

# in touch

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FROM **Cllr Gerry Forsbrey, Cllr Denise Grant & Cllr John Packman**  
Your local campaigners for Ashford Town

April 2011

Issue 2

## “NO!” TO PARKING CHARGE PLAN



**Church Road in Ashford, where Spelthorne Conservatives are opposing parking charges.**

Spelthorne's Conservatives have begun their campaign against the parking charges being proposed by Surrey County Council.

The Conservatives are tabling a formal motion to oppose Surrey's proposal at a Spelthorne Full Council meeting.

Says Spelthorne Council Leader John Packman, "We know how important our local shops are to our communities. We feel that these parking charges will have a negative impact on these vital businesses at a time when it is economically difficult for many of them."

We urge residents to voice their opposition to the car park charge plan by writing to Surrey County Council directly with their concerns.

## SPELTHORNE: A VALUE-FOR-MONEY COUNCIL

These are challenging times economically. However, Spelthorne's Conservative councillors are focused on ensuring how you get the best deal possible.

Like everyone else we've had less money in—a central government grant reduction of £700,000 in 2011/12 and we face another 10% cut on top of that in the following year.

However, we are working hard to reduce overheads and increase efficiency, so that we can preserve the front-line services that matter to all of us.

We believe that in the good times you need to plan for the bad times—so we have worked over the last few years to cut backroom costs by pioneering partnerships with other organisations and councils. We now have over 18 of these either active or

just about to come on line. For example by sharing costs with Runnymede and Elmbridge Councils on human resources and procurement we have saved £200,000 annually.

We now rent out part of our council offices at Knowle Green, bringing in £100,000 in revenue. And being green means saving money on energy across our offices as well as the depot and our multi-story car parks, reducing bills.

We have also saved hundreds of thousands of pounds in management costs, by carefully looking at how we can make our "back office" more efficient.

Let us know your ideas how Spelthorne can save even more taxpayers' money and email us — contact details are on the reverse side.

## SUPPORTING AN ACTIVE SPELTHORNE



■ Cllrs John Packman, Denise Grant and Gerry Forsbrey admiring the gardens outside the newly re-opened Benwell Centre.

■ Since 2004, Spelthorne's Conservative-led council has refurbished and upgraded all 33 of its playgrounds. New facilities were installed in five of our parks, including outdoor gym equipment for older people. Spelthorne has also refurbished three of our existing tennis courts as part of a rolling programme.



■ Spelthorne Leisure Centre is improving the children's play centre, investing in new gym equipment, and new flooring for the weights area.

■ Dozens of programmes are going on at the Spelthorne Leisure Centre now! For kids, there is an After School Club, Dance Classes, and Gymnastics Classes. For adults, there are Yoga and Pilates classes, and members can book their own personal trainers to help them get fit for Spring!

**KEEPING IN TOUCH**

Promoted by Denise Turner-Stewart on behalf of Spelthorne Conservative Association, both of 55 Cherry Orchard, Staines, TW18 2DQ. Printed by Vale Press Ltd, 6 Willersey Business Park, Broadway, WR12 7RR

Please give us your contact details so we can keep in touch with you about the issues you have raised:

Name

Address

Home/Mobile No

Email

**HOW CAN YOU HELP US?**

- Display a poster at election time
- Deliver leaflets
- Attend social events
- Join the local Party
- Vote by post
- Stand for Council

**How we use your information**

The data you provide will be retained by the Conservative Party and Spelthorne Conservative Association ("the data holders") in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and related legislation. By providing your data to us, you are consenting to the data holders making contact with you in the future by telephone, text or other means, even though you may be registered with the Telephone Preference Service. Your data will not be sold or given to anyone not connected to the Conservative Party. If you do not want the information you give to us to be used in this way, or for us to contact you, please indicate by ticking the relevant boxes: Post  Email  SMS  Phone

Please return to: **FREEPOST KT1169, 55 Cherry Orchard Staines, TW18 2DQ**

**CONTACT US**

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**Building Safe Communities for you!**

We know that anti social behaviour is a big concern for residents in Ashford Town.

The good news is that across Spelthorne crime has fallen for two years in a row and there are fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour, with a decline of 602 incidents over the past three years.

We mustn't be complacent but this fall is due, in part, to the investment that Spelthorne is making. In 2010, we targeted £200,000 on crime reduction initiatives, including CCTV cameras. As a result of the cameras alone, 241 arrests were made by police.

But the reduction in crime is also due to the important role Spelthorne's 225 Neighbour-hood Watches play. Says Cllr Gerry Forsbrey, "I'm very proud of the excellent work our local police force does, as well as the efforts of Spelthorne's Neighbourhood Watch volunteers." For more information visit:

[www.spelthornenhw.info](http://www.spelthornenhw.info)

**BROOKLANDS COLLEGE SAVED!**

Spelthorne's Conservatives Help Find Solutions

Local Ashford residents cannot fail to have noticed the opening up of the frontage of Brooklands College with new brick wall and railings!

A few years ago, there was gloom and uncertainty – we thought we were going to lose this beautiful building. Your Conservative council has stayed in close contact with the college authorities, working with them to explore ways to ensure that the college remains open. We want it to continue to operate as a further education centre for our youths and adults.

Says Cllr John Packman, "Residents made it clear that Brooklands must survive – and we listened! Today, the



**Brooklands College in Ashford**

refurbishment plans are coming to fruition and an increasing number of students enrolling – Brooklands will continue to play a leading part in our community."

**DOING MORE FOR OUR OLDER CITIZENS**

Spelthorne has more than 16,000 residents who are 65 years old, or older. "I believe it's important to support the work of those who care for our older residents," says Cllr Denise Grant. "Whether they are staff or volunteers, the services they provide are part of what makes Spelthorne so special."

We are proud to be one of only a few councils in the whole of the UK operating a special Spelride service for our elderly and disabled residents. Spelride operates five buses, providing over 2,000 trips per month to elderly and disabled residents. The Meals-on-Wheels programme, staffed by volunteers, serves more than 40,000 meals each year.



**Careful financial management has preserved crucial front-line services, such as Spelride's transport buses.**