



May 2020

## SPELTHORNE RESIDENTS UPDATE

**In this edition of the InTouch newsletter I would like to acknowledge the amazing hard work that has been taking place to support the vulnerable and less fortunate of us in Spelthorne during the coronavirus pandemic.**

During the Coronavirus Pandemic I have been receiving regular updates from Daniel Mouawad, Chief Executive of Spelthorne Council about the ongoing situation in our borough, and the excellent work that is being done to support the residents of Spelthorne.

I want to thank all our key workers for the fantastic work that they continue to do as we get through this crisis together.

I would also like to pay particular tribute to all those involved at the Council for continuing to deliver our essential services, and for quickly establishing the community hub 'Support4Spelthorne'.

This service, along with the other community projects, has provided a lifeline of hope, and ensured that we have reached out to those most vulnerable in our community.



Kwasi Kwarteng MP

### AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

**I want to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who have been working so hard across Spelthorne. The level of support and generosity you have shown by selflessly offering to help those who are self-isolating, or who have experienced particular difficulties, has been incredible and humbling.**

Every day I hear of acts of kindness and generosity which make me immensely proud to be the MP for Spelthorne. None of the support that is available would be possible without the huge amount of generosity and hard work from local residents, businesses and key workers who have pulled together to help us through this crisis.



For anyone in need of support in Spelthorne I urge you to contact Spelthorne Borough Council's Support4Spelthorne service on them on **01784 446446** or email **Covid19welfare@spelthorne.gov.uk**

### PROTECTING BA JOBS

The news from British Airways that it is considering making up to 12,000 employees redundant has been devastating for the many BA employees, and their families, who live in Spelthorne.

The airline is hugely important in the borough, and I have been lobbying hard to find a way to protect BA's workforce, many of whom have given many years of loyal service to the company.

Any job losses must be kept to a minimum, and be an absolute last resort. I hope a way forward can be found that treats workers with the respect and appreciation they deserve.

## SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS

**The Coronavirus pandemic has had a huge impact on most business sectors.**

I want to reassure everyone that the Government is doing all it can to support businesses big and small.

The Borough Council has been rolling out business support grants over the past few days and weeks, and there are business rates deferral and loan schemes available to help

manage cashflow. If you run a business please use the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder> to find the right support for your business.

There is also guidance on how to help us all back to work at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-launched-to-help-get-brits-safely-back-to-work>



<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

## MY ROLE AS ENERGY MINISTER

**Last summer I was delighted to be appointed as the Energy Minister in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.**

This means that I am responsible for ensuring our continued power supply so we can keep our lights switched on while we are at home during the pandemic. My role also involves overseeing offshore wind generators, taking coal off grid and reducing our carbon emissions. I am really proud that last year the UK became the first major economy in the world to pass laws to end its contribution to global warming, and bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.



Visiting Hinkley Point Power Plant

## News SNIPPETS

### LOCAL GREEN INITIATIVES

As Energy Minister I am always keen to hear of local green initiatives in Spelthorne.

I have already been very impressed with the local entrepreneurs I have met who are leading the way in making Spelthorne a green and environmentally friendly place to live. I am always keen to hear of more new ideas and initiatives.

You can follow my latest energy related news and announcements from my page on the Department of Business and Energy website on: <https://www.gov.uk/government/people/kwasi-kwarteng>

**ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO HOLD FACE TO FACE SURGERY APPOINTMENTS AT THE MOMENT, MY TEAM AND I WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU WITH ANY PROBLEMS YOU MAY HAVE.**



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Sadly, the Spelthorne Business Plan Competition has not been able to go ahead as planned, but it will be back next year. I look forward to seeing all the fantastic business ideas from our entrepreneurial residents for a great competition in 2021.