

David Campanale selected as Lib Dem Parliamentary Spokesperson for Spelthorne

With a call to Remain supporters from every party to come together as a snap General Election approaches, **David Campanale** has been chosen by the Liberal Democrats as their Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Spelthorne. At a well-attended hustings in Staines he told activists his campaign would reach out beyond the party to all people of goodwill wanting to stop a No Deal Brexit.



David Campanale speaking at the Lib Dem hustings

"It is time to draw a line under Brexit and move on. In 2016, Spelthorne voters didn't vote to make themselves worse off. There is absolutely no evidence they wanted No Deal."



David told Lib Dem members that there is an imbalance in our economy with companies doing well but with life precarious for too many people. He said a programme of investment in the workforce, their skills and innovation was badly needed. He went on to highlight the dangers of climate change and said a completely new industrial strategy, focused around a Green New Deal, was needed to repair the divisions in society.

- ▶ I will argue against a No Deal Brexit and work with other parties to make sure this does not happen
- ▶ I will be campaigning against Heathrow expansion and to decarbonise the British economy
- ▶ I will work for a kinder, more caring Britain and to restore confidence in parliament

Jo Swinson - Build a better future for Britain.

Voters don't have to choose between Boris Johnson or Jeremy Corbyn for the next Prime Minister. They can demand better and back the Liberal Democrats to win.

Latest polls show the Liberal Democrats continue to gain support and are now ahead of Labour and closing the gap on the Conservatives. The recent European Election showed that **the Liberal Democrats can beat the old parties in a national election.**

Lib Dem Leader Jo Swinson MP said, "Millions of people are frustrated with the direction of the country. They can see that neither Boris Johnson nor Jeremy Corbyn is the answer to this."



Jo and the Liberal Democrats have led the fight to stop Brexit for the last three years.

"The Liberal Democrats offer a brighter future. We will stop Brexit, change our broken politics and tackle the big issues facing our nation."

Visit us online: spelthornelibdems.org.uk

FOCUS

Liberal Democrats
DEMAND BETTER

on Staines South & Ashford West

Autumn
2019



From Cllrs Chris Bateson & Nichola Cornes

Closure of Ashford High Street has hit Businesses hard

Planned works to connect a sewer for the development on the old Brooklands College site in Church Road commenced on 24th July.

The High Street closure has hit local businesses hard and seen them suffer a huge drop off in trade, some as much as 65%. People who have normally come to Ashford to shop simply stayed away in huge numbers because of the extent of the disruption. The 'Berlin Wall' blockade, as it was described by residents, impacted the locality badly with part of the town and railway station inaccessible by bus. The initial signage provided was deemed inadequate and improved only after numerous protests forcing both Surrey and Spelthorne Councils to act.

Late in the day, consultation and notification to local businesses and residents about the extent and duration of the planned works, gave people inadequate time to prepare.

Cllr Chris Bateson, Shadow Portfolio holder for Economic Development, Customer Service, Estates and Transport said: "At the time of real struggle for local businesses to keep their head above the water, this work, whilst necessary, has not been executed in the best possible way. It's another example of poor consultation that reaffirms our view how Councils consult with residents needs a root and branch overhaul."

The High Street finally reopened on the 29th September. As a gesture, Spelthorne will maintain free parking in the Town until 3rd January.

- * The Lib Dem team listen and are active and in touch all year round
 - * We are asking questions and holding the Council to account
 - * Working for more investment in local services
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For information on our monthly surgeries, please look inside.

Hostel for the Homeless gets approval

Spelthorne Council's proposal to build a hostel for the single homeless on the site of the former White House in Kingston Road was approved at the Council's planning meeting on 18th September.

Each local authority in the country by law now has to make provision for such accommodation to deal with the increasing homelessness and we support the principle.

Residents, however, have been critical of the consultation process which they feel was inadequate, although meeting legal minimum requirements. Cllr Chris Bateson, who spoke at the meeting when the application was discussed, said that "as in this case, the council being the applicant it was disappointing that the decision was not taken to go for wider public consultation."

This had caused resentment and allowed misinformation to flourish. Local Lib Dems believe that with this and similar concerns raised over Staines Park last year, it's time to re-visit the consultation process on large projects.

The team have submitted proposals on how to improve the consultation process, more details of which can be found overleaf.

Your Lib Dem Councillors secured meetings between Council Officers and resident groups to help improve these conversations, but we believe they should be conducted as standard on Council-led ventures.

Inside this issue **Heathrow 3rd runway and the Spelthorne Local Plan - what will it mean for you? Plus more local stories.**



Do you feel consulted?

Local Liberal Democrats are concerned that the Council is failing to consult effectively with residents on a wide range of important issues.

In the last few months Spelthorne Council has embarked on a number of projects without engaging with residents and this has caused real anger. In some cases the Council has only undertaken the mandatory minimum communication required for a planning application. There is no reason why genuine consultation should not take place, particularly where the Council is the applicant, and Spelthorne Lib Dems have already made 10 suggestions for improvement.

If you have concerns about what is going on in Spelthorne contact us at RealScrutiny@spelthornelibdems.org.uk

Knowle Green Estates - What is going on?

Knowle Green Estates is a housing development and management company which is wholly owned by Spelthorne BC. It will be responsible for hundreds of flats that Spelthorne plans to build in the next few years.

So far Spelthorne's Tories have resisted scrutiny of KGE. Local Lib Dems want greater transparency and will be asking further questions on your behalf over the coming months - **watch our website for details.**

What constitutes a dangerous pavement?

In speaking to many people travelling around the ward, the condition of our pavements has been raised many times. **Chris & Nichola**, both keen to improve standards, have established the measure used to determine what constitutes a trip hazard.

In the case of uneven slabs, the width of a £1 coin is used to measure the difference. If it is greater than this, it constitutes a trip hazard and requires prompt remedial action.

If you know of pavement hazards in your area these can be reported direct to Surrey County Council who are responsible for highway matters at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/report-a-highway-problem> or on 0300 200 1003.

Surgery Dates

Your Staines South Lib Dem Councillors hold monthly advice surgeries on the 1st Saturday of every month at Staines Library in Friends Walk, Staines - 10.30am - 1.30pm.

Contact:  Cllr Nichola Cornes

Forthcoming dates:

- Saturday 2nd November 2019
- Saturday 7th December 2019
- Saturday 4th January 2020
- Saturday 1st February 2020
- Saturday 7th March 2020
- Saturday 4th April 2020

Fire Service cuts hit Spelthorne hard

Local residents were promised that once Sunbury and Staines Fire Stations were shut the new one at Fordbridge Road, Ashford would be able to provide adequate cover. But in reality, just days after opening, the new station had to close over a weekend due to staff shortages.

A petition against lack of fire cover at night has been signed by enough residents for the issue to be considered at the full Council meeting of Surrey County Council on 8th October. We welcome this pressure on the Council, which supports action taken by the Lib Dem Opposition, and we look forward to being able to provide a positive update on the safety of local residents. If you wish to sign the petition the link can be found here: <https://petitions.surreycc.gov.uk/Fire-Cuts/>

Lib Dem councillors were concerned that the Community was given no chance to express their deep gratitude to the Fire Fighters of Sunbury and Staines Fire Stations, following their abrupt silent closures. The secrecy behind the opening of the fire station has concerned residents and again they were right to be worried. We are appalled by the way this has been handled. The Fire service and residents of Spelthorne deserve better.

Lib Dem success: Council changes stance on Heathrow expansion



Spelthorne Lib Dems have consistently opposed the expansion of Heathrow. In July we proposed a motion to change the Council's position to object to the expansion in principle. The Conservatives were not brave enough to allow this to go to a vote but agreed to refer it to a special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3rd September.

Cllr Chris Bateson



At the committee meeting an agreed final recommendation included the statement that **"the Borough is unable to support the development consent order [Heathrow proposals] in its current form"**. This was less emphatic than Spelthorne Lib Dems would have liked, but nevertheless represented a significant shift in policy. The recommendation then

went to an extraordinary Cabinet meeting which endorsed the change in the Council's position with minor modifications. In its response to the Heathrow consultation, Spelthorne has said that it no longer supports the expansion unless 16 detailed requirements are met in full.

Commenting on the outcome **Cllr Chris Bateson** said: "I'm pleased that the Council has modified its stance on the expansion of the airport. The expansion proposed by Heathrow, if implemented, will cause real damage, particularly in the north of the borough. The impact on the air and noise pollution across a wide area would be wholly unacceptable. The Council needs to be seen to be supporting its residents who will be materially harmed if Heathrow's plans go ahead".

Spelthorne Lib Dems will continue to oppose the expansion of Heathrow airport. We believe that the environmental damage outweighs any economic benefits - and the direct harm to local communities must be prevented.

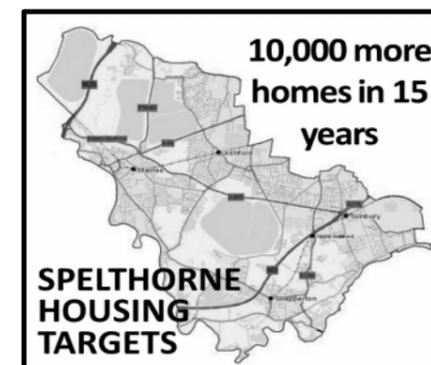
The Spelthorne Local Plan: What will it mean for you?

Spelthorne Council is under an obligation to create a Local Plan which will determine the approach to be adopted to house building for the next 15 years. **Central government has imposed a target of in excess of 700 new homes per year** - a total of more than 10,000 new homes in the lifetime of the plan.

Where are these homes to be built?

We can't answer that at the moment because that part of the Local Plan has yet to be completed. The local Conservatives have refused to allow opposition parties to be involved in the development process and all the meetings are held in private with no minutes published.

Will there be a chance to give my input? Once completed, the proposed plans will be put out for consultation and this is scheduled



to commence in early November.

What is being considered? Options being considered are increased density in more urban situations and the possibility of building on Green Belt. Developers will be putting forward suggested sites for building and these are likely to include areas such as Kempton Park and land adjacent to London Irish.

What happens next? The plan has to undergo statutory public

consultation. The vital "Preferred Options" consultation is scheduled to take place before the end of this year. The plan is expected to be formally adopted in the summer of 2021 after a public examination by an external inspector.

Once adopted the plan sets out what development is expected to take place and any proposals that conform with the plan are highly likely to be approved.

Spelthorne has an obligation to demonstrate that it has identified housing sites to meet the targets for the next 5 years. Failure to do this would mean that Spelthorne will have less local control of what applications are granted permission.

We will keep you informed about progress of the plan over the coming months.