

## STANDING UP FOR LOCAL ALL YEAR ROUND

# 5 WAYS A LIB DEM COUNCIL LEADER IS BETTER FOR YOU

In May 2021, **Lib Dem Councillor Lawrence Nichols** was elected as the first non-Conservative Leader of Spelthorne Council. We also changed the way the council is run to a structure that's more **open, transparent and accountable**. **And we're only just getting started.**

### 1 Created a cross-party initiative to reduce Local Plan housing numbers

Council Leader Lawrence Nichols, with cross-party support, has written to Kwasi Kwarteng explaining why the housing numbers imposed on Spelthorne are unacceptable. Despite compelling evidence that 600 new homes per year is unreasonable, nothing has happened to reduce the number. Just warm words from our MP, but no action.

**Spelthorne deserves better.**

### 2 Introduced greater transparency in decision-making

To improve management of risk in decisions, an independent member of the audit committee has been appointed.

Far more information is now available to residents (eg Benwell Court). Decisions are being taken by committees (with genuine discussion) and not by a small clique of Cabinet members.



### 3 New Corporate Plan agreed after two years of Conservative delay

The old Plan expired in 2019 and Tories didn't get a grip and push it forward. Now we have a plan that includes a new focus on Service Delivery and with outcomes that can be monitored.



### 4 Greater involvement of councillors in Spelthorne Council development decisions

A new Development Sub-Committee authorises and monitors Council developments. Ward councillors are now involved in shaping schemes in their area. None of this happened under the old regime.

### 5 Looking at ways we can make Council-built homes more affordable for tenants

We looked again at what "viability" of developments means, making sure that rental income covers debt repayments rather than only commercial valuation.



This will allow the Council to build more affordable housing for rental to local people.

## How can we help you?



### We hold a Residents' Surgery every month

either in **Sunbury Library** or online if there are restrictions around meetings. Call us on the number below for more details.

First Saturday in the month, so there next four are:  
**5 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May**

✉ [info@spelthornelibdems.org.uk](mailto:info@spelthornelibdems.org.uk)  
🌐 [www.spelthornelibdems.org.uk](http://www.spelthornelibdems.org.uk)  
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Liberal  
Democrats  
SPELTHORNE  
01932 787854

# We work quickly to secure funds to help with energy bills for the vulnerable

The Government recently made funds available to support less well off families and individuals. The time window however to apply for funding was a short one. The Lib Dem led administration in conjunction with Council Officers wasted no time in acting. As a result a total of £300,000 has been

secured for the benefit of Spelthorne residents.

**Cllr Sandra Dunn**, Lib Dem Chair of the Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee, said: "This Council recognises the plight that many of our families face, especially going into the winter months and we want to use this funding to sup-

port as many families in need as possible. If you are dealing with food or fuel poverty, we urge you to get in touch with us about this fund. This is a Council that cares for its residents and is working towards a future where none of our residents are cold or hungry during the winter."

Residents have until **31 March** to apply for consideration for this grant and details of how to do so are explained in the panel below. Make sure you do not miss out by checking out your eligibility to receive this grant.

# WALKING and CYCLING for the PLANET and your COMMUNITY



The local Lib Dem team have used the feedback from our cycling and walking survey to ensure that Surrey's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan understands the needs of local residents.

Having attended meetings and site visits of key locations around Sunbury Cross, Green Street and Nursery Road, the local Lib Dem team have reiterated the importance of safety at junctions which is regularly raised by residents and that Surrey County Council have failed to deliver on.

Whilst desk-based analysis has been done, the importance of sharing local knowledge to ensure safety must be the top priority.

Lib Dems have stressed to Surrey CC that Cycling and Walking Infrastructure is needed as part of a wider sustainable transport plan that delivers better Public Transport, including on trains and supporting the Campaign for Zone 6.

We also remind residents that there are a number of Right of Way Applications pending in Lower Sunbury that need your evidence. For more information go to <https://bit.ly/sld-row> and scroll to Spelthorne.



Support4Spelthorne



## Household Support Fund

The Council is currently offering a one-off payment to households to primarily assist with food and fuel bills over the winter period.

Residents are invited to apply to the Council for the one-off payment as part of the Government's Household Support Fund scheme. The Council are offering three levels of support, depending on the applicant's circumstances.

**£80** - provided for households with children

**£60** - provided for single people or families without children

**£50** - provided for over 70s

The expectation is that the funding should primarily be used to support households in need with food, energy and water costs.

The scheme will run until 31 March 2022, or whenever all the funding is allocated so applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible

Please visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/householdsupport](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/householdsupport) for information and to apply. If you need assistance in filling in the form, please call **01784 446 446**.

## SPELTHORNE LEISURE GOES GREENER

Staines is to get a new state-of-the-art leisure centre which will be built to the ultra-low energy 'Passivhaus' standard, making it very energy-efficient. The Council expects it to use 60-70% less energy than is typical - a major step in helping the Council achieve its aim of becoming carbon neutral in the coming years.

Chair of the Community Wellbeing Committee, **Lib Dem Cllr Sandra Dunn**, said: "I am very excited that this important project has been given approval to proceed to the next stage. Feedback from residents has heavily influenced the location, design and facilities and we have worked hard to ensure the new building meets the Gold standard



for environmental credentials."

The new Leisure Centre will open in 2024.



**Lawrence Nichols**  
Leader of  
Spelthorne Council

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

After what was another very difficult and challenging year for so many, may I, on behalf of the Lib Dem team, convey our best wishes to all residents for a better year in 2022.

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# How you can support your community

**Recent national Liberal Democrat by-election successes in Chesham & Amersham and Shropshire North were created by building strong local parties first.**

**Hello from Sandra, Tom, Lawrence and Kathy, your local Liberal Democrats**

We're getting in touch with people from our community, because there is a challenge that is facing us. Making our community better.



Sandra  
Dunn



Lawrence  
Nichols



Tom  
Fidler



Kathy  
Grant

Politics needs to be for everyone. An open door when people need it. A helping hand when it's required. A friendly face when you want support.

The only way that can happen is if people make it so. People can make a difference. We can make politics better. That takes a few ingredients.

Not everyone in a party is a politician. Most are people who just believe in making things better, and are prepared to take a few extra steps towards making it happen.

**Call us today on 01932 787854**

**and let's have a chat about ways you can make a difference in your local community. Your contribution will help.**

**LIB DEMS GETTING THINGS DONE FOR YOU ALL YEAR ROUND**