

RESIDENTS SAY 'NO' 'NO' 'NO' TO NEW TOWER BLOCK DEVELOPMENTS IN STAINES



Bridge Street Car Park where the planned Arora hotel/apartment complex would be two-and-a-half times taller than the Thames Edge apartments in the background.

Residents' Riverside Coalition (left to right): John de Pear (Colnebridge Close Residents Association), Terry Davis (Waterside Place (Staines) Residents Management Ltd), Peter Bower (Staines Village Residents and Traders Association), Nigel Rowe (Friends of The Hythe), Margaret Geraci (Thames Edge Management Ltd).

Behind them: Jackie Wand-Tetley (Staines Town Society), Cllr John Boughtflower (Leader, Spelthorne Borough Council), Cllr Sinead Mooney (Surrey County Councillor for Staines).

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Plans are in the pipeline to wreck Staines for generations as a great place to live, work and visit. They would destroy the town's amenity and skyline, further choke its already crippled road infrastructure, and overwhelm the riverfront public realm. The draft Staines Masterplan, currently under review, would pepper the town with a number of high-rise tower blocks of mostly small flats! Three (13, 14 and 15 storeys high) are currently in the pipeline for sites close to or on the riverfront, including a massive hotel and apartment complex in the Staines Conservation area!

The authors of these grotesque proposals won't want them stopped. But our campaign to call a halt to further high-rise developments in the town is gathering momentum. There is growing cross-party support in Spelthorne Borough Council. Council Leader Cllr John Boughtflower says "I've listened to the arguments and the case for a moratorium is compelling." Surrey County Councillor for Staines, Sinead Mooney, says "Why are some of these high-rise projects being rushed through in the middle of a pandemic? There is a particular problem with the Arora scheme for the Bridge Street Car Park, pushed through by Council Officers and just a few Cabinet members, and with the contract still shrouded in mystery! Why the lack of transparency? There must be full disclosure now. Until everything is out on the table I'm calling upon Arora and Spelthorne Council to publicly call a halt to this development."

We too are calling on Spelthorne Borough Council to put an end to this tower block madness NOW -- put an immediate stop to any further consideration of high-rise proposals until the new Staines Masterplan is finalised, and find a way for Spelthorne to meet its housing commitments without dumping most of it into the heart of the Staines community. We are calling on Spelthorne Borough Councillors of all political parties to support the local community with an urgent cross-party effort to push these demands over the line.

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Residents Riverside Coalition – a Working Group of residents' organisations serving the interests of some 600 residents on both sides of the river at Staines.