# Spelthorne Borough Council Bulletin magazine Spring issue no. 118

# Message from the Leader of the Council

Dear Residents, the start of 2018 has seen important new details shared with the public about the potential expansion of Heathrow with the launch of a consultation in January. We are mindful of the impact, both positive and negative, of the proposed expansion on the residents of the Borough. We will be working hard to make sure your best interests are served. The consultation runs until 28 March 2018 so you may just have time to respond if you haven't already.

This spring will also see the start of an important consultation on the Council's emerging Local Plan which will set out local planning policies to identify how land is to be used. Your views are vital to help shape our local area so look out for details on our website and come along to one of the consultation events. See more on page 6.

This is the time of year when budgets are set. We have given very careful consideration to the setting of next year's council tax and, despite the much-mooted withdrawal of Government funding, are pleased to be able to set ours at a lower rate than the Government allowed, below the current rate of inflation, and half or less than the percentage increases by Surrey County Council and Surrey Police. All without drawing on reserves or cutting services. I hope this demonstrates my commitment to keep our proportion of the bill as low as possible whilst protecting vital local services. See more on page 20.

I want to finish with a tribute to my friend and mentor, Gerry Ceaser, who sadly died on 25 February. Gerry had spent 34 years as a Councillor in Spelthorne and was Leader twice. He was also Mayor for two municipal years. Gerry was a pivotal local figure at the forefront of political, civic and community life. His achievements, too numerous to mention here, were recognised in October 2007 when he was awarded Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Spelthorne. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him and I would like to express my sincere condolences to his wife Zandra and family on their loss.

Cllr Ian Harvey, Leader of the Council.

#### Farewell from the Mayor

We were warned that the year would fly by and, although not over yet, it is hard to believe this is my final message to you as Mayor.

It is a wonderful year and a privilege to be able to represent and promote Spelthorne; we have travelled across Surrey, into London and beyond, and of course to our twinned town Melun, outside Paris. We have attended a wide range of events, both large scale and local, and the most important and fulfilling aspect is the people we have had the opportunity to meet and talk to. There are concerns that volunteering is falling off but I am struggling to think of anywhere we've been where some aspect or other hasn't been supported by volunteers. I am so proud that Spelthorne is so rich in support and glad I have been able to thank so many of you for all you do to make life better for others in every way imaginable, and more.

I said an aspect of the borough I wanted to promote was the River Thames so when Gloriana undertook a new role by leading my River Day, I was able to thank some volunteers by inviting about 40 to join me on board. My heartfelt thanks go to the river community who came together to provide a flotilla the whole way and to the thousands who lined the banks; it was simply fabulous - an unforgettable occasion for all of us. I later received an invitation to be rowed in the Great River Race from Docklands to Ham, and my Christmas card featured a local artist's painting of the scene.

When arranging fund-raising events for my charities, organisations of all types have been very generous but I would have been lost without my small, hardworking team. I would like to mention two events still to come - a St George's Day Ladies Lunch and the all-important Mayor's Charity Ball. Please visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/mayor for details.

Finally I would like to thank the Deputy Mayor Cllr Jean Pinkerton and Mrs Linda Burton for attending events on my behalf, and my husband Chris for his chauffeuring and unflagging support throughout this journey together.

Cllr Vivienne Leighton, Mayor of Spelthorne.

#### Shaping Spelthorne

We are making progress on producing a new Local Plan for the borough. Once adopted, this will set out the policies and proposals to help us to meet our housing, employment and infrastructure needs up to 2035.

We are currently reviewing information that will tell us how many residential units and commercial buildings we need, how much land we have available to deliver this development and what new or improved infrastructure should support this growth.

In April/May 2018 we are planning to start consulting on the new Local Plan by asking you what issues you think it should address and seeking your views on

possible options for meeting our needs. During the consultation we will hold community engagement sessions where you will be able to receive more information and talk to staff. The dates of these sessions will be publicised on our website and sent to residents' associations.

After this consultation we will draft our new Local Plan before carrying out further consultation later this year. The Plan will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by an independent inspector who will tell us if it can be recommended for adoption. We expect this process to be completed by September 2020.

The Local Plan will cover a wide range of themes that affect our community and this will be the chance for you to have your say in shaping the future of the borough, so please get involved.

For more information please visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/localplan

#### Dates for your diary

#### Spring art open day

Saturday 31 March, 10am-2pm Have fun with your children making spring themed crafts. Entry fee £1 per child (50p for siblings). No need to book. www.spelthorne.gov.uk/resourcecentre

#### Pet Celebration

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 April, 10am-5pm

A two-day event in Staines High Street that introduces, educates and entertains visitors through stunning animal displays, shows, clinics, demonstrations, competitions and activities.

Visit www.visitstaines.co.uk

#### Meet the Saxons

Saturday 21 April, 11am-3pm

Celebrate 600 years of the Saxons at the Spelthorne Museum with free Saxon arts, crafts and other activities, including a special children's trail. Access through Staines Library in Friends Walk, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 4PG. Visit www.spelthornemuseum.org.uk

#### **Ashford Bowling Club centenary celebration**

Saturday 28 April, 2pm

Ashford Bowling Club in Woodthorpe Road is celebrating its centenary with a grand opening attended by the Mayor. Everyone welcome, free coaching available, special joining fee £25. Contact Marion Bushnell on 07597 696616.

#### Staines 10K

Sunday 13 May, 9am

Come along and support the runners taking part in the Staines 10K, starting outside the Council Offices in Knowle Green. Visit www.staines10k.co.uk for route information.

#### **Royal Wedding celebrations**

Friday 18 May, 10.30am-3pm at the Greeno Centre in Shepperton Call 01932 246173 to book a place, entry £4

#### **Shepperton Greeno Centre: 30th birthday celebrations**

Thursday 24 May, 1.30pm-3pm, Call 01932 246173 to book a place, entry £4

#### **Shepperton Village Fair**

Saturday 9 June, 11am-5pm

Starting with the procession in the High Street at 11.15am, the fair takes place on Manor Park and features arena displays, craft and food stalls, fair rides, kiddie cars and the Great Nauticalia Raft Race. Visit www.shepperton-fair.org

#### **Staines-upon-Thames Day**

Sunday 1 July, 11am-5pm

A great family day out with music, duck races, boat rides, kayaking, fairground rides, inflatables, arts and crafts, birds of prey display, street food, craft stalls and so much more. Visit www.stainesuponthamesday.co.uk

Our 'what's on' page is packed with information about local activities and events, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/whatson

#### Spelthorne in Bloom 2018

Spelthorne in Bloom is an annual competition which encourages people who live and work in the borough to take pride in their local environment. There are eight categories to choose from with the opportunity to win vouchers or prizes in this free-to-enter community competition:-

- best new entrant
- best kept front garden
- best kept pub
- best kept public garden/building
- best kept allotment
- best hanging basket
- best riverside garden
- best kept place of worship
- best kept wildlife or sustainable garden (for schools)

Email Katy Frame at neighbourhoodservices@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446411 to request an entry form. Entries must be received by Friday 15 June.

# Join the Spelthorne in Bloom Committee

Do you have a passion for gardening? Are you able to volunteer a few hours a month? If so then why not join this friendly committee and see how you can help encourage others to brighten up our borough.

Email Katy Frame at neighbourhoodservices@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446411.

# Go green with your garden waste

Now spring has finally arrived and you can get back in the garden, remember that you have three easy options for your garden waste:

- Garden waste collection service subscribe now to this convenient collection service and have your garden waste collected every two weeks (except for Christmas and January) from your kerbside. This costs only £54 for the year (plus one-off charge of £25 for the brown bin). If you have a small garden, why not share your subscription with a neighbour.
- Home composting the most environmentally-friendly option as your garden waste rots down to produce a nutritious compost. Buy a compost bin from www.recycleforsurrey.org.uk/garden-waste for just £13.
- Shepperton Community Recycling Centre bring your garden waste for free. www.recycleforsurrey.org.uk/ garden-waste

Don't put garden waste in your rubbish bin – it will not be collected.

For more information visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/gwform or call Customer Services on 01784 451499.

# Highway verges

Spelthorne Council has committed to continue to maintain highway verges despite a 40% reduction in funding from Surrey County Council. Contact Neighbourhood Services by email at neighbourhoodservices@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446411.

# Find out what happens to your rubbish and recycling

#### Rubbish

The majority of your rubbish is transported to a local waste incinerator and used to generate electricity. The remaining 1% of rubbish is buried as landfill.

#### Mixed recycling

Last year we collected 9,000 tonnes of dry mixed recycling. This is sorted and separated at a facility in Colnbrook, squashed into bales ready to be sold and made into new products. The bales of tins and cans are sent to reprocessing plants in the UK and Europe and paper and card to mills in Asia. Plastics and glass are reprocessed in the UK.

#### **Food waste**

Your food waste is taken to a local waste facility where it is broken down by an anaerobic digester into fertiliser to be used on local farmland. The process benefits the environment because potentially harmful greenhouse gases are used to make electricity rather than being released into the atmosphere. It is also the cheapest way for us to dispose of your food waste.

#### **Textiles**

Last year we collected nearly 130 tonnes of textiles in Spelthorne. Most of these are reusable and are sent to charity shops in the UK or sent to markets in Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. The rest is recycled and used as industrial cloths, padding for chairs or shredded and turned into products such as insulation. Some fabrics are 'upcycled' and made into new clothing.

#### **Small electricals**

Old electrical items are taken apart and the metals are separated and melted down to make new products. Recycling any small electrical items means less mining for new metals, including some rare metals found in many tech products.

By recycling as much as you can you are helping to reduce the cost of your waste collections.

For more information about rubbish and recycling collections or to order food waste caddies, please visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/kerbsidecollections or call 01784 446411.

# 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 are taking place from 10.30am - 12.30pm on the following dates:

- Thursday 5 April Kenyngton Recreation Ground
- Wednesday 11 April Long Lane, Stanwell
- Friday 1 June Ashford Recreation Ground

The events are free to attend.

For more information visit www.xplorer.org.uk, email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call Leisure Services on 01784 44 6433.

#### Active fun for Easter

Sporteering is a new navigation app which challenges you to collect points by finding places marked on a map. Get out and about with friends or family this Easter and take part in the Staines Sporteering challenge.

To get started, download the free Sporteering app from your app store and select your local event.

# New Leisure Directory is out

Pick up a copy of the 2018 Leisure Directory from your local library, leisure centre, or doctors' surgery. It's packed full of special interest clubs, groups and sporting activities to help you make the most of your leisure time. You can also view or download a copy at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/leisuredirectory or call Leisure Services on 01784 446433.

If you run a local activity or are part of a club and would like to be included in our 2019 directory then please complete our online form via the link above.

# Spelthorne Arts Week

Spelthorne Arts Week is jam packed with arts activities for all ages and abilities, including live theatre, music and comedy, arts, crafts, dance workshops and much more! Many of these events are free to attend.

Find out what's happening near you by visiting www.spelthorne.gov.uk/ Spelthorneartsweek

# Spelthorne ParaSports Club

Aimed at young people aged 5-25 with learning or physical disabilities, Spelthorne ParaSports Club provides opportunities to play a range of sports which include football, basketball, boccia, new age curling, trampolining, table cricket, polybat, goalball and unihoc.

All sessions are overseen by enthusiastic volunteers although parents/guardians are encouraged to stay on site during the sessions.

The club is held twice a month at Spelthorne Leisure Centre on Saturday mornings from 10.15-11.45am, please check the dates on the website. Each session costs £4 for the first child and £2 for siblings, every fourth session is free. Come and try - the first session is free.

For more information and the current programme of activities, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/parasportsclub, email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call Leisure Services on 01784 4464 33.

#### **Specsavers Surrey Youth Games**

Are you in school years 3-11? Interested in trying a new sport? Then why not come along to the Specsavers Surrey Youth Games free training sessions with Team Spelthorne. Sponsored by Specsavers, the Surrey Youth Games is the

largest annual youth sports festival in Surrey. The main aim of the Games is to provide opportunities for young people to try new sports. Around 2000 children, will experience a competitive, countywide sporting event when they take part in the Games on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 June.

In preparation for the competition weekend, Spelthorne Borough Council is holding up to 8 weeks of coaching for each sport, beginning in April/May. The training sessions are free of charge and offer young people a fantastic opportunity to try a new sport or improve on existing skills. There are a wide variety of sports on offer including badminton, boccia, boxing, girls' cricket, girls' football, hockey, judo, lacrosse, netball, squash, girls' rugby and tennis. All sessions will be led by qualified coaches and teams will be chosen from the coaching sessions to compete in the Games at Surrey Sports Park in Guildford and Woking Leisure Centre.

To be eligible for Team Spelthorne you must either live or go to school in Spelthorne and if you already play a sport, you must be below county standard. Some sports are only for beginners. Full details for the coaching sessions, age ranges and full eligibility can be found on the website.

You must register in advance of the sessions.

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

# Help to Buy

With house prices and mortgage lender deposit requirements consistently climbing, it's no wonder that in recent years it has become difficult for many people to buy their own home. If you are struggling to buy a property outright, Help to Buy could help you onto the property ladder.

#### **Shared Ownership**

With Shared Ownership, the Housing Association will offer initial shares of between 25% - 75% of the full purchase price and you pay a subsidised rent on the remaining share. The combined monthly cost of mortgage and rent will normally be less than if you were purchasing the property outright. In the future you can simply sell your share for its value at the time or alternatively you can purchase further shares in your home. With most properties you are eventually able to own the whole property.

#### **Equity Loan**

Equity loans offer you the opportunity to purchase a new build home from registered housebuilders. The Government lends you between 10% and 20% of the cost of your home, so that you'll only need a 5% cash deposit and 75% mortgage to make up the rest. You will not be charged loan fees on the 20% loan for the first five years of owning your home. The loan is paid back either at the end of the mortgage term, or when the property is sold.

For details visit www.helptobuyese.org.uk, email helptobuyeastandsoutheast@bpha.org.uk or call 03333 214044.

# Spelthorne Means Business Awards 2018

Spelthorne Borough Council and Spelthorne Business Forum are proud to announce the launch of the borough's very first business awards. Recognising the hard work and achievements of local businesses, this event will showcase the best of the best - don't miss out!

The Awards are free to enter and open to organisations of all sizes and sectors. The categories are:-

- 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 overall winner will be named Best Spelthorne Business in an award presented by Spelthorne Borough Council. Enter by 31 August at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/SMBA

An awards dinner will be held at Shepperton Studios on Thursday 11 October for the finalists.

For more information email r.lambert@spelthorne.gov.uk

#### Homelessness

The way that councils must deal with people who are in danger of losing their home is changing. From 3 April, new rules mean that councils will work with households and single people who are threatened with homelessness earlier from up to 56 days before they are likely to lose their homes.

The aim is to tackle the growing national problem of homelessness by focusing on working with affected groups of people as early as possible to prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place. Support available will include working with other agencies such as the NHS, Surrey County Council and voluntary organisations to provide practical help and advice in areas such as financial management, employment or welfare.

If you think you may lose your home in the future, or are already homeless, you can contact the Spelthorne Housing Options team on 01784 446383 or email housingneeds@spelthorne.gov.uk.

Please contact us as soon as you think you are likely to become homeless.

The biggest challenge for Spelthorne is finding accommodation in the private rented sector, which is why we have introduced schemes such as Spelthorne Rent Assure which guarantee rents for landlords who let their properties through the Council.

If you are a landlord who may be interested in this generous private landlord scheme please call Sam King or Terri Mannian on 01784 448611, or email sra@spelthorne.gov.uk

## Become a Volunteer Host

Do you have a spare room and feel you could offer a safe and supportive environment for up to three nights to a vulnerable young person aged 16-21 who has become homeless? The Surrey Volunteer Service would love to hear from you. Expenses are paid and you will receive training and supervision. If you would like more information contact Debbie Searle at Surrey County Council by email at volunteer.hosts@surreycc.gcsx.gov.uk

# The Spelthorne Business Plan competition

Many people have a great business idea but few go on to make it happen. The Spelthorne Business Plan Competition could help you do exactly that. Kwasi Kwarteng, MP for Spelthorne, is hosting his 5<sup>th</sup> annual competition aimed at inspiring entrepreneurs to enter for a chance to win a package of £3,500 plus mentoring support and free website and logo design.

The six best entries will be asked to present their business plan to a panel of expert judges at a Dragons' Den style final hosted at BP on 25 May. Entries are welcome from individuals or teams of up to four people. To enter visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/businesscomp or search 'Spelthorne Business Plan Competition' on Facebook. The competition is open to Spelthorne residents aged over 16.

Applications must be received by Sunday 15 April. For further details please email Tracey Carter at tracey.carter@parliament.uk

# Capture Spelthorne Photography Competition 2018

Open to all ages. For information on how to enter, the categories, prizes and all the T&Cs visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/capture

The closing date for entries is 31 May.

Winning entries will be notified by Friday 15 June.

## Council Tax 2018/2019

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

Spelthorne Council has given very careful consideration to the setting of this year's Council Tax and budget as we know that household finances are under pressure, with many finding that their incomes are not keeping pace with inflation. We are also very aware that residents do not want us to reduce or cut valuable local services.

For many years local services have been subsidised by money from central government. Most of that money has now been taken away and we will not receive any general Revenue Support Grant funding from the government for the coming financial year, 2018/19. We are also having to prepare for the following

financial year (2019/20), when not only will there be no grant, we will also have to find £750,000 to give to the government to fund services in other parts of the country.

If we plugged the gap with Council Tax increases we would need to raise our part of the bill by a huge 10% but we are not doing that. Through careful financial management, including ambitious but prudent property investments, we have kept Spelthorne's increase:

- below inflation
- below the government cap
- below Surrey County Council and
- below Surrey Police

This has been achieved without cutting the frontline services which residents rely upon and whilst finding extra money for the additional legal responsibilities we have been given such as helping to prevent people from becoming homeless. Additionally, Spelthorne Council has absorbed some of the knock-on effects of Surrey County Council cuts by funding services such as personal alarms for elderly and disabled people, maintaining the grass verges, and keeping the street lights on at night.

Our increase is just £5 per year, or just under 10p per week for an average Band D property. Coupled with the fact that we keep just under 11p in every pound of your total bill, we hope this demonstrates our commitment to keep Spelthorne's proportion of the bill as low as possible whilst continuing to protect services.

We will continue to focus on maximising income from our assets, generating lowrisk income streams and delivering services in new and more efficient ways in order to keep Council Tax increases to a minimum.

#### Where your Council Tax goes

Council Tax received from a single Band D\* property 2018/19:

Spelthorne Borough Council: £197.44
Surrey County Council: £1,411.29
Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner: £236.57

#### **Council Tax bands**

Council Tax is charged at eight different levels, (bands A to H) depending on your property value. The table below shows both the Spelthorne Council

Tax and the total Council Tax chargeable for each property band for 2018/19

Band	Total £	Spelthorne Borough Council £	Surrey County Council £	Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner £
Α	1,230.20	131.63	940.86	157.11
В	1,435.23	153.56	1,097.67	184.00
С	1,640.26	175.60	1254.48	210.28
D	1,845.30	197.44	1,411.29	236.57
E	2,255.37	241.32	1,724.91	289.14
F	2,655.43	285.19	2,038.53	341.71
G	3,075.50	329.07	2,352.15	394.28
Н	3,690.60	394.88	2,822.58	473.14

For further information please visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/ctax

# Electric vehicle charging in Spelthorne

Last summer the Council installed electric vehicle charge points in the Elmsleigh and Tothill multi-storey car parks in Staines-upon-Thames as part of a plan to support low carbon travel and reduce pollution from car emissions. Since their installation, the chargers have been used 273 times and prevented the creation of 818kgs of carbon dioxide. The bays are free to use\* and residents simply download an app to get started.

Download the Pod Point app from your app store or visit https://open.pod-point.com/

# Sign up for our eNews

Spelthorne Council produces a monthly newsletter which contains a round-up of the latest news from around the borough including changes to Council services, community events and local consultations, sent straight to your email inbox. To sign-up visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/enews

<sup>\*</sup>Customers will need to pay the appropriate parking fee

# New weekly social club

Age UK Surrey has launched a new social club called Café Culture, designed to combat loneliness and isolation. Come along for a chat every Thursday from 2 - 4pm to the coffee shop in Notcutts Garden Centre in Laleham. Get to know others who live in your area and enjoy a weekly get-together in a friendly, social environment. You are welcome to come on your own or bring a carer or family member. Anyone aged 50+ is welcome, no booking required.

For more information call Age UK Surrey on 01784 444200. Notcutts Garden Centre, 150 Staines Road, Laleham, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 2SF.

# Boot out your old boiler

Spelthorne Council has launched a gas boiler scrappage scheme in partnership with Heat Surrey, worth up to £1,000 for residents who trade in their old gas boilers for a modern efficient model. Detached houses will receive a grant of £1,000, semi-detached or end-terrace houses will receive a grant of £750, with all other properties receiving £500. To qualify your household income must be less than £35K after tax and housing costs.

For more information or to apply for a grant call Heat Surrey on 01784 653635. Grants are subject to survey, terms and conditions, and funding is limited.

#### **Electoral Registration 2018**

The Electoral Register was published on 1 December 2017 and will remain in place until 30 November 2018. If you are not on the Register you can make an application online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Once your application is successful we will write to confirm, or let you know if we need further information.

The Electoral Register will be used if there are any by-elections or 'snap' elections/referenda and is also used by Credit Referencing Agencies to establish where people live when they apply for any form of credit such as a mortgage, loan, hire purchase agreement or mobile phone contract.

If you have moved since the register was published you will need to register at your new address.

Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/elections, email electoral.services@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 444218 for more information.

# Living independently in Spelthorne

Spelthorne Council offers a range of services designed to help residents live independently. Our four Community Centres provide a warm and welcoming environment for older people and the wider community, offering opportunities to meet people and keep fit with activities such as tai chi, line dancing, computing, art and language classes, cookery lessons and social events and trips. Members benefit from reduced fees for activities and also have access to useful services including chiropody, hairdressing and hearing aid maintenance.

In addition to the usual activities, the Greeno Centre in Shepperton and Fordbridge Centre in Ashford run OPAL groups which are designed for individuals who are unable to attend the Centres independently and need some additional support during their visit.

Other services offered by the Council include Meals on Wheels, and Spelride, a bus service for elderly or disabled residents. Other equipment such as personal alarms, pill dispensers and fall detectors are also available.

Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/older-people or call 01784 446389 for more information.

#### Free online business advice

Starting a business or already run a business and could do with business advice? If you live or work in Spelthorne visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/miv for completely free professional advice.

#### Property investment updates

The general grant funding which the Government gives to local authorities has been withdrawn which means that Spelthorne and other councils are being forced to reduce costs and find new ways to generate income.

Investing in commercial properties which have existing tenants provides the Council with a significant income to pay for vital services for residents. This strategy is already working well and the Council recently added two more properties, Hanover House in Staines-upon-Thames and 12 Hammersmith Grove in West London, to its portfolio.

The property investments are funded by long-term fixed rate loans which gives us certainty regarding the costs. Although the investments are large, they are low risk because they are valuable assets in prime locations

Spelthorne Council is also progressing with plans to provide more housing in the Borough.

#### Benwell House, a former office block in Sunbury-on-Thames

We recently obtained permission to convert Benwell House into housing and are now progressing with a detailed planning application for the site.

#### **Bugle Pub in Upper Halliford**

Demolition works were completed at the end of 2017 at the former Bugle Pub in Upper Halliford. Building contractors started work in February to provide eight apartments which should be completed in early 2019.

#### **Churchill Hall on Churchill Way in Sunbury-on-Thames**

Demolition works on Churchill Hall were completed at the end of 2017 and building contractors started work in February to provide three two-bedroom homes, they should be completed in early 2019.

For more details email Heather Morgan, Group Head for Regeneration and Growth at h.morgan@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446352.