

# Spelthorne Council Update

Thursday, 26 June, 2014

- Cllr Joanne Sexton gave an interview to Brooklands Radio on Wednesday 18 June and spoke on a range of subjects including why she became a councillor and issues affecting her ward.
- The floods which caused such terrible devastation for the Borough earlier in the year were the topic of discussion at the Community Flood Meeting held on the evening of Thursday 5 June at Spelthorne Leisure Centre. The public meeting, the first of its kind to be organised by a Surrey council, involved all the key agencies responsible for managing the flood crisis and recovery effort and was attended by over 800 people.
- The Bulletin magazine was delivered to all homes in the Borough between 7-10 June. It includes the rubbish and recycling calendar and articles about the development of Staines-upon-Thames and the new Housing Allocations Policy.
- Agreement has been reached to trial the use of pavement stencils as a way of reminding dog owners to clear up mess left by their pets. It involves spraying the pavement where dog mess has been left with a message warning owners that dog fouling can result in a fine. It will be trialled in the Hengrove area of Ashford.
- The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme continues to work well in the Borough and many businesses are striving to improve their scores. Ashton Lodge, a nursing home in Sunbury, has recently been given a '5' rating (very good) having previously been rated as '1' (urgent improvement necessary).
- Waste tonnages are steadily falling which has resulted in lower processing costs for the Council. Waste has decreased by almost 10% in the three years between 2009/10 and 2012/13 and this decrease has continued in the first three quarters of 2013/14 (figures for Q4 not yet available).
- The Neighbourhood Supervisor for Stanwell Moor, Stanwell Village, Stanwell and parts of Ashford has reported some success in dealing with fly tipping. Concrete rings have been placed at the edge of the wooded area of Horton Road (near the junction with Leylands Lane) to deter vehicles from entering and tipping. Using the Community Payback team, litter has also been cleared and regeneration work is taking place to help restore this area of semi-woodland to its former glory.
- Spelthorne's Environmental Health team recently worked with Surrey Police and A2 Dominion (A2D) to prevent an illegal rave taking place at an A2D property in Sunbury over the weekend of 17-18 May. Surrey Police received intelligence about the party via social media and Environmental Health served a notice on the party organiser to prevent a likely noise nuisance.
- Spelthorne's Environmental Health team received thanks from Sunbury residents when it arranged for fly tipped building rubble, left in a communal garage area, to be removed by the Council's Streetscene team.
- Amy Webster of Vernon Court Stanwell pleaded guilty to failing to notify a change of circumstances to Spelthorne Council and the DWP in that she had married in 2011. She received a 12 month conditional discharge and 200 hours community service at Guildford Magistrates Court on 7 May. This was the culmination of months of hard work from the Housing Benefit fraud team and DWP.

- Joanne Hodgson of 33 Metcalf Road Ashford pleaded guilty to fraudulently claiming Income Support, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit whilst living with an undeclared partner. She will be sentenced at the Crown Court on 27 June.
- The Greeno Day Centre celebrated its 25th anniversary on 15 May with an event attended by over 90 local people and the Mayor of Spelthorne.
- The Fordbridge Centre organised a railway outing for members on Saturday 14 June to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-day and the 100th anniversary of World War I.
- An illegal gaming machine was seized from a pub in Shepperton on 12 May. By their very nature, illegal gaming machines often fail to comply with Gambling Act licensing objectives which are aimed at ensuring gambling is conducted fairly and openly, protecting children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling, and keeping crime out of gambling.
- The Council Tax collection rates (cumulative) up to end of May 2014 were:-
  - Council Tax: 26.4% (26.4% in May'13)
  - Council Tax Support: 17.5% (15% in May'13)
  - Business Rates: 24.39% (23% in May'13)
  - 6 hardship claims received - 2 approved
- Recycling bank improvements have been completed, with more attractive and easier to use bin housings installed. This is already reducing levels of contamination.
- Laleham Park - further public consultation is underway and is happening in libraries across the Borough from 16-24 June. The consultation details will also appear on the website and in the noticeboards until 29 June.
- 18 out of the 20 possible primary and infant schools are now receiving food waste collections. Food waste roadshows at local schools are on-going and continue to be exceptionally well received. A presentation was also recently given to Carers Support to help carers cut down on food waste. Larger roadshows incorporating both food waste and energy efficiency will be starting this week at local supermarkets.
- Working with Action Surrey, the Environment team have installed 99 energy efficiency improvements in homes across Spelthorne. A Joint bid with Action Surrey and Green Deal Communities has also been successful and will provide more than £2m to assist homeowners across Surrey.
- Cavity wall and loft insulation will be installed at the Fordbridge and Greeno Day Centres and Shepperton Village Hall.
- A contractor has been brought in to enforce mooring restrictions at Ryepeck Meadow and Council owned land in Shepperton. The issue of unauthorised mooring has been a source of concern for some time and this action has been welcomed by many.
- Four enforcement notices have been served in relation to unauthorised development on Green Belt land near Gleneagles Close in Stanwell.

- Spelthorne Council, as part of the Search Moves group, is inviting all residents who are currently on the Housing Register to re-apply. This will allow the Council to re-assess existing housing applications in line with the new Common Allocations Policy which is due to go live on 21 July. The deadline for re-applications is 14 July.
- Leisure Services is entering 28 teams (200 children) for the P&G Surrey Youth Games on 21 and 22 June. The teams were selected from more than 500 applicants who participated in the free coaching programme which ran between April and June.
- Leisure Services in partnership with the British Tennis Coaching Academy is holding free coaching sessions at Fordbridge Tennis Courts as part of the Great British Tennis Weekend on 28 and 29 June.
- The organisers of the Staines 10K road race are giving £6,000 to local charities.
- The Spelthorne Summer Events leaflet compiled by Leisure Services has been distributed throughout the Borough advertising many free or low cost activities such as arts festivals, music events, school fetes and Staines-upon-Thames Day.
- Housing Benefits and Leisure Services have worked together to provide vouchers toward the cost of summer holiday play schemes to over 150 Spelthorne families in receipt of benefits.