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## RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

2 FEBRUARY 2021

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### **MORATORIUM ON NEW HIGH-RISE DEVELOPMENTS**

### **“Swimming against a powerful tide”**

The ‘time out’ on new high-rise developments in Staines, declared last week by Spelthorne Borough Council’s Cabinet, may turn out to be just a token gesture to residents unless the powerful forces working against it are confronted and dealt with. This is the conclusion reached by the Riverside Residents Coalition. The three-month moratorium has been declared to enable a review of the draft ‘Staines Masterplan’ and a public consultation.

In a paper setting out what will be required for a successful use of the moratorium, the Coalition of five residents’ associations also spells out why it believes the purposes of the moratorium are “swimming against a powerful tide”. The paper has been sent to the Task Group reviewing the ‘Masterplan’, the Cabinet, and local Ward Councillors.

“The Council’s Officers opposed the moratorium and believe the Masterplan they developed with the Council’s former leadership must go ahead. This plan would turn Staines into a mini-Woking of tower blocks for 3,000 new shoe-box flats and a massive 14-storey river-front hotel in the Staines Conservation area,” said a spokesperson for the Coalition. “Asking the Council’s Officers to do the work on the review, especially without expert independent oversight, would be like asking students to mark their own homework. Also, at the moment, the moratorium only affects developments where the Council is the developer, and that has to change.

The Coalition’s paper [Swimming against a powerful tide sets](#) out what it believes are the essential pre-conditions for a successful review and public consultation. These include a review with Surrey County Council of how the Masterplan would impact the town’s infrastructure (roads, parking, water supply and sewage disposal, pollution, schools, medical services, etc); a challenge to the borough’s housing target and why Staines must bear the burden of it; and a 3-D visualisation of what the town would look like if the scheme is implemented.”

“The Masterplan has had no public scrutiny and almost none from Councillors, so residents don’t yet realise how dramatically it would ruin the appearance and amenity of the town for generations to come,” said the Coalition’s spokesperson. “The whole scheme and the secretive process that brought it about is a scandal and must be stopped.”

**Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition** – a Working Group of residents’ organisations serving the interests of some 600 residents on both sides of the river.

Thames Edge Management Ltd  
Colnebridge Close Residents Association  
Staines Village Residents and Traders Association  
Friends of The Hythe  
Waterside Place (Staines) Residents Management Ltd

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