

## **TO THE MEMBERS OF SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **SUMMONS TO MEETING**

**You are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Spelthorne to be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines on Thursday 26th July, 2001, beginning at 7.30pm, for the purpose of transacting the business specified in the Agenda set out on the next page.**

**MICHAEL TAYLOR**  
*Chief Executive*

**Please Note:-**

#### **EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - THE LIFT MUST NOT BE USED.**

In the event of an emergency the building must be evacuated. All Members and Officers should assemble on the Green adjacent to Broome Lodge. Members of the Public present should accompany the Officers to this point and remain there until the Senior Officer present has accounted for all persons known to be on the premises.

#### **PUBLIC SPEAKING AT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

##### **(1) Question Time**

Public "Question Time" at Council meetings is now at the start of meetings. This is an opportunity for any person to ask the Leader of the Council a question about the Council's activities or issues which affect the Borough.

**A written copy of a question from a member of the public must be submitted to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting.**

##### **(2) Representations on Committee Recommendations**

When the Council is considering a recommendation made by a Committee any resident can put forward views on the issues involved by making representations to the Council for three minutes before the Council discusses the recommendation and makes a decision.

**Anyone wishing to make representations on a Committee recommendation must notify the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting.**

## A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2001. **(Attached at APPENDIX 1 [pages 5-6] )**

3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Leader or his nominee to answer questions raised by members of the public *(provided questions have been submitted in writing to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting)*.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (a) Pursuant to Section 94 of the Local Government Act, 1972 and Standing Orders 41(1) and (2), to receive declarations from any Members who have interests in any matters to be considered at this meeting; and
- (b) Pursuant to Standing Order 41(1), to consider inviting Members declaring their interests under (a) above to remain at the meeting during the discussion of the items concerned.

5. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor to make any announcements.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

To consider the recommendations of the Executive on the following items:-  
**(Attached at APPENDIX 2 [pages 7- 9] )**

- 1. **Delegated Powers for Undertaking Screening Opinion for Environmental Statements**
- 2. **Appointment of Honorary Aldermen**
- 3. **Single Capital Pot – Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan**
- 4. **Draft Housing Strategy Update 2002/2003**
- 5. **Review of Highways and Related Services**
- 6. **Draft Leisure and Culture Strategy 2001/2002**

## 7. Executive Arrangements

***(This matter will be considered at a special meeting of the Executive on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2001. The recommendations from the Executive will be tabled at the Council Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2001.)***

Note: Members of the public may make representations not exceeding 3 minutes on individual recommendations before they are discussed (*provided notice of their wish to do so has been given to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting*).

## 7. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

To receive Notice of Motions submitted under Standing Order 11.

## 8. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF THE EXECUTIVE AND THE COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENT, LICENSING AND PLANNING COMMITTEES

To receive reports from the Leader on the work of the Executive and from other Chairmen on the work of their Committees. **(Attached at APPENDICES 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 [pages 10-26])**

## 9. QUESTIONS ON WARD ISSUES

The Leader or his nominee to answer questions from Members on issues in their Ward (*provided questions have been submitted in writing to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting*).

## 10. GENERAL QUESTIONS

The Leader or his nominee or relevant Committee Chairman to answer questions from Members on matters affecting the Borough or for which their committee has responsibility (*provided questions have been submitted in writing to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting*).

## 11. APPOINTMENTS TO SPECIAL INTEREST PANELS

To appoint Members to serve on the Special Interest Panels for Arts and Heritage, Environment, Health and Community Care and Sports and Leisure.

The current Members are as follows:-

**Arts and Heritage Panel:** Councillors Burrell, Mrs. Martin and Mrs Napper, (*one vacancy*)

**Environment Panel:** Councillors Fisher, Forsbrey, Hirst, Smith and Trussler

**Health and Community Care Panel:** Councillors Fisher, Mrs. Napper, Mrs. Norcross,

Mrs. Smith and Trussler, (*one vacancy*)

**Sports and Leisure Panel:** Councillors Mrs. Amos, Mrs. Napper, Paton and Watkins

12. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

**(a) Ashford Church of England Primary School, School Road, Ashford**

To appoint a Representative to serve on the Governing Body of Ashford Church of England Primary School, Ashford until 26th July, 2005, in place of the existing representative Councillor Mrs. Grant whose term of office expires on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2001.

**(b) Kenyngton Manor Primary School, Beechwood Avenue, Sunbury**

To appoint a Representative to serve on the Governing Body of Kenyngton Manor Primary School, Sunbury until 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2005, in place of the existing representative Mr. John Went whose term of office expires on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2001. Mr. Went is willing to be reappointed for a further period.

**(c) Littleton Church of England Infant School, Rectory Close, Shepperton**

To appoint a Representative to serve on the Governing Body of Littleton Church of England Infant School, Shepperton until 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2005, in place of the existing representative Mr. John Wicking (deceased) whose term of office would have expired on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2001.

**(d) Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School, Park Avenue, Staines**

To appoint a Representative to serve on the Governing Body of Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School, Staines until 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2005, in place of the existing representative Miss Maureen Bain whose term of office expires on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2001. Miss Bain is willing to be reappointed for a further period.

**(e) St. Nicholas Church of England Primary School, Manor Farm Avenue, Shepperton**

To appoint a Representative to serve on the Governing Body of St. Nicholas Church of England Primary School, Shepperton until 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2005, in place of the existing representative Councillor Smith-Ainsley whose term of office expires on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2001.

13. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any urgent business.

14. EXEMPT BUSINESS

To move the exclusion of the press/public for the following item, in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

15. EXEMPT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE (**GOLD PAPER**)

- (a) To consider the exempt recommendations of the Executive on the following item:-

**(Attached at APPENDIX 9 [page 27])**

**Management Team Arrangements**

***(Paragraph 1 – Information Relating to Particular Employees)***

- (b) To answer any questions which relate to exempt business.

## **REVISED AGENDA**

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

#### **SUMMONS TO MEETING**

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MICHAEL TAYLOR  
Chief Executive

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## **REVISED AGENDA**

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **2. MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 26th June, 2001.

### **3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Leader or his nominee to answer questions raised by members of the public (provided

questions have been submitted in writing to the Chief Executive's office before Noon on the day of the meeting).

#### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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(b) Pursuant to Standing Order 41(1), to consider inviting Members declaring their interests under (a) above to remain at the meeting during the discussion of the items concerned.

#### **5. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor to make any announcements and to present the Spelthorne Design Awards.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

**To consider the recommendations of the Executive on the following items:-**

- 1. Delegated Powers for Undertaking Screening Opinion for Environmental Statements**
- 2. Appointment of Honorary Aldermen**
- 3. Single Capital Pot - Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan**
- 4. Draft Housing Strategy Update 2002/2003**
- 5. Review of Highways and Related Services**
- 6. Draft Leisure and Culture Strategy 2001/2002**
- 7. Executive Arrangements**
- 8. Honorary Freeman**

**(Revised recommendations from the Executive are attached with the addition of items 7 and 8 above from the Special Executive meeting held on 23rd July, 2001.)**

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#### **7. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

To receive Notice of Motions submitted under Standing Order 11.

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Health and Community Care Panel: Councillors Fisher, Mrs. Napper, Mrs. Norcross, Mrs. Smith and Trussler, (one vacancy)

Sports and Leisure Panel: Councillors Mrs. Amos, Mrs. Napper, Paton and Watkins

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To appoint a Representative to serve on the Governing Body of St. Nicholas Church of England Primary School, Shepperton until 31st August, 2005, in place of the existing representative Councillor Smith-Ainsley whose term of office expires on 31st August, 2001.

**(f) Christ the King RC First School, Falcon Drive, Stanwell**

To appoint a Representative to serve on the Governing Body of Christ the King RC First School, Stanwell until 31st August, 2005, in place of the existing representative Mr. J. Pinkerton whose term of office expires on 31st August, 2001. Mr. Pinkerton is willing to be reappointed for a further period.

**13. URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any urgent business.

**14. EXEMPT BUSINESS**

To move the exclusion of the press/public for the following item, in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**15. EXEMPT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE (GOLD PAPER)**

(a) To consider the exempt recommendations of the Executive on the following item:-

Management Team Arrangements  
(Paragraph 1 - Information Relating to Particular Employees)

(b) To answer any questions which relate to exempt business.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2001  
BOROUGH OF SPELTHORNE**

**At the Meeting of the COUNCIL of the Borough Of Spelthorne, held in the  
Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines  
on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2001 at 7.00pm**

Appleyard M.A.	Grant Mrs. D.L.	Searancke E.J.
Beardsmore I.J.	Hirst A.P.	Sider R.W. (Deputy Mayor)
Blampied G.G.	Hyams Mrs. M.	Smith-Ainsley R.A.
Ceaser G.S.	James P.R.	Stubbs T.
Culnane E.K.	Martin Mrs. M.J.	Trussler G.F.
Davies F.	Napper Mrs. I.	Wood-Dow Mrs. J.M.
Drinkwater H.V. (Mayor)	Norcross Mrs. G.A.	
Fullbrook J.M.	O'Hara E.	
Forsbrey G E	Read E.I.J.	

*Councillor V. Drinkwater, Mayor, in the Chair*

**323/01 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors V. Agarwal, Mrs. P. Amos, F. Ayers, L.J.W. Burrell, T.W. Crabb, C.M. Fisher, A.W. Hermes, Mrs. H.E.L. Mellett, J.D. Packman, J.M. Paton, J.E.H. Smith, Mrs. P.A. Smith, R. Watkins and Mrs. P. Weston.

**324/01 LALEHAM WARD BY-ELECTION**

The Mayor announced the results of the Laleham By-Election and welcomed Councillor James Fullbrook to his first meeting.

**325/01 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2001 were approved as a correct record.

**326/01 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY FREEMAN OF THE BOROUGH**

In the light of the Council resolution contained in Minute 194/01 of the Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2001, the Council met at this Special meeting convened for the purpose, to consider the adoption of a resolution pursuant to section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, to confer the Honorary Freedom of the Borough upon Ian Allan, O.B.E.

It was moved by Councillor G.G. Blampied and seconded by Councillor F. Davies and

**RESOLVED** unanimously that we, the Mayor and Councillors of the Borough of Spelthorne, in

**pursuance of Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, do hereby confer the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Spelthorne upon IAN ALLAN, O.B.E. in recognition of the eminent services which he has rendered to the Borough over a number of years, through his publication of an unique range of books, his operation of various businesses which employ a number of local people, undertaking charitable work, both nationally and locally, particularly for people with disabilities and for the part he played in the creating of the Bradbury Centre in Shepperton.**

**We accordingly admit Ian Allan O.B.E. to be an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Spelthorne.**

The Mayor then paid tribute to Mr Allan for the services he has rendered to the Borough and invited him to sign the Roll of Honorary Freeman after which he was presented with a framed scroll.

At the Mayor's invitation, Mr Allan then addressed the meeting.

### **327/01 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMAN OF THE BOROUGH**

It was further moved by Councillor F. Davies and seconded by Councillor G.S. Ceaser and

***RESOLVED* that we, the Mayor and Councillors of the Borough of Spelthorne, in pursuance of Section 249 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972, do hereby confer the Title of Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Spelthorne upon PETER CHARLES WILLIAMSON J.P., in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him to the Council over a number of years. As a resident of Sunbury and a former Member and Chairman of the Sunbury Urban District Council, he was pre-eminent in the formation of the Borough of Spelthorne, following the merger of Staines and Sunbury Urban District Councils. He was the first elected Leader of the newly formed Authority in 1974 and served consecutively in that capacity until 1987.**

**We accordingly admit Peter Charles Williamson J.P to be the first Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Spelthorne.**

(The motion was approved by 22 Members voting in favour with one abstention).

The Mayor then paid tribute to Mr Williamson for the services he has rendered to the Borough and invited him to sign the Roll of Honorary Alderman after which he was presented with a framed scroll.

At the Mayor's invitation, Mr Williamson then addressed the meeting.

[-Council Minutes and Agendas Page](#)

## **REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

### **1. DELEGATED POWERS FOR UNDERTAKING SCREENING OPINION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENTS**

1.1 The Executive have considered a report on the screening opinion stage governing the submission of an Environmental Statement being dealt with under delegated powers by the Director of Community Services for a trial period and for the Council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers being altered accordingly.

#### **1.2 The Executive recommends that the Council:**

**agree that for a trial period of 12 months the "Screening Opinions" associated with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact) Regulations 1999 be delegated to the Director of Community Services under the Council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers.**

### **2. APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN**

2.1 The Executive have considered a report on the need to review the criteria for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and to reconsider the application for the nomination for former Councillor Geoff Kaye in light of the review. The Leader circulated at the Executive meeting details of Mr. Kaye's service to both Spelthorne and the former Sunbury Urban District Councils and reported that his nomination was proposed by Councillors Ceaser, Packman and himself.

#### **2.2 The Executive recommends the Council:**

**(1) To adjust the criteria previously agreed to take into account service with predecessor authorities and in particular to amend criteria © to read as follows:- "Nominees would have a minimum period of 12 years past service as a Borough Councillor, i.e. 3 Council sessions, but service to either the former Staines or Sunbury Urban District Councils be allowed to count towards the 12-year qualification period. "**

**(2) Subject to (1) above, to nominate former Councillor Geoff Kaye's appointment as an Honorary Alderman.**

**(3) That rights attached to the title of Honorary Alderman be approved in accordance with paragraph 5.1 of the Chief Executive's report.**

### **3. SINGLE CAPITAL POT - CAPITAL STRATEGY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

3.1 The Executive have considered a report on the draft Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan prior to its submission to the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) and on the collection and future use of the five national performance indicators for Asset Management.

#### **3.2 The Executive recommends the Council:**

**(a) To endorse the draft Capital Strategy and Management Plan and authorise the Chief Executive to finalise it for submission to GOSE by 31st July, 2001; and**

- (b) To agree that the Economic Committee should consider annually performance of the Council's property assets and in particular Spelthorne's performance against national and local property indicators.

#### **4. DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY UPDATE 2002/2003**

4.1 The Executive have considered a report seeking approval on the Draft Housing Strategy Update for 2002/2003, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Director of Community Services, for submission for public consultation.

##### **4.2 The Executive recommends that the Council:**

- 1. Approve the Draft Housing Strategy Update for 2002/2003, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Director of Community Services, for public consultation.**
- 2. That, subject to confirmation, the Housing Strategy Update for 2002/2003, as amended in light of the Consultation, be presented to a meeting of the Community Committee in September 2001.**

#### **5. REVIEW OF HIGHWAYS AND RELATED SERVICES**

5.1 The Executive have considered a joint report on the Review of Highways and Related Services which had previously been considered in detail by the Highways Review Panel at its meeting on 4th July, 2001.

The Minutes of the Panel meeting containing the Panel's recommendations were considered by the Executive at the meeting.

##### **5.2 The Executive recommends that the Council:**

- i. Continue with the enhancements of grass cutting, maintenance of shrub-beds and Highways weed control services for the remainder of this financial year.**
- ii. Withdraw the 2001/2002 budget for additional footway maintenance.**
- iii. Continue with our commitment to spend on the existing minor works and special items for this financial year.**
- iv. Endorse the proposed structural changes, which will be subject to a full review and report back within 12 months of implementation.**
- v. Make office accommodation available to County staff engaged on the Highway function in the short term at terms to be agreed, and that the new arrangements are adequately publicised to enable residents and businesses to identify the appropriate responsible body.**
- vi. Endorse the proposal that continued enhancement of SCC services be considered as a part of budget preparation for 2002/03 and future years.**
- vii. That authority to negotiate suitable terms for the delivery of the Highways Agency between 1st September 2001 and 31st March 2002 be delegated to the Chief Executive and the Director of Community Services, in consultation with the Leader.**

#### **6. DRAFT LEISURE AND CULTURE STRATEGY 2001/2002**

6.1 The Executive have considered a report seeking approval on the Draft Spelthorne Leisure and Culture Strategy, appended to the report of the Director of Community Services, for submission for consultation with the public and other appropriate bodies and agencies.

**6.2 The Executive recommends that the Council approve the Draft Leisure and Culture Strategy for consultation with the public and other appropriate bodies and agencies, subject to various points of detail raised by Members, including increased emphasis on the Council's enabling role in supporting the Arts, and the addition of the Spelthorne Students Council to be consulted when the Officers investigate the proposal for "More Designated Meeting Places for Young People, Free of Charge".**

## **7. EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

7.1 The Executive have considered a report on the latest position on implementing new executive arrangements under the Local Government Act 2000, including the need to consider and recommend to the Council which Members should hold which portfolios, and to consider the effect of Regulations, that came into force in May 2001, on the Council's existing arrangements with other Authorities.

**7.2 The Executive recommends that :-**

**1. The distribution of Portfolios to members of the Executive, be as follows:-**

**Elderly Services - Councillor E.K. Culnane,  
Youth Services - Councillor Mrs. D.L. Grant,  
Corporate Services - Councillor R.A. Smith-Ainsley,  
Environment and Planning - Councillor E.J. Searancke, and  
Community Safety and Community Liaison - Councillor J.D. Packman;**

**2. The Chief Executive arranges, by the end of August 2001, a meeting between Management Team and the Portfolio holders at 1. above, to discuss future working relationships and the role of Portfolio holders;**

**3. The Council's new executive arrangements under the Local Government Act 2000 be implemented fully from 1st September, 2001; and**

**4. The Director of Community Services be authorised to negotiate and finalise a new agency arrangement with Surrey County Council for the management of the Littleton Lane Caravan Site, if one is offered to the Council.**

## **8. HONORARY FREEMAN**

8.1 The Executive have considered the nomination of former Councillor Fred Smith for the title of Honorary Freeman. Councillor Appleyard, Leader of the Labour Group, circulated to the Executive details of Fred Smith's voluntary service within the local Community and his services to the Council over many years, in support of his nomination.

8.2 The Executive recommends that former Councillor Fred Smith be nominated as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough.

COUNCILLOR FRANK DAVIES

Chairman of the Executive 25th July, 2001

## **REPORT OF THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE**

The Executive has met five times (including two Special meetings) since the last Council meeting and this is an overview of the main items we have considered. We have made recommendations to the Council on eight different issues and these appear separately on tonight's agenda.

I set out below a brief summary of some of the significant issues we have been discussing.

### **MODERNISATION AND ICT ISSUES**

**Key Decisions – Forward Plan** – We have agreed the suggested format for the Key Decisions – Forward Plan, as set out in the Chief Executive's report and as amended, on the basis that it be adopted for an initial 6-month period and revised in the light of experience.

**Spelthorne Community Strategy and Local Strategic Partnership** – We have agreed that a community strategy be developed for Spelthorne based on the vision of Spelthorne in 10 years time, that the provision of the secretariat be made to a Steering Group to be established to take forward the development of a Local Strategic Partnership for Spelthorne with membership being drawn from the sectors detailed in the report, and that the model of a Local Strategic Partnership for Spelthorne be agreed for discussion with partners.

**Feedback from Area Forums** – We have noted the issues raised at the Area Forums and requested further information on the RMC land adjacent to the Running Horse Public House. We have agreed that in future response letters to residents be copied to the local Ward Members to keep them informed of the follow up action being taken, and that every effort be made to have at each Area Forum Meeting both a Police and a County Engineer representative to answer questions from local residents.

**Document Image Processing and Workflow System – Select List of Tenderers** – We have approved a select list of ten contractors to be invited to tender for the provision of Document Image Processing and Workflow Systems.

**Implementing Electronic Government (IEG) Statement** – We have agreed that a draft of the Council's IEG Statement be circulated by the Director of Resources to all Executive Members for their comments before submission to the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) at the end of July, 2001 and that following their consideration an amended draft Statement be submitted to the Executive in September 2001.

**Appointment of Representatives to Serve on Outside Bodies** – We have appointed Members to various Strategic and Community based Outside Bodies and have made nominations to key Outside Bodies on which the Surrey Local Government Association (SLGA) has representation.

## **STAINES TOWN CENTRE ISSUES**

**Staines Community Centre** – The Council at the Special Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2001 adopted the Executive's recommendation that the site identified on Thames Street, Staines, South of Debenhams be developed as a proposed Staines Community Centre.

**Memorial Gardens, Staines – seeking of planning permission and conservation area consent** – We have agreed that planning permission and conservation area consent be sought for the updated Riverside Park Scheme for Memorial Gardens, Staines, as submitted to the Executive on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2001 by Derek Lovejoy and Partners.

**High Street, Staines - Permanent Pedestrianisation Scheme** – We have agreed that the detailed design drawings, as presented to the Executive and as described in the report of the Director of Community Services, form the scheme as proposed for construction, together with a select list of contractors to be reported to a future meeting of the Executive.

## **COUNCIL BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY**

**Knowle Green Offices – Discussion Paper** – We have agreed to engage Rogers Chapman to undertake further work on Options C and D, as described in the Chief Executive's report, this work to include advice on the potential development feasible on the Knowle Green site, related Planning issues, potential value of possible developments on the site and a report of a property search across the Borough for buildings or sites suitable for the Council's requirements either currently on the market or likely to be brought to the market.

## **COMMUNITY, LEISURE AND RECREATION ISSUES**

### **Application from Spelthorne School of Gymnastics (SSoG) for a Grant for the development of a High Performance Sports Acrobatic Centre**

We have agreed to fund the English Institute of Sports Performance Centre at Spelthorne School of Gymnastics up to a maximum of £100,000 from the New Schemes Fund, subject to (1) Matched funding being provided by the Spelthorne School of Gymnastics; (2) Planning approval being granted; and (3) Two dance studios being made available to be programmed by the management of the indoor tennis centre/sports hall with the possibility of access from the tennis centre.

**Indoor Tennis Centre at Spelthorne College, Ashford** – We have agreed to the submission of the plans of the Global Scheme for an Indoor Tennis Centre at Spelthorne College, Ashford, as detailed in the report of the Director of Community Services, to the Planning Committee for consideration.

## **SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**



**Grant Applications** – We have made individual grants of up to £10,000 from the Good Causes Fund to St. Mary Magdalene Church, St. Mary's Church, Sunbury, the Guild of Bell Ringers, Stanwell Village Hall Council and Ashford Sports Club.

## **FINANCIAL ISSUES**

**Monitoring of New Schemes Fund** – We have noted the updated position on progress and costs of schemes being financed from the New Schemes Fund and requested the Director of Resources to send to Members of the Executive an up-to-date balance sheet for the Fund to include schemes recently discussed by the Executive, including Staines Day Centre, Knowle Green and the Indoor Tennis Centre at Spelthorne College, Ashford.

## **ENVIRONMENT ISSUES**

**Abandoned Vehicles – Computer Link to DVLA** – We have agreed the funding for an electronic link to the DVLA to improve measures for dealing with abandoned vehicles.

**Environmental Projects 2001 – 2002** – We have agreed the Environmental Projects Programme for 2001- 2002 and that it be published in the Borough Bulletin.

**Policy Regarding the Management of Unauthorised Camping** – We have adopted the revised policy entitled “Borough of Spelthorne – Policy Regarding the Management of Unauthorised Camping” for immediate implementation.

**Contaminated Land Strategy** – We have adopted the amended Contaminated Land Strategy reported by the Director of Community Services.

**Landfill Gas Investigations at Sunbury Golf Course, Shepperton** – We have approved a supplementary capital budget to enable further ongoing monitoring work to be carried out, including the installation of boreholes to test for methane gas and the monitoring of the results.

**Noise Monitoring at the Old Town Hall Arts Centre** – We have agreed the appointment of acoustic consultants to advise Spelthorne officers regarding appropriate noise criteria and mitigation measures in relation to the proposed development of the Old Town Hall in Staines.

**Survey of Land Drainage Assets** – We have approved a supplementary budget of £20,000 for the completion of Land Drainage Survey Work in 2001/2002.

## **HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

**Proposed Alterations to Car Parking Charges – Consideration of Objections** – We have agreed various alterations including an increase in car parking charges and the retention of Bridge Street and Kingston Road Car

Parks as long stay. A further report will be made on the possible refurbishment of the Tothill Car Park.

**On-Street Parking Programme 2001/2002** – We have approved the proposed locations and relevant consultation with local residents affected under the On-Street Parking Programme for 2001/2002.

**Petition Re: Footpaths Nos. 9, 10, 43 (part), 25, and 26 (part), Staines** – We have agreed no action by Spelthorne for the reasons set out in the report, but have requested the Director of Community Services to draw the Petition to the attention of Surrey County Council as the Highway Authority.

## **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY CARE ISSUES**

**Housing Partnership Programme** – We have agreed the new Housing Schemes presented by the Director of Community Services for approval and the recommended changes to the Programme.

**Housing Needs and Stock Condition Survey** – We have agreed that a linked housing needs and stock condition survey, supplemented by a postal questionnaire, be carried out and approved a supplementary estimate for £90,000 to enable the work to be carried out.

**Changes to Home Repair Assistance Grants** – We have agreed that the Council will continue to offer Discretionary Home Repair Assistance Grants and that this decision will be reviewed again in October 2001.

## **PLANNING ISSUES**

**Orchard Meadow, Sunbury** – We have confirmed the commitment in principle to fund the purchase of Orchard Meadow and lay it out, agreed a budget of £25,000 for the appointment of consultants to prepare the detailed design and contract documents for a scheme, to be met from within the agreed budget of £157,000, and that the detailed design and costings be presented to the Executive once the design has been completed.

**Review of Parking Standards - Results of Consultation** – We have agreed that the draft Parking Standards will be modified, as recommended in the report of the Director of Community Services, and will be published and adopted as supplementary planning guidance to be taken into account by Spelthorne in the consideration of development proposals.

**Central Railways** – We have agreed that the Council joins the Local Authorities Central Railways Consortium at a cost of £4,800 for 2001/2002 and that a presentation to all Members by Central Railways be made at a Seminar to be held at Knowle Green on Monday 1st October, 2001 at 7.00pm.

**Planning Brief for the former Windmill Trading Estate, Windmill Road, Sunbury** – We have approved the draft Planning Brief for the former Windmill Trading Estate, Windmill Road, Sunbury for public consultation, including the

revised paragraph 4.8 of the Brief setting a maximum height limit for any development of two storeys.

## **CONTRACTS AND PROPERTY MATTERS**

**Extension of Grounds Maintenance Contract** – We have agreed the extension of the Grounds Maintenance Contract until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2003, after which time the Executive will review future Municipal Service Contract Strategy, subject to the Assignment of the Contract to the SITA subsidiary company called Quadrant, being delegated to the Director of Community Services, in consultation with myself, subject to references and financial checks being made in relation to Quadrant.

## **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

We have agreed in particular the recommendations from the Economic Committee on Use of Consultants and that in future the Executive, when considering the appointment of consultants, would have before it a report with a full and clear explanation of the work to be done together with any justification as to why the work cannot be done by existing council staff.

Also under the Monitoring of the New Schemes fund reference we have agreed that funding of £50,000 be made available for the allocating of grants to local organisations who wish to celebrate the Queens Golden Jubilee Year, similar to the fund established for the Millennium Celebrations.

COUNCILLOR FRANK DAVIES

*Chairman of the Executive*

26<sup>th</sup> July, 2001

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

The Community Committee met on 14th June, 2001 and we considered the following items: -

### **PROPOSALS TO FORM A PRIMARY CARE TRUST (PCT) FOR NORTH SURREY**

We welcomed Peter Carey, Chief Executive Surrey Thames Primary Care Group, Sandra Chisholm, Assistant Chief Executive West Surrey Health Authority, and Dr Liz Lawn, Chairman of the Surrey Thames Primary Care Group, who gave a presentation on proposals to form a PCT for North Surrey, which includes the Spelthorne Area.

The purpose of the consultation was to make known a proposal to merge Surrey Thames PCG (Spelthorne & Runnymede) with West Elmbridge PCG. This involves the coming together of some services provided by Bournemouth Community & Mental Health Trust and Hounslow & Spelthorne Community & Mental Health Trust.

Peter Carey explained that PCGs were committees of the Health Authority built around General Practice and aimed to improve the health of the local community. PCTs were free standing NHS statutory bodies taking on many of the functions of the Health Authority. They were able to provide community health services directly to patients, directly employ health care professionals (eg nurses), possess own assets and raise capital for developing new facilities. The PCT would have similar aims as the PCG but have additional, more flexible powers as a free standing NHS Trust and would aim to bring primary and community services together to work towards providing seamless care to patients.

The PCT will provide primary healthcare to people living in Spelthorne, most of Runnymede and West Elmbridge.

The PCT will build on the existing work, undertaken with their partners, to assess the health needs of its population and ensure that as much acute care as possible is provided locally. The aim will be to ensure that the services are of the best possible standard. Most of the acute hospital services will be commissioned from Ashford and St. Peter's.

It is proposed to work together to build on the achievements of the last two years and actively seek to develop new ways of working, such as GP specialist clinics, outreach clinics and local care networks. It will be committed to providing advice and support to GPs on making best use of available resources.

Borough Councils will be major partners in the future success of the PCT in implementing community strategies to improve health and well-being, planning the provision of community services, housing, environmental health and leisure.

It is proposed to maintain a local, borough focus to ensure locally sensitive services by building on the positive working relationships already established with the boroughs, actively seeking to engage with members & officers to gain their views on how best to maintain a strong borough focus and ensuring sufficient senior management input at a borough level.

The Vision of the PCT is to develop, in partnership, a full range of modern, accessible and dependable health and social care services of the highest quality, within the resources available.

There is to be a public consultation which will close on 30th August after which the results will be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval with a decision expected within six to eight weeks, after which a shadow trust will be set up to take over from existing trusts when they dissolve on 31st March next year.

We were also advised of a further consultation about Delivering Modern Ambulance Services in the South East Region of the NHS. This involves replacing seven existing NHS Trusts with three new Trusts. Under these proposals it is suggested that Hampshire and Surrey Ambulance Services should merge.

We agreed to set up a Working group comprising Councillors G.F. Trussler (Chairman), Mrs I. Napper (Vice-Chairman), Mrs P.C Amos and a Member of the Executive to look at and respond to both consultations.

### **UPDATE ON ACTIVE SPORTS**

We were reminded of the report which had been presented to the Executive in March 1999, which outlined the purpose of Active Sport and how it fitted in with Spelthorne.

The key feature of Active Sport is a Sport England led initiative aimed at helping young people with the ability and desire to improve their sporting skills through a co-ordinated programme across England that would provide access to organised sport. Surrey was one of the areas selected for the introduction of the scheme.

In accordance with the Executive's decision we reviewed Spelthorne's continued involvement.

The Head of Leisure Services informed us that very little progress had been made by the end of March 2000. The template for the focus sports which included basketball, hockey, girls football and rugby had been completed by November 2000, and a lottery application had just been confirmed. She also provided us with details of the potential benefits to Spelthorne during 2001/2002. Although there had been no tangible gains in being part of the process to date, 2001/2002 will be the first year of delivery, and the opportunity to develop the following year's programme.

We therefore recommended the Executive that Spelthorne continues its involvement in the programme for Active Sports during 2001/2002 with a review of our continued involvement by way of a report to the Community Committee in March 2002.

### **PROSPECTUS TO CHANGE THE ARTS COUNCIL**

The Head of Leisure Services advised us that in March 2001 the Arts Council issued a paper "A Prospectus for Change" and outlined the key issues of the paper and set out the strengths and weaknesses of the existing system.

The consultation paper sent out by ACE only allows a short time for comments. This has been criticised and there is the belief that the change process is being slowed down to allow responses. Whatever the outcome of the consultation, there is the likelihood that S.E. Arts will be amalgamated with Southern Arts. This will be a large region, but will reflect the Government Office regional plan and Sports England's region.

In many regions, local authorities have been the impetus behind setting up Regional Arts Associations (RAA's) and have been very active. There are likely to be four main areas that will need to be addressed by the ACE with local authorities, these being Policy making; Subscriptions; Service delivery and Boundaries.

The paper suggests a mechanism for pocketing the investment that local authorities currently make as subscriptions, enhancing it with additional funding and making it available for

community based work. This could mean affluent areas such as Spelthorne subsidising the areas of need.

In the circumstances we asked the Head of Leisure Services to keep us informed of any developments and further consultation.

### **SPELTHORNE LEISURE AND CULTURE STRATEGY**

At our meeting in September 2000 we set up a Members Working Group comprising Councillors Mrs P.C. Amos, E.K. Culnane, Mrs Martin, Mrs I. Napper and J.M.Paton, to support and guide the preparation of the review and to detail key issues they wanted addressed.

A major consultation exercise has taken place, which included face-to-face street interviews; groups' postal questionnaire; all schools and focus groups with partners, staff users, non users and student council.

This consultation highlighted the following key areas: more safe places for teenagers to go, more play facilities for children, more supervised activities for kids, more general entertainment facilities, more events, more activities for the elderly, more safe cycling paths and more activities in the parks.

The Strategy has tried to encompass a wide range of leisure and culture opportunities and there is now a case to look at how leisure and culture addresses key themes such as social inclusion. The strategy also links with the Community Strategy, which identifies 6 key themes: sustainability; life long learning, quality of life, community involvement, transport and young people.

The draft strategy will be presented to the Executive in July and then be available for further comments during the summer. The final strategy will be submitted to the September meeting of the Executive. Monitoring, evaluation and updating of the strategy will be a continuous process and any current update will be presented to this Committee.

We informed the Executive that this Committee approves the draft Borough Leisure and Culture Strategy for further consultation.

Councillor George F. Trussler  
Chairman of the Community Committee - 26th July, 2001.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE**

**The Economic Committee has met once since the last Council meeting and this report gives an overview of the key issues considered by the Committee.**

### **1. USE OF CONSULTANTS**

- 1.1. My Committee discussed a comprehensive report setting out details of the consultants used by the Council over the last 3 years with details of the reasons they were used and the costs involved. We noted the very wide range of work being carried out by different consultants and the difficulty in practical terms in distinguishing consultants from contractors.
- 1.2. This was a good example of how the committee is enhancing its scrutiny role and looking at individual topics in depth. In light of the discussion the Executive have been requested to ensure that whenever it is considering the appointment of consultants a full and clear explanation of the work to be undertaken and why it cannot be done in house be reported.

### **2. MONITORING OF NEW SCHEMES FUND**

- 2.1. My Committee considered a detailed monitoring report on costs of schemes being financed from the New Schemes Fund. In considering the report my Committee requested the Executive to consider setting up a fund to give grants to local organisations who wish to celebrate the Queens Golden Jubilee Year, on similar lines to that established for the Millennium celebrations.

### **3. AUDIT SERVICES**

- 3.1. We considered two reports from the Head of Audit Services one giving details of the Audit work carried out during 2000/2001 and the second report on the work plan for 2001/2002, which covered all significant areas of corporate activity.

### **4. GENERAL FUND BUDGET MONITORING APRIL-MAY 2001**

- 4.1. My Committee discussed the monitoring report on the actual expenditure against budget for the period April – May 2001.

### **5. GENERAL FUND PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2000/2001**

- 5.1. We considered the General Fund Provision outturn of expenditure for 2000/2001 and noted that a further report would be submitted to the September meeting giving more details with explanations for the underspend and a review of the monitoring procedures.

### **6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2000/2001 AND INITIAL STRATEGY 2001/2002**

- 6.1. Consideration was given to the report which gave details of the Council's activities in the borrowing and investment markets for last year. The Head of Financial Services outlined the economic background to the report, the borrowing and investment strategy and detailed the investment performance monitoring procedures. We noted that the estimated General Fund income was significantly lower than in previous years because of payment of the pension fund deficit.

## **7. FEES AND CHARGES**

- 7.1. This item is another good example of how the committee is enhancing its scrutiny role and looking at individual topics in depth. The Committee had asked for details of comparative fees and charges made by neighbouring authorities for the current year so it could consider whether the Council's own fees and charges were soundly based.
- 7.2. To assist my committee in looking at the issues in more detail a further report has been requested into the comparative charges for Trade Waste and Land Charges.

## **8. BUDGET REVIEW**

- 8.1. This report was at the request of the Committee and outlined ways the committee as a whole could look at individual budget areas with a view to the Committee being involved throughout the year on the preparation of some budgets for 2002/2003. The report outlined the key features of budget preparation and suggested various alternative approaches.
- 8.2. My Committee decided to shadow the budget preparation for the budget headings of Recruitment and Retention, staff advertising and public halls with detailed reports being submitted to the next meeting.

## **9. MEMBERS IT PROGRESS REPORT**

- 9.1. My Committee received a progress report on changes which had been made to the Members IT scheme since the last review in November 2000. It was agreed that future training events for Members would be arranged on a similar basis to those previously organised.

**Councillor Mrs Martine Hyams - Chairman of the Economic Committee**

**[-Council 26 July 01](#)**



## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The Environment Committee met on the 28th June, 2001, and considered two items, one of which will have a major impact on our way of life.

### **WASTE AND RECYCLING STRATEGY**

Authorities such as Spelthorne are responsible for collection of household waste, trade waste (on request and at customers' cost) and recyclables. Surrey County Council is the waste disposal authority and provides the tipping facility. The Government impose a tax of £17.00 for every tonne disposed of to landfill.

We were informed of the current means of collecting refuse and recyclable materials and advised of the emerging waste strategy which is being prepared in response to the Government's Waste Strategy 2000.

An EC Landfill directive will take effect in July 2001. Under this directive, the Government has made a commitment that by 2010 biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill will be reduced to 75% of 1995 levels. In order to achieve this, the Government has published the Waste Strategy 2000, which sets out a strategy for sustainable waste management for the next 20 years, and includes recycling targets (including composting of green waste) for every Local Authority in England and Wales.

The targets for Spelthorne are to recycle or compost 22% of all household waste by 2003/4 and 33% by 2005/6. Spelthorne currently achieves a recycling rate of around 14%. These figures are statutory Best Value performance targets.

Surrey University is currently conducting a Waste Attitude Survey on behalf of the County Council and the districts. The first part, interviews residents visiting Civic Amenity sites in the County and is almost complete. The second phase involves random mailing of surveys to residents and began in June. When the results have been assimilated, the types of facilities and range of materials that residents wished to recycle will be known. These findings will be incorporated into Spelthorne's waste and recycling strategy.

Surrey Waste Management are contracted to provide a Materials Recycling Facility at Charlton Lane Civic Amenity Site for mixed recyclables by 2003. To meet longer-term targets, Spelthorne will need to introduce a seasonal kerbside collection of green waste to be centrally composted. However, the main obstacle to this service is the lack of composting sites in the proximity. Surrey County Council as the disposal authority will be urged to address this problem urgently.

The current refuse collection contract runs until 2003 and there will be an opportunity to integrate recycling elements into the new contract at this time.

Financial implications are variable depending on the type of scheme but it is broadly accepted that £50 to £60 per tonne will be added to the cost of household collection, which is currently set at around £28.38. The increase may partly be offset by claiming recycling credits from Surrey County Council, the rate for which is currently around £33 per tonne for glass, textiles, paper, cans, plastics and green waste.

It may also be possible to apply for Entrust money (i.e. from landfill tax) to help with part of the start up costs of some schemes, although it must be stressed that success in such applications is variable and Spelthorne will still be required to fund 10% of any scheme, which must be sustainable in the long term.

Members expressed the view that the kerbside collection currently carried out by Cheshire should be more reliable than at present.

We recommended the Executive that the Waste Strategy for Spelthorne should include the following, some of which could be set as targets in the new refuse collection contract:

- (a) Refuse collection ceases to be collected from any nominated point but is removed from a common collection point, i.e. at the front door or front gate etc. in order to improve consistency of collection and ensure compatibility with kerbside collection schemes, subject to suitable provision being made for disabled and elderly frail persons
- (b) To provide or nominate a suitable receptacle which enables an attempt to be made to control the amount of waste collected and in turn encourage residents to recycle;
- (c) Retain current kerbside fortnightly paper collection but day of collection to be revised to coincide with other door to door collections;
- (d) Introduce door to door collection of dry recyclable material such as plastics, cans and textiles using a box or other suitable receptacle. (Glass would not be collected kerbside because of safety concerns for operatives);
- (e) Commence kerbside, seasonal, fortnightly collection of green waste, possibly changing the current green sacks to clear, biodegradable ones, subject to Surrey County Council introducing centralised composting facilities;
- (f) Retain and, where appropriate, expand the size and number of current "bring sites" in the borough;
- (g) Work with Surrey Waste Management to promote waste minimisation, with particular emphasis to local schools; and
- (h) Work with Surrey Waste Management to ensure the materials recycling facility at Charlton Lane, due in 2003, is constructed.

We also recommended the Executive that the Environment Committee be given responsibility for developing the new Waste Strategy for Spelthorne, and for submitting the final version of the Strategy to the Executive for approval.

## **PERFORMANCE OF STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT**

Following the award of the Street Cleansing Contract to the Council's DSO at the beginning of August 2000 and additional cleansing resources now being allocated to the main shopping areas we undertook a review of the contract.

The standards adopted for assessing the contract have been based upon the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Litter and Refuse Code.

Spelthorne has the highest tonnage of street debris per resident of any District in Surrey with around 4,000 tonnes of litter and debris being cleared from roads each year but is comparable to adjoining London Boroughs.

A major problem at present is the escalating reports of fly tipping in various locations within the Borough. Fly tipping takes valuable resources from routine cleansing operations. Random CCTV coverage of vulnerable areas is being introduced and it is hoped to prosecute offending fly tippers.

We are satisfied that the Contractor has been carrying out the contract in accordance with the specification requirements and therefore note the report and that a further report will be submitted to this Committee in June 2002.

**DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH MAGNETIC FIELDS EMANATING FROM OVERHEAD  
POWER CABLES AND MOBILE PHONE MASTS**

We note that the Head of Planning and Building Control Services has made contact with someone who is prepared to talk to the Committee about the above-mentioned subject. It is likely that a joint meeting of this and the Planning Committee will be called to receive a presentation on this matter.

Councillor Gerry Forsbrey  
Chairman of the Environment Committee - 26th July, 2001

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE**

The Licensing Committee met on seven occasions between 11th April and 8th June, 2001 to consider the application by Mr Patrick Eyre, a Director of Eldridge Pope, for Provisional Entertainment Licenses at the Old Town Hall, Staines

This hearing was the longest in the history of Spelthorne's Licensing Committee and I wish to thank my Vice-Chairman, fellow Councillors and Officers for their support, assistance and understanding throughout the hearing.

We heard and considered very detailed evidence and submissions from the Applicant and many of the objectors on this matter. We also considered the objections of residents as set out in their letters.

We considered all the evidence relating to the suitability of the premises for public entertainment, the proximity of some residents to the premises in terms of possible disturbance, concerns relating to the welfare of young people within the community and objectors' personal concerns for their continued enjoyment of their property and the effects such an application might have on their private life.

We also considered the suitability of the applicant as a responsible licensee but who would not actually be responsible for the day-to-day management of the premises if it became operational. We acknowledged however that an application would be made to transfer any full licence to an appointed Operations Manager and that the Licensing Committee would then need to consider the fitness of any proposed licensee at the time of any transfer application.

We noted that the application was for a provisional licence only, which meant that any licence granted now would be of no effect until the Licensing Committee were satisfied that the premises had been completed in accordance with the submitted plans and that the licence was held by a fit and proper person. We also noted that we could either consider whether to grant a provisional licence in principle only or impose suitable conditions now.

In reviewing the evidence submitted we were advised that we must have regard to the observations made to us by the Police and Fire Authority. We noted that, subject to the imposition of suitable conditions, neither of these authorities had made formal objections to this proposal on public safety grounds or nuisance.

On the issues raised by the objectors, we were advised that, whilst we had no duty to consider the objections to the same degree as we must consider police and fire observations, we could consider any issues that were relevant to the application. Licensing procedures have always included a right for objections to be presented to Committee and we wished to hear these objections and take any relevant issues into account when making our decision, particularly those of objectors living within close proximity to the premises.

In considering the evidence submitted both from the applicant and the objectors we appreciated that procedures should comply with the rules of natural justice. Much discussion was heard on issues surrounding human rights and in terms of any infringement of any human rights we believe that we conducted a fair and public hearing of this matter and afforded every person a right to be heard. We believe that in considering and determining this application we have acted in accordance with the current laws and regulations relating to licensing matters under which the Licensing Committee are required to consider applications of this nature. We considered that any infringement there might be was limited and in accordance with due consideration of the law relating to licensing issues.

In exploring every issue raised we have been advised that there was nothing in law which, at this stage of the application could justify a refusal. On this basis we decided to grant a provisional licence subject to conditions preventing any full or intermediate licence from operating for longer than six months in the first instant.

Councillor Robin Sider  
Chairman of the Licensing Committee - 26th July, 2001

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON THE WORK OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Planning Committee has met three times since my previous report to Council on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2001. This report therefore gives an overview of the key applications considered by the Planning Committee at its meetings on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> June 2001. It also gives a brief update on other related matters.

1. The Planning Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2001 dealt with nine items in total including one enforcement matter.

Public speaking took place on three of the items with a total of three people taking the opportunity to address the Committee.

The most notable items on the agenda related to:-

- a) the approval of the three detached houses in Broadlands Avenue, Shepperton, and
- b) the refusal of a replacement dwelling in Thames Meadow, Shepperton.

2. The Committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2001 dealt with 12 items in total, although two separate applications relating to the Old Town Hall were listed on the agenda but were withdrawn prior to the Committee meeting.

Public speaking took place on five of the items with a total of five people taking the opportunity to address the Committee.

The significant approvals on the agenda related to:-

- i) the upgrading and enhancement of Memorial Gardens, Riverside Car Park and Market Square in Staines to create an enlarged riverside open space with water features, reconstructed retaining wall and new moorings. The proposal also included the relocation of the War Memorial to Market Square.
- ii) the erection of new sports, health and club facilities and new spectator stand at Staines Town Football Club, Wheatsheaf Lane, Staines.
- iii) the erection of a replacement 20-bedroomed elderly persons complex at Elizabeth Court, Sunbury.
- iv) the erection of a new Scouts and Guides Hall at School Walk, Sunbury.

The only notable refusal related to:-

- i) the erection of a replacement dwelling in Thames Meadow, Shepperton

3. The Planning Committee meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2001 dealt with seven items in total including one requiring an adjustment to the wording of a legal agreement.

Public speaking took place on two of the items on the agenda with a total of two people taking the opportunity to address the Committee.

The most notable item on the agenda related to the approval of a warehousing development at Mentone Farm, Stanwell comprising 2,688 sqm of floorspace with 71 parking spaces and 22 lorry parking spaces.

4. Other Matters of Interest

a) Appeal Decisions

- i) The most notable appeal decision received recently relates to the proposal for a B & Q store at Windmill Road/Lincoln Way, Sunbury. The Inspector recommended that the appeal should be dismissed and this was firmly endorsed by the Secretary of State in his decision letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 2001.
- ii) Another appeal decision worthy of note relates to the site at The Willows (formerly Cambridge Kennels), Moor Lane, Staines. In this case the appellant withdrew the appeal only just before the Public Inquiry was to be heard. Spelthorne made an application for costs based on the late withdrawal and consequent unreasonable behaviour of the appellant which has been upheld and agreed by the Inspector.

b) Performance Figures

The national DTLR performance figures for the determination of planning applications within the 8-week period for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2001 have just been published. These show that, for the full financial year 2000/2001, Spelthorne dealt with 74% of all applications within the 8-week period. The published figures reveal this was the highest performance in Surrey, with Mole Valley (73%) and Epsom and Ewell (69%) next closest.

This repeats the situation for 1999/2000 and therefore shows that, for the second successive year, Spelthorne was the top performing Council within the County. The DTLR have also published the national league tables for the year ending March 2001. It shows Spelthorne standing in 60<sup>th</sup> position out of the 293 Councils listed, which is within the top 25% of the country.

In terms of recent current performance the figures are as follows:-

	Householder	Overall
April 2001	84%	76%
May 2001	82%	80%
June 2001	86%	70%

c) Chelsea FC Youth Training Academy

- A Special Planning Committee to deal with the application by Chelsea Village for the Training Academy has been arranged for Wednesday 19th September commencing at 7.30pm at St Paul's College.

Councillor Gerry Ceaser  
Chairman of the Planning Committee

[-Council 26 July 01](#)