

SPELTHORNE COMMITTEE ACCESS Now (SCAN)



January 2021

info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk

www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk

SPONSORED BY



In This Issue

- 2 ASC - Team Briefing
- 2 Mass Vaccination Programme Begins
- 2 Support Available For Surrey Families
- 3 Locally Supported Contact Tracing
- 3 SCC Web Pages Coronavirus Advice & Support
- 3 Falls Prevention Online Advice And Guidance
- 4 SCC's Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment Strategy
- 5 AfCS - Supporting Carers Aged 5-95
- 5 Change To Covid Level For Surrey
- 6 What If Everyone Was Disabled?
- 7 DRUK – News In Brief
- 8 A Christmas Message from DRUK CEO
- 8 Call For Delivery Charges To Be Scrapped For Shielders
- 10 1.5 Million Children Will Need Mental Health Support
- 10 Government To Scrap Unconscious Bias Training
- 11 Disability Horizons – Shielding Stories
- 13 Covid19 - Tell Us How You've Been Affected
- 13 Staines Shopmobility
- 13 The Use Of Public Funds To Support Disabled People
- 14 Concerns Over Low Traffic Neighbourhoods
- 15 Surrey Libraries - Coronavirus Updates

2021



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in 1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



ASC - INFORMATION & ENGAGEMENT TEAM BRIEFING

Coronavirus Special Briefing - 17th December 2020

Mass Vaccination Programme Begins In Surrey

Vaccinations against COVID-19 began in Surrey at the Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust in Guildford, one of the first 50 hospital hubs to receive the vaccine.

It is initially immunising care home workers, staff who are at risk, and people over the age of 80 who are Royal Surrey outpatients, contacted in advance of their scheduled appointments. The Trust is also working with care home providers to book their staff into vaccination clinics. In the first six days just over 1,600 vaccines were given.

The first local vaccination services (based on primary care network (PCN) groupings) began at the following sites on 16 December:

The public has an important part to play to help the NHS expand this programme and to deliver it effectively. The message to our residents is:

Please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, they will contact you. When contacted, please attend your booked appointments. And please continue to follow all the guidance to control the virus and save lives.

For further information, please visit:

<https://www.surreyheartlands.uk/hope-as-vaccinations-begin-in-surrey/>

Support available for Surrey families struggling this winter

Surrey County Council will ensure help is available for families struggling this winter, through the Government's £170m COVID Winter Support Grant of which Surrey is set to receive just over £2m.

It is designed to directly help families and individuals who have been hardest hit by the pandemic, with the majority set aside to ensure children do not go hungry during the winter months.

Around £200,000 from the first tranche of money will be given to the Surrey Crisis Fund and made available to residents who are struggling through the winter. This money will provide support towards food costs and utility bills, but also emergencies such as replacing broken white goods and to guide people away from long lasting debt.



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in
1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with
Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



Locally Supported Contact Tracing

Surrey County Council is supporting the national Test and Trace programme by contacting residents in the county who have tested positive for COVID-19. If the national Test and Trace service is unable to contact someone within 24 hours, their details will be referred to Surrey's contact tracing team. The only number the team will call residents from is 01483 404939.

Surrey already has a strong contact tracing completion rate through the national Test and Trace service. This local service will ensure that even more residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 are successfully contacted. For more information about the service, visit: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/coronavirus/testing#localcontacttracing>

Surrey County Council Web Pages For Coronavirus Advice And Support

The Surrey County Council web pages for coronavirus advice and support host the most up-to-date information on coronavirus for Surrey residents and people working in the county.

There are links to official and trusted information and advice from the Government and the NHS, as well as how to find, and offer, support in the community, access emergency funds, council service updates and business advice.

New Easy Read winter information including Christmas Bubble guidance has been recently added to the 'Resources for Residents' page. This page also contains other accessible assets explaining different aspects of coronavirus.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/coronavirus/latest-information-and-advice/coronavirus-toolkit/residents>

Falls Prevention Online Advice And Guidance

Due to COVID-19, local NHS partners, Guildford and Waverley Borough Councils and Surrey County Council Adult Social Care have produced a series of Let's Get Steady film clips which aim to raise awareness of falls prevention, support with wellbeing and empower people to make positive changes to their lifestyle, to enable them to live independent lives.

The Let's Get Steady film is available on NHS Surrey Heartlands CCG. <https://www.surreyheartlandscg.nhs.uk/your-health/family-health/maintaining-independence-and-wellbeing-for-guildford-and->



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in
1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with
Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



[waverley-residents](#) The film can also be ordered on DVD by contacting: syheartlandsccg.independence@nhs.net
For more information, please visit: [NHS Surrey Heartlands CCG](#).

Help Shape Surrey County Council's Physical Disability And Sensory Impairment Strategy

Surrey County Council is asking residents with physical disabilities and / or sensory impairments to share their views on the support available to them, and access to universal services.

All feedback will be used to help shape the Adult Social Care's new Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Strategy, which will drive the support and services offered over the next five years (2021-2026).

If you or someone you know has a physical disability or sensory impairment (aged 18 or over), please do feed in your views and have your say. You can take part in the survey via <https://www.surreysays.co.uk/adult-social-care-and-public-health/survey-for-physical-disability-and-sensory-impairm/>

Residents have until **31 January 2021** to share their experiences and help shape the future support available.

Alternative accessible formats such as Easy Read, braille, large print or plain text are available and can be obtained by contacting Surrey County Council as follows:

Email: contactcentre.adminhub@surreycc.gov.uk **Phone:** 0300 200 1005 **SMS:** 07527 182861

If you have any questions about the strategy, please contact: psd.strategy@surreycc.gov.uk

Action For Carers Surrey: Supporting Carers Aged 5-95

Carers remain one of the groups most badly affected by the pandemic – with increased isolation and stress making a difficult role even harder. However, Action for Carers has expanded its offer and continues to provide vital support to this vulnerable group, including:

- Face to face and telephone support, for information, advice, and signposting.
- A huge range of Zoom events (and face to face where possible) from support groups, training and information, to wellbeing and relaxation sessions, giving carers time out from their caring role. Currently running over 45 free events a



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in
1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with
Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



month.

- Benefits advice, including help with completing forms.
- A dedicated team providing moving and handling advice and training, helping carers look after their backs.
- Advocacy and information on rights as a Carer.
- Carer Advisors in Surrey's five main hospitals – giving advice, information and emotional support, and aiding communication between the carer and the hospital.
- Consultations and other opportunities to influence change for carers, locally and nationally.
- Specialist support for key groups:
 - Certain groups of carers, e.g. parent carers, or carers for people with mental health difficulties.
 - Carers connected to the Armed forces.
 - Young Adult Carers (YAC) – the YAC service helps those aged 18-24 achieve a balance between their caring role and growing independence. Support includes social activities, information events, help with education, money management and more.
 - For carers under 18, the Surrey Young Carers service offers drop-ins, forums, activities and groups to give young carers support, and time out from caring. Also, there are dedicated staff working in Surrey's schools.

To refer to Action for Carers, please note the guidance for professionals <https://www.actionforcarers.org.uk/for-professionals/professional-referral-to-action-for-carers/> .

Carers can register themselves online at <https://www.actionforcarers.org.uk/register-with-us/> , call 0303 040 1234 or Text 07714 075993.



CHANGE TO COVID LEVEL FOR MOST OF SURREY

After initially announcing on 16th December, that the majority of Surrey would be moved up from Tier two to Tier three for the Christmas period there was another last-minute change for all Surrey for a move into a new **Tier 4 'Stay at Home' alert level.**

'Stay At Home' message will be put in law. As previously, there will be exemptions - including travelling for work or education, for childcare purposes, and for exercise.

People should not enter or leave Tier 4 areas, and Tier 4 residents must not stay overnight away from home. Where people cannot



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in
1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with
Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



work from home, they should still travel to work, for example in the construction and manufacturing sectors. Non-essential retail, indoor leisure [such as swimming pools and gyms], indoor entertainment [such as cinemas, bowling alleys and casinos], and personal care sectors [such as nail bars, barbers and hairdressers] must all close. Tighter social contact restrictions will also be introduced, meaning one person can meet with one other person in an outside public space. Rules on support bubbles and childcare bubbles will remain as currently, and communal worship can continue to take place.

For the clinically extremely vulnerable, the same advice as in November applies in Tier 4 areas. This says that those who are clinically extremely vulnerable, which includes people with certain types of cancer, people on immunosuppression therapy, and people with severe respiratory conditions, shouldn't go to work and should limit time outside the home, and take exercise outside at less busy times.

The Prime Minister, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Scientific Advisor and Cabinet agreed that while no-one wants to impose these tougher measures, the new variant has significantly changed the current landscape and urgent action is needed to protect the NHS and save lives. There is no current evidence to suggest the new variant causes a higher mortality rate, that it affects vaccines and treatments, or that testing will not detect cases.

The Prime Minister also said that given the risk the new variant poses, the Christmas bubble policy will no longer apply in Tier 4.



WHAT IF EVERYONE WAS DISABLED?

In July 2020 BBC Radio 4 released a documentary by Mat Fraser – writer, actor, rights activist, punk drummer, thalidomide survivor –

In this programme, he wonders how different things might be if the vast majority of people, rather than the minority, had a disability. He isn't afraid to challenge, to provoke and to ask awkward questions. Sometimes he allows his imagination to run riot.

Mat assesses how far we've come with accessibility and inclusivity, particularly in the last two decades, and considers what's stopping us from going further. Money, power, politics, legislation and technology all play their part, but what about social attitudes towards disability?



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in
1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with
Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



Mat invites designers, architects (Jane Simpson Access), advisers and campaigners (Tony Heaton OBE) to share some great and not-so-great examples of inclusive design. He imagines having grown up in a world “where Sandy from Crossroads wasn’t the only disabled bloke I saw on TV”. His friend and fellow actor Liz Carr (Silent Witness - Clarissa Mullery) tells Mat about a public transport wheelchair experience (in America) that blew her mind.

Jane Simpson is an Architect and NRAC registered Access Consultant. Throughout her career she has developed a broad range of expertise working within a local authority background, private practice and planning department with over two decades of experience in inclusion.

Tony Heaton is an award-winning disabled artist and activist who was awarded an OBE in 2013 for services to the Disability Arts Movement.

Liz Carr who is one of the most high-profile disabled actors in Britain, has played forensic examiner Clarissa Mullery in *Silent Witness* since 2012. She left the BBC show in February 2020 at the end of season 23. She has arthrogyriosis multiplex congenital, a rare genetic condition, and has been in a wheelchair since she was seven years old (1979)

Programme available until July 2021 on BBC i-player at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000kx1l>

2021

DISABILITY RIGHTS UK (DRUK) – NEWS IN BRIEF

We are the leading charity of its kind in the UK. We are run by and for people with lived experience of disability or health conditions. Our key decisions are made through our members who elect the Board of Trustees: and by our Senior Management Team. We work with our members to influence national policy on independent living, benefits, education, employment, transport, human rights and other issues – shaping policy through direct experience and expertise. We also work with our local individual and organisation members to empower and to influence local policy and services.

To contact Disability Rights UK (DR UK) see www.disabilityrightsuk.org/contact-us

A Christmas Message from Disability Rights UK CEO - Kamran Mallick - Edited



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in 1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



It has been the most extraordinary of years. This virus hit us hard. Harder than any other demographic. And as it progressed, it cloaked us, dismissed us as part of a death rate numbers game, and hid us from view as the wider public first panicked, then grew bored of lockdown, then clamoured to get back to normal before it was, and still is, safe to do so.

While politicians and the media spoke about 'The Disabled', 'The Elderly', and 'People with health conditions' – to us, we are all of a tribe. Whether we are Disabled older people, whether we have physical disabilities, learning disabilities, sensory impairments, or chronic health conditions, we are all Disabled people. We are disabled by the way society treats us. We are a fifth of this country's population and yet nearly two thirds of all Covid deaths were of Disabled people.

Now, as we head into Winter, accessing social care and health services remains challenging, as does retaining employment and having enough money to live on. Many Disabled people have lost jobs or experienced reductions in hours, and many are experiencing extreme poverty. We will continue to raise these issues into next year.

The corners of the cloak are being lifted, as the first vaccine has now been approved, and is now being delivered to those living and working in care homes. We campaigned hard for people with chronic health conditions who were not at the top of the list to be moved up the list. And this has now happened – this group has moved from sixth place on the list to fourth.

This year Disabled people have quite literally had to fight for our rights and our lives. And we promise you that in 2021, all of us at DR UK will take forward the spirit of that fight, not just for survival, but so that we can thrive. We will be working hard with Disabled people, and Disabled People's Organisations, to ensure that our voice is heard by Government and influences the forthcoming National Strategy for Disabled People.

I wish you peace and happiness this Christmas and the hope of a better New Year.

Call For Delivery Charges To Be Scrapped For Shielders

DR UK is supporting calls for supermarkets to scrap delivery charges for people most at risk of Coronavirus this winter.



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in
1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with
Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



Independent Age, the older people's charity, has published a new report warning that many people are facing mounting costs as they struggle to access food over Christmas. The charity, which leads a consortium on food access during the pandemic including DR UK, is appealing for action as people who cannot shop in supermarkets due to health risks – and at the advice of the Government – are being unfairly penalised through delivery charges and minimum spends on online supermarket shopping.

In April, supermarkets worked with the government to introduce priority slots for people of all ages at most risk from the virus, and many of these slots had no delivery charges. Since August, with the partial easing of restrictions, some supermarkets have been reintroducing delivery charges for all priority slots.

Fears have also been raised that social distancing and other safety measures are not being properly enforced in supermarkets.

Recent Independent Age / YouGov polling* shows that three quarters of people (77%) agree that those who are unable to shop in supermarkets due to their age or underlying health conditions should not have to pay online delivery charges.

There is even more support for the removal of minimum spends on grocery deliveries. 81% of people agree that minimum spends on online orders should be scrapped for those who are unable to shop in supermarkets due to the health risk.

DR UK's Head of Policy Fazilet Hadi said: "In November, DR UK asked all the major supermarkets to confirm their policies on help with food supply for shielders. This work has informed the consortium's campaigning this Autumn and Winter. Not one supermarket now offers free delivery, and all have a minimum spend policy.

"This is in effect a tax on Disabled people who do not have the option of safely shopping in person in their local shops to get best value. It is practically impossible for Disabled people who are living on benefits to afford these charges.

"We join the calls for the removal of minimum spends and delivery charges. For Disabled people, these should be treated as reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act." Read the responses DR UK received from supermarkets.

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/ur.php?u=59100&qid=9047809>



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in
1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with
Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



1.5 Million Children Will Need Mental Health Support Due To Pandemic

Dr Lisa Cameron, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Disability, of which DR UK is the secretariat, told MPs: “Children with disabilities have often been most affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. In terms of immediate impact, people with disabilities have accounted for six out of 10 deaths involving Covid-19, while Mencap’s social care survey has shown that seven out of 10 people with a learning disability have had their social care provision reduced as a result of the pandemic.

Looking at long-term consequences, the Centre for Mental Health estimates that 1.5 million children will need mental health support for conditions such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the pandemic.

The NHS’s digital report anticipates a 50% increase in mental health problems for children and young people as a result of the pandemic. When we account for the heightened immediate impact of Covid-19 on children with disabilities, coupled with the mental health consequences predicted for young people, it quickly becomes apparent that the wellbeing and inclusion of children with special educational needs and disabilities must be prioritised.”

Government To Scrap Unconscious Bias Training

The government is scrapping its unconscious bias training for all civil servants in England.

The training was designed to help people to recognise patterns of discrimination or prejudice they may not have been aware of. The government alleges there is no evidence to suggest it changes the way people think about discrimination, and that it may backfire and create more hostility towards demographic groups which face discrimination. It is urging other public sector employers to end such training too.

The Junior Minister, Julia Lopez MP, who oversees work in the Cabinet Office’s Equalities Hub which includes the Disability Unit, has released a written statement on why the training is being withdrawn.

The statement says: “There is clearly a role for training to support a more inclusive workplace and Civil Service, evidence also suggests that even the broader category of ‘diversity training’ as a standalone exercise can undermine such efforts if it appears to be a “tick box exercise”. The Civil Service will therefore integrate



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in
1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with
Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



principles for inclusion and diversity into mainstream core training and leadership modules in a manner which facilitates positive behaviour change. This new strategy will be published in the new year and will reassert our commitment to being an inclusive employer with a stronger focus on engaging measurable action.”

DR UK Head of Policy said: “The withdrawal of one scheme without the introduction of a new one shows a lack of commitment to Disability equality. It would surely have been better to have withdrawn this scheme after the implementation of the new, as yet to be announced, proposals. The government’s actions towards Disabled people this year have shown that it has a very long way to go in embedding a culture of inclusion.”



DISABILITY HORIZONS – SHIELDING STORIES

In a series of articles for Disability Horizons, Raya Al-Jadir, a shielder herself, shares the stories of people who have remained in a form of lockdown since the start of the pandemic, many of whom have been left feeling frustrated, anxious and forgotten.

Prior to Covid-19, nobody knew what shielding was. That was until nearly 2.2 million people who were deemed at high risk if they caught the virus were told to ‘shield’ – to at stay home, not go out and stay away from people, even those they lived with. Even when the word was used, the parameters around shielding and who it applied to weren’t clear.

Then in August, shielding was paused by the Government, and everyone – even those at most risk – were encouraged to resume their lives, to go back to work, go out and mix with others.

Gemma Orton, who has spinal muscular atrophy type 2, uses a wheelchair and non-invasive ventilator at night. Classified as being ‘extremely high risk’ of becoming seriously ill if she got Covid-19, Gemma received a letter from the NHS back in March advising her to shield for at least three months. But her own ‘lockdown’ has lasted far beyond that.

Although Gemma is being extremely careful, like many other disabled people, she can’t totally cut off contact from the outside world as she uses carers. “I have never really fully shielded because I need to have close contact with Carers to stay alive. It’s ironic that the most ‘high risk’ in society cannot truly socially distance.”



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in 1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



She was also left feeling frustrated when the guidelines changed from one extreme to the other, going from being told to not even go for a 'walk' to going back to 'normal'. She said: "The country just changed on August 1st. Suddenly everyone could get on as normal, go out, get back to work etc." This added another layer of difficulty for Gemma, seeing other people's lives going back to 'normal'. She worries that it will get to a stage where "all my friends meet for dinner and I don't? That will be hard."

Although Gemma has had a lot of support from friends and family, she admits that there are others who question her, saying "Aren't you brave enough yet to go out?" "I hate that word, brave. It's as if being brave will make me immune", Gemma retorts. There are also people who think Gemma is being over-cautious and overreacting, but as Gemma sees it; "They have the privilege of taking their health for granted. I'm guessing they've never been close to death or told they may not see tomorrow. I have."

Sam Fairman has the neuro-muscular condition Charcot Marie Tooth disease and uses a powered wheelchair. He also has type two respiratory failure and a permanently collapsed lung. He has been shielding since the 11th of February. "I decided to start shielding before the Government recommended it.

Sam ventures out every other week for a 20-minute drive in his car to prevent the battery from going flat. He doesn't get out of the car and stays local in case the car breaks down. His wife has been shielding with him so the only people they have seen since February are Carers, who Sam tries to minimise contact with.

It is the inequality that is causing Sam the most frustrations. "The general public seems to think that society can get on with life as normal, eating their 'cheeky Nando's' and having their lattes whilst the 'vulnerable' are expected to live outside of society and isolate so that everyone else can enjoy life. I hear people justifying their trips to crowded beaches with the phrase, 'I do it to protect my mental health.' What about our mental health?"

<https://disabilityhorizons.com/2020/11/shielding-stories-the-forgotten-isolated-who-have-been-in-lockdown-since-march/>



COVID19 - TELL US HOW YOU'VE BEEN AFFECTED

Let us help to publicise your virtual meetings or activities.
Nominate any 'Local Heroes'.



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in
1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with
Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



If you feel you can share your experiences of COVID in one of our newsletter or on our web site forum.

Please contact me on info@spelthorneaccess.org.uk or via the website forum <https://www.spelthorneaccess.org.uk/forum>

2021

Staines Shopmobility

making staines accessible

Two Rivers (West Car park),
Mustard Mill Road,
STAINES, TW18 4BL.

Telephone 01784 459416

Please Check For Any Updates At:

www.stainesshopmobility.com
www.facebook.com/stainesshopmobility

MEMBERSHIP CHARGES

*Membership is available on a daily or annual basis.
Please contact manager for details*



**Freedom
Accessibility
Independence
Confidence**

**Charitable
Incorporated
Organisation
(CIO) 57628**

2021

THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO SUPPORT DISABLED PEOPLE – Edited from Disabled Motoring December 2020

In November 2019 DMUK responded to a public consultation launched by the Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) on 'the use of public funds to support the mobility needs of Disabled People'. Many of the topics in this consultation related to how the Motability Scheme can be improved to provide a better service to disabled people. We are now pleased to see that the SSAC has taken a number of our recommendations on board in its report.

One of the key points we raised in our response to this consultation was that the high advance payments attributed to many wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) on the scheme are not affordable for many people. In response to this point the SSAC recommended that Motability prioritises "using available resources to deliver an effective scheme that is equitable and as affordable as possible for users". As part of this recommendation the SSAC has suggested that Motability should report any profits transparently and the finances should be placed under



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in
1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with
Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



independent scrutiny.

Another key point which was acknowledged in the report was that the scheme is not suitable for all of the people who are eligible for it. For example, it is not flexible enough to be used by people with rapidly changing health conditions and disabilities who made need to change their vehicle's adaptations promptly to continue driving. With this in mind, the SSAC recommended that Motability operations focuses on providing tailor made lease packages, variable lease lengths, variable insurance options, improved promotion of the possibility of car ownership following leases and a wider selection of EVs should be made available at viable prices.

If you would like to read the full report you can do so by visiting www.gov.uk/government/publications/ssac-occasional-paper-23-the-use-of-public-funds-in-supporting-the-mobility-needs-of-disabled-people.



CONCERNS OVER LOW TRAFFIC NEIGHBOURHOODS

Edited from Disabled Motoring December 2020

Councils that do not consult with local residents before implementing low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) could have their funding taken back by the government.

The Department for Transport (DfT) believes that the Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps has been clear in his announcement that “future funding allocations will be reduced, and clawbacks could also be imposed” where local authorities do not consider affected communities”.

LTNs commonly close roads to vehicle traffic and implement cycle lanes and wider pavements to encourage more pedestrian and cycle traffic. These schemes are becoming more common and many of them have faced criticism particularly from Disabled Motoring UK and other disabled peoples' organisations (DPOs) that are concerned that LTNs make towns and cities inaccessible for many disabled people who rely on their vehicles for independent mobility.

In July, the Transport Secretary voiced his own concerns in a letter he sent to council leaders. In this letter he highlighted the congestion problems which can be caused by using barriers to widen pavements. Grant Shapps said that this can “prevent pedestrians from crossing the road, cause congestion for buses



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in
1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with
Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



and motor traffic, and impede access for kerbside businesses”. The legislation relating to LTNs states that “schemes should be monitored and evaluated to help make decisions as to whether the scheme should be made permanent, and if so in what form.”



SURREY LIBRARIES CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

In line with Government advice, libraries in Surrey will continue to offer Click and Collect and computer services during the Tier 4 restrictions, allowing customers to use Ready Reads, collect reservations, return items and PCs for essential purposes only. Please [check opening hours](#) before visiting.

A small number of libraries, **Bagshot, Frimley Green, New Haw and West Byfleet** will remain as Click and Collect only libraries.

Please check opening hours before visiting.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries/news-and-events/news/coronavirus#opening>

Due to ongoing building works, **Cranleigh** will only offer a Click and Collect service and essential PC use. **Stoneleigh** will also offer a click and collect service but will allow people into the building to browse on Saturday 19 December. There will be no PC access. **Addlestone** will open on Tuesday 5 January 2021 as it is in a shared building that is going to be closed.

Keeping everyone safe

We are committed to keep you and our staff safe, so we have a number of measures in place to enable us to operate in COVID secure way. We are also working with the Community Partnered Libraries to support them and what services they can provide in the next few weeks. This will be confirmed shortly.

Opening hours

Ashford, Egham, Sunbury, Weybridge 9.30am to 5pm, Tuesday to Saturday.

Shepperton:- 2pm to 5pm Monday.

10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9.30am to 5pm Saturday

Staines:- 9.30am to 5.30pm Monday, Wednesday to Friday.
9.30am to 7pm Tuesday. 9.30am to 5pm Saturday

Stanwell:- 2pm to 5pm Monday. 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am to 1pm Saturday



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in 1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne



Computer access available

Please note: Computer access will not be available at the following libraries - **Bagshot, Bramley, Lightwater, New Haw, Stoneleigh and Virginia Water.**

Scanning facilities will only be available at: **Camberley, Dorking, Epsom, Godalming, Guildford, Redhill, Staines, Walton, Weybridge and Woking.** Time limit of 30 minutes on the scanner PC.

Which services are paused at this time?

- Bus Passes and Blue Badges.
- Use of study spaces, seating areas and meeting rooms.
- Newspapers.
- Face to face events and Digital Buddy sessions.
- Photocopying.

Safety and social distancing measures

We have comprehensive safety and social distancing measures. These include:

- face coverings - For more information please visit: [Government Face covering guidance](#).
- rigorous cleaning in our libraries and hand sanitiser provided at library entrances.
- limiting the number of customers in our libraries at any one time.



While every care has been taken in the compilation of information included in this newsletter, no responsibility is accepted for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused because of any inaccuracy or error in an article that has not been independently substantiated. The inclusion of information does not imply any endorsement or any association with a contributor's services or products.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or any other correspondence from S C A N, please send your request to 'Unsubscribe' to the email address on the front page of this newsletter or send to the return address on the reverse of the envelope.



An Independent Voluntary Organisation Formed in 1992 to improve Access & Facilities for People with Disabilities in the Borough of Spelthorne

