

HAS ANYONE SEEN OUR MP?

WHERE'S KWASI?

Has anyone seen Kwasi Kwarteng in the constituency since he wrecked the economy last Autumn?

Those with mortgages, shoppers and the most vulnerable in our society are now all paying the price for his reckless incompetence and bad judgement, when the then Prime Minister Liz Truss foolishly handed him control of the country's finances.

Whilst his tenure in the job of Chancellor was short lived, the damage he has inflicted is long term for just about everybody. Despite promises when elected to live in the constituency he has never done so and currently resides in Greenwich the other side of London, rarely visiting the area he claims to represent. He is however available for hire at £10,000 per day.



GRASS AND VERGE CUTTING TAKEN OVER BY SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Since April, maintenance of the above has been taken in house by Surrey County Council whereas previously it was controlled by Spelthorne BC. Residents have contacted all local Councillors to complain about the deteriorating state and neglect of many areas, the poor



quality of the work carried out and resultant mess since this change came about.

This change in policy has seen a reduction in the number of cuts per year from 12 to 4. This is based on Surrey's policy of assisting rewilding. Liberal Democrats are in principal in favour of this aim but feel the blanket adoption of this strategy has often been applied where it is inappropriate. For example visibility at key locations where road traffic is prevalent is often compromised and thus affecting road safety. Liberal Democrats have called for an urgent review of this policy which in our view is flawed as it stands. Follow the QR link to find out

The Liberal Democrats will use your contact details to send you information on the topics you have requested. Any data we gather will be used in accordance with our privacy policy at libdems.org.uk/privacy. To exercise your legal data rights, email: data.protection@libdems.org.uk. Published and promoted by Spelthorne Liberal Democrats of 16 Loudwater Road, Sunbury TW16 6DB. Printed by Solopress, 9 Stock Road, Southend-on-Sea SS2 5QF

FOCUS



SPELTHORNE LOCAL PLAN

The much debated and controversial local plan was submitted to the Planning Inspector and hearings commenced in May. The new Council recently elected at the beginning of May consists of 22 new members out of 39. Most of these were not up to date with the detail of the Plan and its potential impact on the Borough.

The new administration, spearheaded by the **Liberal Democrats**, has had grave misgivings for some time about many aspects of the Plan as it stands - particularly concerning housing numbers and flood risk in Staines. The methodology the Government has forced Spelthorne to use to calculate housing numbers, dates from 2014. **Liberal Democrats** have consistently argued that more recent data available (2018) should be used. This coincidentally requires the Council to produce a lesser but more realistically deliverable housing number.

Cllr Chris Bateson said, "An equally serious matter is the impact of building a high housing number in Staines, mainly high rise flats. This would have an impact in terms of increased flood risk." As the hearing commenced in May, the Council had not obtained agreement with the Environment Agency over the proposed build numbers. This remains the case to date. Failure to obtain an agreement puts approval of the current Plan in jeopardy.

The administration decided therefore to pause progress of the plan for three months to review it and consider options. Staines South Councillors will continue to fight for a better deal for Staines and its residents than is currently on offer.



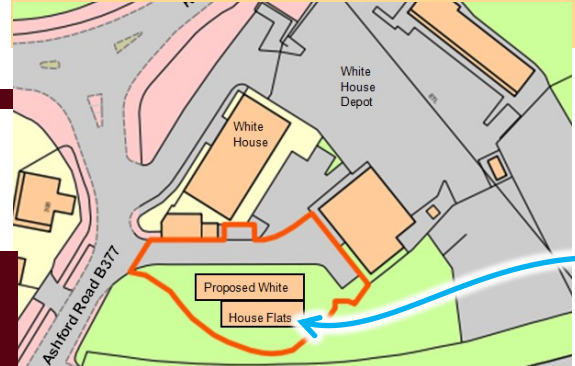
Cllr Chris Bateson

Cllr Jolyon Caplin

WHITE HOUSE DEVELOPMENT REJECTED

At a recent Planning Committee meeting the Council's planning team presented an application to build 17 flats set over 4 storeys in height on land next to the White House Hostel. This was a controversial proposal.

Many issues were raised by Local Residents regarding the suitability of the location. Concerns were raised regarding the proposed complex being out of keeping with other nearby residential property. Other points debated include road safety provision, as this is a known danger spot for anyone to cross the road, poor transport links and the effect of placing residents who might have children, so close to occupants of the Hostel who undergo various forms of rehabilitation. **Cllr Chris Bateson**, in addition to commenting on the above, also raised the matter of a Council commitment made in 2019 not to develop this site for many of the aforementioned reasons.



At the end of the debate, Councillors voted 11 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions to reject the proposal. Discussion will now take place as to how this piece of land can best be utilised going forward.

SURGERY DATES AT STAINES LIBRARY 10.30 - 12.30

Saturdays: 7 October, 4 November, 2 December, 6 January, 3 February, 2 March
No appointment necessary - just pop in if you have a subject you wish to talk about


www.spelthornelibdems.org.uk
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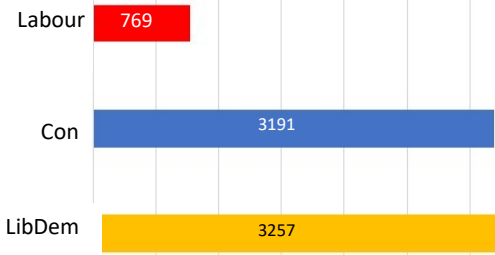
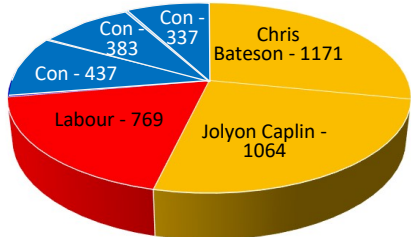

HQ telephone
 07958 654204

Thank you so much for putting your faith in us!

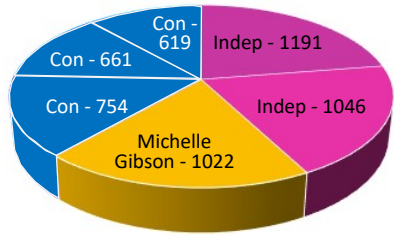
The Spelthorne Local Government Elections in May 2023 heralded a new beginning. Our wonderful team and all that effort spent netted solid results in key Spelthorne wards:

OUR 4th MAY LOCAL ELECTION - RESULTS BREAKDOWN

Staines South



Riverside & Laleham



NEW DIRECT SERVICE TO HEATHROW AIRPORT

Residents of East Staines can now take advantage of a new direct bus service to Heathrow Airport.

New route x442 will operate from Staines Bus Station via Laleham Road and Worple Road before heading direct to Heathrow Airport. Journey time is less than thirty minutes. The cost is very competitive and much cheaper than taking your car. **Cllr Chris Bateson** said "This is a fantastic initiative and will be of benefit to many residents. I recommend you try it for yourselves!"

Check out the 442 and x442 bus timetables via this QR code. Happy travelling!



Please can you spare about 40 mins, 4 times a year...

...to help Chris and Jolyon deliver their newsletters? Use the contact details below to let us know:

Chris: 07958 654204
sylvacfinder@hotmail.co.uk

Jolyon: 07733 477209
jolyonpc@gmail.com

How can the Lib Dem team help you?

Do leave your contact details below, so that the team can get in touch about the issues you've raised...

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Return for FREE to: FREEPOST SPELTHORNE LIB DEMS

PROPOSAL TO DEAL WITH TRAFFIC MOVEMENT IN COMMERCIAL ROAD

For many years, residents of Commercial Road, Staines, have had to endure traffic problems at the Laleham Road end of Commercial Road. This has been well reported in a Facebook Public group Dangerous Driving Up Commercial Road in Staines, created back in 2019 by a concerned resident living nearby. The good news is that a possible plan to alleviate the situation has finally been put forward for public consultation by Surrey County Council.

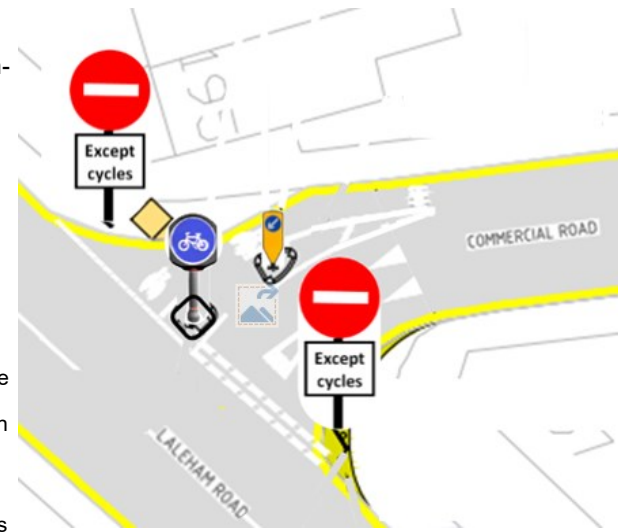
Commercial Road provides a very convenient link from Laleham Road to Worple Road. The problem is that the narrowing of the roadway, at the southern end, only allows traffic to flow in one direction at a time, particularly in the mornings and evenings when residents' cars are parked on the road.

Drivers who are familiar with the area will know when to hold back and allow oncoming vehicles to proceed. Unfortunately, there are some drivers who do not. This often results in a standoff with vehicles mounting the pavement in order to pass. This is dangerous for young children or older persons – indeed all pedestrians.

Several previous attempts to solve the problem have not been successful but the latest "Commercial Road No Entry Proposals" were published on 14th August by Surrey County Council. You can examine them for yourself at <https://tinyurl.com/commercialroad> then contribute your feedback directly via their survey before 14th September. This QR code can help you to do this quickly via your mobile or computer.

The plan is to prevent motor vehicles entering from Laleham Road, although cyclists will still be able to gain access via a special cycle way. New signage will make this clear. Further down Commercial Road, two-way traffic will still be permitted.

Please ensure your views are made known. The decision finally reached must be one that reflects the majority view of local residents.



PARKING ENFORCEMENT PASSES TO SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Another service to be taken over from Spelthorne Borough Council, has been that of parking enforcement. Since April when this change took effect, if you have a parking issue this must now be reported directly onto the Surrey CC Website.

It is no coincidence that here again the level of enforcement has diminished since this change took place. Another example of a worsening service as Surrey progressively are trying to take over more and more services from our local Borough. This does not bode well for the future at SCC.

