

# in touch

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FROM Alfred Friday, Adam Shire and Suzy Webb  
Your local campaigners for Sunbury East

March 2011

Issue 2

## “NO!” TO PARKING CHARGE PLAN



Sunbury Cross, where Spelthorne's 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



Adam Shire, Suzy Webb, Alfred Friday at Hawke Park in Sunbury. Spelthorne purchased Hawke Park in early 2009 for £1 from Surrey County Council who gave £150,000 for an improved cycle path/footpath. This improves access for all pedestrians and cyclists, especially for Sunbury's younger residents. Adam Shire says, "Many residents I have spoken with see Hawke Park as an example of the sort of links we should have to schools, shops and homes".

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.



Dozens of programmes are going on at the Sunbury Leisure Centre now! Go swimming, scale the climbing wall, or visit the Sports Hall!

**KEEPING IN TOUCH**

Promoted by Philippa Broom 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

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

**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**

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**Building Safe Communities for you!**

We know that anti social behaviour is a big concern for residents in Sunbury East.

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 local activist Adam Shire, "Neighbourhood Watch is an excellent organisation that has made a real difference to Sunbury residents." For more information visit:

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

**SUNBURY CROSS SPRUCED UP!**

**Targeted Funds Used to Improve Shopping District**

A regeneration scheme is underway at Sunbury Cross. Work on the historic Clock Tower is progressing. Scaffolding has come down now that the cleaning of the sandstone surface is complete. New paving and fencing, lighting, new bins, seats and plantings are being installed.

Work has also started on a new skate park being built at the top of Green Street which is due for completion at the end of March.

Says local activist Alfred Friday, "The improvements at Sunbury Cross are being made by Spelthorne Council and Surrey County Council as part of a £200,000 investment programme. They



**Work on the Sunbury Clock Tower at Sunbury Cross is nearing completion.**

will give the area a needed facelift." Suggestions for the improvements came from residents during a consultation.

**DOING MORE FOR OUR OLDER CITIZENS**

Spelthorne has more than 16,000 residents who are 65 years old, or older. "Services to our older residents are a vital part of what makes Spelthorne such a great community," says local activist Suzy Webb. "A big thank you to all the council staff and volunteers who make such a difference!"

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.**