of a social care package if eligible.

For more information, email opal@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01932 246173

Meals on Wheels

If you are struggling to prepare meals for any reason, our Meals on Wheels service can help:



- Delivered to your home on your chosen days
- Hot main course and pudding
- Option to order a sandwich to eat later
- Dietary requirements catered for
- Can be ordered for short or long periods of time

For further information, email m.wheels@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 444265

Social housing repairs

If you are a tenant with one of the following social landlords, the contact details for reporting repairs are shown below. Contact them by telephone for urgent repairs or use the online form/ email for routine issues.

A2Dominion

Telephone 0800 4370077 www.a2dominion.co.uk/contact-us

PA Housing

Telephone 0300 1232221 www.pahousing.co.uk/contact-us

MTVH

Telephone 0203 5353535 www.mtvh.co.uk/contact-us



Solar canopy project

In December 2024, councillors approved the construction of a solar canopy at the new Eclipse Leisure Centre in Staines-upon-Thames. The canopy will be built over the car park and provide zero carbon energy from solar power for the new state-of-theart leisure centre.

It is estimated that the project will create CO2 savings equivalent to just over 11% of the Council's entire carbon footprint, contributing greatly to the Council's target of achieving net zero by 2030.

Make light work of garden waste

Our garden waste collection service provides a convenient way for residents to dispose of leaves, weeds and cuttings throughout the year. Fortnightly collections take place from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, with a break during the winter.

Your garden waste is collected from the kerbside every other week and turned into compost which is then

used by local farms. The cost is £70 a year (plus a one-off charge of £30 for the bin). If you don't have much garden waste, you can share a subscription with your neighbour or get a garden waste sack for £48 per year. New customers can subscribe from the beginning of March for collections to start in April.

Please be sure to put the right things in:



Yes please

- ✓ grass cuttings
- ✓ hedge trimming
- ✓ garden prunings
- ✓ leaves
- ✓ small twigs
- ✓ dead plants
- ✓ branches no thicker than 7cm (3")
- ✓ weeds

No thanks

- × plastic bags
- X flower pots
- ✗ seed trays
- x kitchen / food waste
- x pet litter or waste
- x cardboard, paper, glass, metal
- wood / timber or sawdust
- x soil, stones or gravel

For information and to sign-up, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Spelthorne investing in renewable energy

Alongside the planned development of the Solar Canopy at the Eclipse Leisure Centre, Spelthorne Council has delivered renewable energy in the form of solar power at six of its sites since 2020. Developing more renewable energy is an effective way for the Council to reduce its emissions, improve energy efficiency and make money that can be diverted to ensure our services maintain the highest standards.



Solar panels for a greener **future**

Are you looking for a way to reduce your energy bills and contribute to a greener future? Consider installing solar panels on your home. By harnessing the power of the sun, you can make a positive impact on both your wallet and the environment.



website at www.actionsurrey.org, email info@actionsurrey.org or call **0800 783 2503** for free and impartial





Spelthorne adopts new **Air Quality Action Plan**

Air pollution has been decreasing in Spelthorne thanks to the implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) introduced by the Council in 2005.

In December 2024, Spelthorne's **Environment and** Sustainability Committee approved the adoption of a new plan which will be in place until 2029. It outlines a number of measures including promoting walking and cycling, providing an air quality alert service, support for the campaign for Spelthorne to join Transport for London's zone six and working with Heathrow to reduce airport emissions.

This newly adopted plan aims to create a greener, healthier and more attractive borough which supports biodiversity for current and future generations. However, the

> Council recognises that many external factors affect the air quality in the Borough and is committed to working with Surrey County Council, Heathrow, local businesses, residents and the Government to collectively improve the quality of the air we all

Thank you to everyone who took part in the AQAP consultation and shared their views and ideas which helped in the production of the new plan.

breathe.

No mow spring

This spring, we invite you to join 'no mow spring' and give nature a helping hand. By letting your lawn grow wild for a few weeks, you can create a haven for pollinators and other wildlife, contributing to a healthier and more vibrant environment.

For more information, visit www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/ your no mow may lawn guide

Community flood resilience

www.spelthorne.gov.uk/article/17839/Air quality report

As climate change continues to impact our environment, the risk of flooding in our community is increasing. We need your help to build a resilient and prepared community. By forming community flood resilience groups, we can work together to protect our homes. families and neighbourhoods.



Register your interest by contacting the Council's flood resilience team by email at info@appliedresilience.org











Spelthorne in Bloom 2025

Spelthorne in Bloom will soon be open for entries. The competition celebrates the work of the Borough's green-fingered residents and businesses which are helping to make Spelthorne a brighter, greener place to live. The categories for this year's competition are:

- Best kept front garden
- Best hanging basket
- Best kept community garden or allotment
- Best kept place of worship/public building/war memorial

- Best kept allotment
- Best riverside garden
- Best kept pub
- Best horticultural/environmental initiative
- Most attractive local area (nominated by councillors)
- Best new entrant (decided by committee judges)
- Best in show (decided by committee judges)

Entries open on 3 April and close 20 June. For more information or entry form, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/SIB or call 01784 446379





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