

**Spelthorne Borough Council**  
**Summer Bulletin 2021**

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## **Letter from the Leader**

Dear Residents, I would like to take this opportunity to say that it is truly an honour to have been elected as the new Leader of Spelthorne Borough Council.

I am determined to do everything I can to support our residents and businesses as we take steps to recover from the pandemic. We have a long way to go after so many months of disruption, but I give my commitment that, as a Council, we will be doing all we can to support every part of the community.

I am looking forward to a new chapter for the Council as we implement the Committee system of governance, which came into effect in May following a public consultation. Decisions which were previously taken by the Cabinet will now be made by five committees, all with cross-party representation. I believe this will allow for a broader involvement of all councillors in decision making and provide a more open, democratic and transparent way of conducting Council business.

Spelthorne is a great place to live and work, and I look forward to working with my fellow councillors and council staff to make sure that we deliver excellent services for every single one of our residents.

Cllr Lawrence Nichols, Leader of the Council

## **A new Mayor for Spelthorne**

Cllr Ian Harvey was elected as the new Mayor for Spelthorne at the Annual Council Meeting on 27 May. Cllr Susan Doran was elected as Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Harvey was first elected as a borough councillor for Sunbury East in May 2013 and re-elected in 2015 and 2019. He has always taken a special interest in ward issues and works closely with local residents. He was Leader of Spelthorne Borough Council from February 2016 – June 2020.

Cllr Harvey has lived in Sunbury-on-Thames for 24 years and is married to Helen, who is also a local councillor, and they have two sons, Saul and Gideon. When time allows, he is a keen photographer and enjoys skiing, boating and travelling.

During the meeting, Cllr Ian Harvey said: "I thank you for electing me as Mayor for 2021/22. I am humbled that this position has been entrusted to me and I intend to do my very best to justify it. "I especially wish to reach out to young people via schools, sport, youth associations and events, as well as the charities that support them. For too long, young people have been marginalised from society and politics.

"The plight of families with children with special educational needs is also something I wish to focus on. Through no fault of their own, these families can find themselves with little support, fighting for the needs of their children. I want to redress this and afford as much help as possible.

"I have not yet finalised my list of chosen charities, but it is my express intention that organisations which support and advocate for young people will be at the core of my fundraising activities.

"I am very honoured to have been elected and will take the role very seriously, as I did when I was Leader of the Council. I am very proud of the Borough and aim to be the best advocate and ambassador possible."

## **A new ferry service for Sunbury**

Ferries from Sunbury across the river to Walton operated for hundreds of years and were a vital link for the local communities. Sadly, with the advent of modern transport, bridges and road links, the ferries died out towards the 1970s - until now.

Thanks to an initiative by Spelthorne Council and the River Thames Task Group, a new ferry service has been introduced for the area.

As part of the project, two residents, Neil Huntingford and Simon Harris, set up Sunbury Ferry Ltd. Formed as a not-for-profit community company, they recruited over two dozen local volunteers to operate the ferry service at weekends and public holidays throughout the summer months. Many of the volunteers are already experienced boaters whilst others have taken advantage of the opportunity to gain a qualification through training at Queen Mary Reservoir.

The Council has provided the initial funding to get this community initiative up and running, with other local organisations adding their support as the project has developed.

Keen to be 'green', the new ferry is powered by a whisper-quiet electric engine and crosses the river from the Sunbury bank opposite the Riverside Arts Centre, over to the Walton bank downstream of Sunbury Lock. It is hoped that the new service will be used by the local communities as well as attracting visitors to the area to enjoy the many amenities on offer.

Visit [www.sunburyferry.co.uk](http://www.sunburyferry.co.uk) for more details.

## **Budget consultation**

Spelthorne Borough Council would like to invite people who live and work in the Borough to tell us their views on the proposals for the 2022/2023 budget and beyond. We want to know what services are the most important to local people and how to prioritise and invest in service delivery so we can make the best decisions for residents and businesses in the Borough.

Our aim is to propose future budgets that match community needs, protect key services and maintain financial stability during these challenging times.

The consultation will seek feedback on ways the Council could contribute towards balancing its budget to understand the needs and priorities for communities in the Borough. It will ask for your views and suggestions on issues and options, including our financial strategy, service provision and Council Tax.

For further information and how to have your say visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/budgetconsultation](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/budgetconsultation)

## **Spelthorne Business Hub**

The Spelthorne Business Hub on the Hanworth Road in Sunbury was opened on 11 June by the Mayor of Spelthorne, Cllr Ian Harvey.

The Hub opened its doors for the first time for local businesses to look around and meet the team from CoTribe CIC who will be running the service. The Business Hub will provide a vibrant coworking environment for new start-ups and early-stage businesses, as well as a base for all businesses in Spelthorne to access training and support to help their businesses recover from the pandemic.

It offers the perfect location for entrepreneurs to develop their ideas and turn an innovative spark into a strong commercial enterprise.

The new facility offers serviced office facilities with a choice of hot desks and permanent desks. Various packages are available, with prices starting from as little as £99 per month, with the following benefits:

- 24/7 unlimited access
- superfast WIFI
- access to meeting room and breakout spaces
- free workshops and seminars
- access to mentors
- membership to the Spelthorne Business Forum
- excellent networking opportunities
- parking
- tea and coffee for your team and visitors

For more details or to arrange a visit, email Spelthorne Council's Economic Development team at [e.development@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:e.development@spelthorne.gov.uk)

## **Capture Spelthorne 2021**

Just a reminder, the closing date for this year's Capture Spelthorne photography competition is 31 August.

For full details on the categories, prizes and how to enter, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/capture](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/capture)

## **Spelthorne Business Awards**

There's still time to enter the Spelthorne Business Awards. Big or small, we have an award category to suit your business! Deadline for entries is 31 July. A black-tie dinner to announce the winners will take place on 14 October.

To enter, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/SBA](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/SBA)

## **Supporting businesses**

During the Covid pandemic, Spelthorne Council distributed over £50m in support grants to businesses in the Borough.

These financial grants have been instrumental in keeping many of the small businesses based in Spelthorne afloat during very challenging times. Further support will be made available for businesses during 2021 and continue until the end of March 2022.

The Council has provided regular news and updates to businesses via social media and the website to make them aware of the financial help available. Additionally, the Spelthorne Business Forum has played a vital role in keeping its members informed about grants and support.

To receive updates regarding the support available for businesses, register with the Spelthorne Business Forum, which is free to join. Visit [www.sbf.biz](http://www.sbf.biz)

## **The Spelthorne Business Plan Competition 2021**

Are you a budding entrepreneur with dreams of starting your own business?

Kwasi Kwarteng MP is hosting his 7th Business Plan Competition in partnership with Spelthorne Borough Council. If you have a great business idea but need some help to get things off the ground, this is an opportunity to give your idea the boost it needs, with a prize of £3,500.

The six best entries will be asked to present their business idea to a panel of expert judges at a Dragons' Den style final, hosted at BP in Sunbury on 23 September 2021. Each of the finalists will be given support to perfect their pitch. Entries are welcome from individuals or teams of up to four people.

To enter visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/businesscomp](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/businesscomp) or search @Spelthorne Business Plan Competition on Facebook.

The competition is open to Spelthorne residents aged over 16. The deadline for applications is 16 August 2021.

For more information or help with the application process, email [karen.porter@parliament.uk](mailto:karen.porter@parliament.uk)

## **Sunbury swimming pool refurbishment**

The swimming pools at Sunbury Leisure Centre will be re-opening at the end of July following an extensive refurbishment.

The pools have been closed for over a year due to severe damage to the tiling during the first Covid lockdown. Both the main pool and the teaching

pool have been completely re-tiled, the walkways around the pools have been tiled and the pool hall has undergone complete re-decoration.

Everyone Active is delighted to be welcoming swimmers back to the centre and, to celebrate the reopening, are hosting an open weekend on Saturday 31 July - Sunday 1 August. Members and non-members will be welcome to try out the improved pool facilities for free, along with the centre's other activities including the gym, sports hall and climbing wall. Sessions will need to be booked in advance and members will be informed of further details in the coming weeks.

## **Girlguiding**

Are you looking for a way for your daughter to make new friends, have fun and grow her confidence?

### **Rainbows**

Rainbows is for girls aged 5-7 years of age. Rainbows learn by doing – they get their hands dirty, do arts and crafts and play sports and games.

### **Brownies**

Brownies is about trying new things that teach girls aged 7-10 years about themselves, their community, and their world.

### **Guides**

Guides have a varied programme designed to inspire and challenge girls from 10-14 years, from taking part in fun activities, to special events and trips away.

### **Rangers**

For girls aged 14-18, Rangers wear a new uniform, have fun doing activities together and receive recognition for their achievements with badges and awards. Rangers offers many unique opportunities, including international travel.

Girlguiding groups meet in several venues across Spelthorne so if your daughter is interested, register online at [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk), or email your local district:

Ashford: [Girlguidingashford@gmail.com](mailto:Girlguidingashford@gmail.com)

Shepperton: [Sheppertongirlguiding@gmail.com](mailto:Sheppertongirlguiding@gmail.com)

Staines: [Stainesdistrict@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Stainesdistrict@hotmail.co.uk)

Sunbury: [GirlguidingSunbury@hotmail.com](mailto:GirlguidingSunbury@hotmail.com)

## **Music in the Parks**

We are hoping that music concerts in The Walled Garden in Sunbury will go ahead this summer (Covid-19 restrictions permitting).

Once we have further information, we will update the website [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/music](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/music). All performances (if they go ahead) will start at 2pm. Bring your own chairs or picnic blankets and ensure you follow the current Covid-19 guidance.

Please note that performances may be cancelled at short notice.

## **Cycling for Health**

Spelthorne's Cycling for Health Scheme offers regular organised rides of around 5-12 miles, starting within the Borough and riding through surrounding areas.

Rides take place during the week and are aimed at older adults who are getting back into cycling. All rides are free of charge and participants often stop for a drink and a chat after the ride.

For more information and to book call 01784 446433.

## **Leisure Directory – advertise for free!**

Would you like to advertise your club, activity or group for free in our Spelthorne Leisure Directory?

Visit our website and simply complete the online form. Our Directory contains a huge range of clubs, social groups and sporting activities on offer in Spelthorne to help you make the most of your leisure time.

Visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/leisuredirectory](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/leisuredirectory)

## **Meals on Wheels**

The Spelthorne Meals on Wheels team can deliver lunch, and dinner from 5pm, up to seven days a week.

The cost of a main meal and pudding is £4 and for a small extra charge you can also order a freshly made sandwich or a frozen meal to heat later. As well as the convenience of having food prepared for you, many residents like the reassurance of knowing someone will call on them each day.



Meals on Wheels are available to residents of all ages who find it difficult to prepare a daily meal, and can be ordered for short periods of time.

For more information, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/MOW](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/MOW) or call our Meals on Wheels team on 01784 444265.

## **Personal alarms**

Managed by Spelthorne Council, SPAN is a personal alarm system which helps people to live independently in their own homes. With the touch of a button worn around your wrist or neck, you can contact the 24-hour care centre who will arrange help from family, friends or the emergency services at any time of day or night. Charges start from £4.30 per week.

To contact a member of the SPAN team, email [span@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:span@spelthorne.gov.uk) or call 01784 444277. Visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/span](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/span)

## **Spelthorne Rentstart**

Rebuilding Lives in our Community Rentstart is a dedicated Spelthorne charity for single people and childless couples who may be homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Our charity provides advice and assistance to those who live in or have a connection with Spelthorne, with the aim of helping them secure affordable rented accommodation.

Our work, run by a great team of experienced staff and volunteers, has been more important than ever during the pandemic and we have continued to help reduce the impact of homelessness in our Borough and support people through these difficult times.

If you need our help, are interested in becoming involved or are a landlord, e-mail us at [info@spelthornerentstart.org.uk](mailto:info@spelthornerentstart.org.uk) or call 01784 446422.

## **Welcome back to the Community Centres**

We have four Community Centres in Spelthorne which provide a warm and welcoming environment for older people and the wider community. They offer a range of opportunities to socialise, learn new skills and keep fit.

Unfortunately, the centres were forced to close during the Coronavirus lockdown but are now starting to make plans to reopen where possible and look forward to seeing everyone again.

To find out what services are currently being offered, please contact your local centre:

Benwell Community Centre, Sunbury-on-Thames  
01932 784232

Fordbridge Community Centre, Ashford  
01784 243880

Greeno Community Centre, Shepperton  
01932 246173

Staines Community Centre  
01784 463073

## **Meet the Town Centre Manager**

Andy Willmott, Spelthorne Council's new Town Centre Manager for Ashford, Shepperton and Sunbury, is looking forward to meeting and working with local businesses. As well as being a visible presence on the High Street, Andy holds weekly meets to give businesses the opportunity to discuss any issues, concerns or suggestions.

These take place at:

Ashford: Tarla Café & Grill - Every Tuesday, 8.30 - 10am

Shepperton: Jamz Cafe and Bakery - Every Wednesday, 8.30 - 10am

Sunbury Cross: Golden Grill Cafe - Every Thursday, 8.30 - 10am

With a background working at Surrey Chambers of Commerce, running a Business Improvement District in Surrey and a small business owner himself, Andy looks forward to meeting you.

To confirm a specific time, contact Andy on 07939 244548 or just pop in for a chat – the first coffee is on Andy!

## **Thanking local volunteers**

The work of 11 dedicated local volunteers was recognized at the Spelthorne Civic Awards Trust presentation ceremony in June. Between them, this year's award recipients have given almost 300 years of service to the Borough in support of a range of charities and community groups.

Cllr Colin Barnard, the Mayor of Spelthorne for 2020/21 who presented the awards, said: "The strong community spirit and increase in people volunteering during the Coronavirus pandemic is one of the few positives we have been able to take from the past year. These winners represent the best of this Borough as they have put the needs of others above their own. We know many good deeds go unnoticed, so if you know someone who has been serving their community, we urge you to let us know about them."

Many congratulations to the following:

### **Civic Awards**

Jackie Browne - Spelthorne Museum

Nick Charalambous - Work with young people

Pamela Cole - Spelthorne Archaeology and Local History Group

Michael Coombs - Academy Trust

Gloria Hazell - Spelthorne Museum

Linda Marshall - Spelthorne Rentstart

Hugh Thomas - Burway Rowing Club

Brenda Vinson - Fordbridge Day Centre

### **Community Awards**

Gladys Boulton - Patrol Crossing Keeper in Sunbury

Murray Litvak - Spelthorne Council's 'Members' Code of Conduct' Committee

### **Letter of Commendation**

Frederick Wallin - Founder of Spelthorne's 'Man in a Shed' workshop in Shepperton

## **New affordable homes in Sunbury**

Spelthorne Council has completed the first phase of a project to convert a vacant office block into new homes in Green Street in Sunbury.

The Benwell House development is providing 55 new homes and as part of the Council's commitment to provide more affordable homes, 27 of these will be reserved as affordable rented housing.

The development will provide a mix of studios and one or two-bedroom accommodation. Residents will benefit from private parking, flexi studio, communal space and external landscaping. Each apartment has underfloor heating and high-quality fitted kitchens.

The new homes have been designed with sustainability in mind and include electric vehicle charging points, LED lighting, whole house ventilation and efficient heating. Solar panels have also been installed which can generate 10% of the energy needed. Now that the first phase is complete, a further second development is planned on the site, and it is intended that this will deliver at least 70% affordable homes for rent.

The Council has appointed Dexters in Hampton as letting agents for the private properties.

## **New facilities for homeless people**

Spelthorne Council is pleased to announce that two new facilities for vulnerable residents will be opening soon.

Located on Fordbridge Road in Ashford, Harper House will provide emergency accommodation for up to 20 homeless families. It will offer a local temporary home which is safe, secure and provides the best opportunity for families to move on to settled accommodation. Previously the Council, like most authorities, had to rely on bed and breakfast accommodation to house families in these situations.

The development, which will open at the end of the summer, includes twenty self-contained apartments of various sizes, with two of the rooms accessible for wheelchairs. There is a garden to the rear, car parking, bicycle storage and an office from which an enhanced management and support service will be provided.

Also opening late summer, the White House Hostel on the Kingston Road in Ashford will provide specialist accommodation for single homeless people, particularly those with multiple or complex needs. Generally, these are residents who are not able to access mainstream accommodation options and who would otherwise be placed in expensive nightly-paid accommodation without adequate support, or in the worst cases, sleeping rough.

The development will contain 27 en-suite rooms with shared kitchens, four self-contained studio flats, as well as outside space.

Both sites will be managed by social housing provider Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing (MTVH) and have dedicated on-site teams to support residents and work closely with the local community. A specialist housing management and resident support service at the White House will provide 24-hour on-site cover with staff who have extensive experience in working with residents to create settled futures.

## **Tackling 'legal highs'**

Spelthorne Borough Council has put in place a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) concerning the use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS).

The Order applies to all public land within the Borough and prevents the use of any psychoactive substance.

The Council launched a public consultation in January, following a Motion that was agreed last October which received many responses on the issue. 97% of residents indicated that they were in favour of a PSPO and the concerns raised in the consultation included intimidation, noise, abuse, and littering.

Nitrous Oxide, or 'laughing gas', is a well-known example of an NPS and Spelthorne Council receives many complaints from residents concerned about the large quantity of silver canisters discarded in streets and open spaces.

Cllr Amar Brar, Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee, said: "We have seen a considerable increase over the last two to three years in the use of Nitrous Oxide cannisters. There are real concerns from residents about the risks of this drug and the gateway effect to other dangerous substances. The Council wants to alleviate the impacts of this drug by educating users and provide a safe community for all residents in Spelthorne."

Nitrous Oxide has many dangerous side effects including dizziness, vitamin B12 deficiency, nerve damage, fainting, strokes, unconsciousness and suffocation from lack of oxygen. Driving when high is dangerous and illegal and if you are caught under the influence, you will receive a heavy fine, driving ban or prison sentence.

For more information about Nitrous Oxide, visit [www.talktofrank.com/drug/nitrous-oxide](http://www.talktofrank.com/drug/nitrous-oxide) or call 0300 123 6600.

## **Switch off your engine**

Drivers often leave their vehicle engines running whilst stationary on congested roads, at traffic lights, and waiting outside schools and businesses.

The emissions from petrol and diesel engines contain nitrogen dioxide and particulates which are linked to asthma and other respiratory problems, as well as carbon dioxide which contributes to climate change. Leaving the engine running whilst stationary can produce double the emissions of a car in motion, and the fumes linger nearby.

If you need to stop for longer than a minute, it's better to turn your engine off. For vehicles less than 10 years old, leaving the engine running uses more fuel than turning it off and on again.

## **Beat the scammers**

Every year the British public loses billions of pounds to fraudsters who bombard us with online, mail, door-to-door and telephone scams.

People from all walks of life are affected by this crime, but there are steps you can take to help prevent you being caught-out in the first place. Remember these 10 golden rules to help you beat the scammers.

1. Be suspicious of all 'too good to be true' offers and deals. There are no get-rich-quick schemes
2. Do not agree to offers or deals immediately. Insist on time to obtain independent/legal advice before deciding
3. Do not hand over money or sign anything until you have checked the credentials of the company or individual
4. Never send money to anyone you don't know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment that you are not comfortable with
5. Never give banking or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust. This information is valuable so make sure you protect it
6. Always log on to a website directly rather than clicking on links provided in an email
7. Do not rely solely on glowing testimonials: find solid independent evidence of a company's success
8. Always get independent/legal advice if an offer involves money, time or commitment

9. If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help. Contact ActionFraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk). Contact the Police if the suspect is known or still in the area

10. Do not be embarrassed to report a scam. Because the scammers are cunning and clever there is no shame in being deceived. By reporting you will make it more difficult for them to deceive others

## **Recycling rejects**

There are a few items which our refuse teams often find in recycling bins, which should in fact go into the rubbish. This is because they cannot be processed into a reusable form or their parts are difficult to separate.

Pizza boxes - the card on pizza boxes tends to get greasy and have bits of uneaten food stuck to it. Paper doesn't get heated when it's recycled so the grease and oil doesn't burn off and spreads through the whole batch.

Takeaway drinks cups - takeaway cups are made from card and a plastic film, laminated together. The plastic is very hard to separate and can clog up the recycling machinery.

Cartons and tetra paks - Food and drink cartons are made from card, metal foil and plastic film, all laminated together. It is very hard and expensive to separate them again.

To check if a particular item can be recycled in Spelthorne, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/recycling-search](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/recycling-search) or call 01784 446411.

## **Love your green spaces**

We have seen a high number of visitors to our parks in the past year and it is wonderful to see people enjoying these areas.

Our green and open spaces provide opportunity for physical activity, leisure and sport and contemplation for us all. Residents, workers and visitors alike value these areas immensely.

These green areas of the Borough also provide an important home to a rich array of wildlife and plants, and each species plays their own special role. For example, when a butterfly lays eggs on a leaf, the caterpillars will become food for nesting birds, and wildflowers attract pollinating insects such as bees. It's important that you don't disturb the natural environment by picking flowers, plants, fruit or mushrooms.

Please always take your rubbish home or use the nearest bin as litter is very harmful for wildlife and pets. Fires and barbeques are not permitted as they pose a fire risk.

Parks are a great place to exercise and play sports, but please use the designated areas for ball games – and no golf please! You are welcome to ride your bicycle on the cycle paths.

We thank you for following these guidelines and helping us create a beautiful environment where nature can thrive.

Bylaws are available to read at each of our green spaces. Call 01784 for more information.

## **Dig it**

The popularity of allotments has increased in recent years with more and more people becoming interested in growing their own fresh produce and escaping the everyday stresses of life.

Spelthorne Council manages 10 allotment sites around the Borough, so get in touch if you would like more information about the cost and availability of allotments near you.

Visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/allotments](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/allotments) or call 01784 451499.