

FOCUS

Autumn 2023

Liberal Democrats

on Lower Sunbury and Halliford

www.spelthorne.gov.uk



Thank you for electing us

Local Plan Update

Serious concerns remain about flooding and over-development

On 6th June councillors voted to pause the inspection of the Local Plan to allow time to get new members up to speed and review its implications.

The existing Plan requires more than 9,000 homes to be built in the next 15 years. To achieve this, the Plan includes over 5,000 units to be built in Staines and more than 800 from Green Belt sites across the Borough. In comparison, Elmbridge has recently submitted a Plan that meets only 70% of their assessed target, with no release of Green Belt.

During the pause, briefings were given by Council officers and there was a review by an external expert to look for possible improvements to the Plan. The need for more of a "Vision" for Spelthorne was highlighted, and a former government Chief Architect gave suggestions on how Design Codes should be used to shape developments and protect the character of areas.

Many other councils have either paused or withdrawn their plans following the policy changes announced by Michael Gove in December 2022.

In a letter to local authorities, Michael Gove said that "local planning authorities are not expected to review the Green Belt". He also said that "It will be up to local authorities, working with their

communities, to determine how many homes can actually be built".

In September Spelthorne councillors voted to continue the pause until the new government planning framework is finalised and there is clarity on policy.

The Planning Inspectorate was advised of the decision and in reply stated that before the examination can continue some outstanding issues "in particular flood risk" must be addressed. The Council has not yet been able to satisfy the Environment Agency (EA) that the allocated housing sites are an acceptable flood risk.

The latest information received from the EA suggests that several sites in Staines are not suitable for development because of flood risk and this could mean that the Plan cannot proceed in its current form.

Sunbury surgery dates



Lib Dem councillors hold regular surgeries at Sunbury library. The next surgeries will be on **4th November and 2nd December** between 10:30 and 12:30. Why not come and talk to us.

From January the surgery will be moving to the last Saturday of the month.

Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to help



01932-787854



hello@spelthornelibdems.org.uk



Cllr Sandra Dunn

Cllr.Dunn@Spelthorne.Gov.UK

Cllr Kathy Grant

Cllr.Grant@Spelthorne.Gov.UK



Cllr Lawrence Nichols

Cllr.Nichols@Spelthorne.Gov.UK



Cllr John Turner

Cllr.Turner@Spelthorne.Gov.UK



Train Travel to and from Spelthorne

Liberal Democrats care about public transport: we need it to be accessible and affordable. Good public transport will enable people to get out of their cars and reduce their carbon footprint.

We need the Spelthorne stations included in the TfL zone 6, like many other Surrey stations e.g. Hampton Court.



South Western Railways are planning to reduce station staffing and and close ticket offices. Lib Dems are concerned that this will mean that anyone with problems using automatic ticket machines will be put off using rail transport.

Spelthorne Lib Dems are opposed to these closures and have responded to the consultation.

For more on Lib Dem public transport policies please visit our website.

20MPH zones

What do you think?

Vehicles regularly speed along Lower Sunbury and Halliford roads, not only on major roads but also on many side roads.



Cllr John Turner

Speed limits and control measures are not consistent across Lower Sunbury. The existing limits are regularly ignored, and the signage is nothing like as clear as in Richmond, where there is much wider use of 20 mph limits and clear signs and road markings.

Surrey County Council is considering implementing 20mph limits on residential roads, as Wales has done as a national standard.

Surrey CC is holding two sessions at the Adult Learning Centre in the Avenue to hear what you think.

Dates: **19th October 13:30 until 18:30**
28th October 10:00 until 13:00

This is a chance to let Surrey know your views on local transport issues.

Would you welcome 20 mph limits as a move towards more safety for all road users, lower pollution and less congestion?



Let Cllr John Turner know what you think

Email: hello@SpelthorneLibDems.org.uk



Residents have been contacting us over the future of the London Irish site since the professional club went into administration in June. Your local councillors have been working through Spelthorne Borough Council to support the Hazlewood Centre and ensure the continuation of amateur sporting activities.

The whole site is designated as Green Belt and there are legal agreements that limit the usage to sport. We shall be making sure that any new owner knows and observes these requirements.

We want cleaner water

The national sewage scandal (Focus Spring 2023) continues unabated – with the Conservative government repeatedly failing to take action against water company breaches.

On 13th September, Lib Dems voted with other opposition parties in the House of Lords to support a Green motion and successfully defeated a government bid to weaken developer's responsibilities for protecting water supplies.

Clean water should be a cross-party priority but the Conservatives just don't care. See our website for more on Lib Dem environment policies.



Bugle planning application

In July 2021 permission was granted to build 31 homes on part of the Bugle Nurseries site after an appeal by the applicant. In November last year a further application was submitted to **increase this to 80 homes**, using more of the Green Belt land.

Planning decisions are meant to be made with 13 weeks of receipt of a valid application, unless an extension is agreed. The applicant has decided to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate rather than wait for a decision from Spelthorne. In August Spelthorne Planning Committee confirmed that they did not regard the application as acceptable.

Councillor Sandra Dunn commented "the Council will strongly oppose the granting of permission at the Appeal, which is scheduled for the end of November."



Cllr Sandra Dunn