



RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

4 MARCH 2021

RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS CALL FOR STRONGER MORATORIUM ON TOWER BLOCKS IN STAINES

THE Riverside Residents Coalition is writing to Spelthorne Borough Council's leadership today calling for the moratorium deadline on new high-rise developments in Staines to be extended and for it to be strengthened to include all third-party developments.

"The moratorium was called for in December, decided in January, and is due to end in May. It was put in place to allow for a public consultation before decisions are made on the development plan for Staines. Now it seems the consultation won't be completed until May, so the moratorium must be extended so it's findings can be properly considered before decisions are taken," says a spokesperson for the Coalition. "The Council also needs to be much more aggressive and imaginative to ensure that third party developers abide by the moratorium too, and that applies particularly to the planning application by Inland Homes for a twin-towers development (13 and 15 storeys) on the Old Telephone Exchange and Masonic Hall site next to Debenhams."



The proposed Inland Homes development as seen from the river

The Inland Homes development proposal is already being questioned for flooding risk and road infrastructure issues. The Coalition understands that no work has yet been done to evaluate the impact on the town's infrastructure of the draft Staines Masterplan for several such tower block developments: traffic and parking, water supply and sewage, schooling, doctors and other services.

"The Council is running ahead of itself with all these development plans. No-one wants Staines to become a mini-Woking of tower blocks for shoe-box commuter flats," says the Coalition spokesperson. "There are many environmental issues yet to be fully considered and the trade-off between building high-rise or building on under-performing greenbelt has yet to be resolved. It may well be that difficult and unpalatable compromises will be called for; but none of these decisions can reasonably be taken now. The Council must listen to what residents want, and opposition to tower blocks is as strong as not wanting to build on green belt."

Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition – a Working Group of six residents' organisations serving the interests of some 700 residents on both sides of the river. Supported by Staines Town Society.

www.riversideresidentsstaines.org.uk

riverside.residents.staines@gmail.com

FB Riverside Residents Staines

