

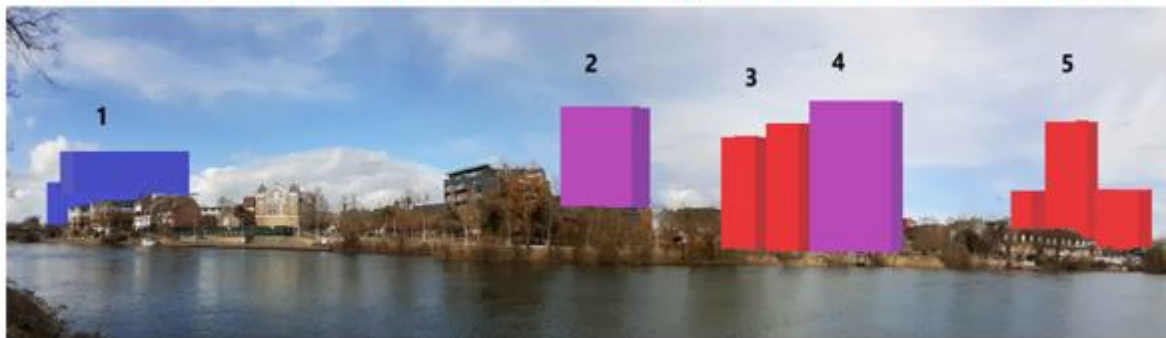
STAINES RESIDENTS TO LAUNCH PETITION AGAINST COUNCIL'S 'HIGH-RISE HELL' PLANS

A petition calling on Spelthorne Borough Council to spread the planned housing target growth more evenly across the borough and prevent tower-block developments in the Staines Conservation Area or overlooking the riverfront will be launched tomorrow.

"We hope to reach as many residents in Staines as possible," says a spokesperson for the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition, the petition's sponsor. "Everyone who has seen what the Council's current plan would do to the town can see it for what it is: high-rise heaven for developers but high-rise hell for residents. The 'vision', being reviewed now by a Council Task Group, is to dump about 45 per cent of the borough's entire housing target on Staines by peppering the town with tower-block developments of flats up to 15 storeys high – five of them at or close to the riverfront.

"These proposals are grotesquely unfair on Staines and its residents. They would wreck for generations to come the town's amenity, appearance, townscape and skyline – particularly along the riverfront, the town's most precious and distinctive asset. This level of development would also place an intolerable burden on the town's already over-stretched infrastructure - roads and parking, water supply and sewage, health and education services, pollution and other aspects of community well-being. Unbelievably, none of this has yet been properly assessed but Planning Applications have already been submitted for two such projects to get the whole ghastly scheme under way. It has to be stopped!"

High-rise heaven for developers! High-rise hell for residents!



Illustrations and text based on available information from SBC and other sources



- 1 Arora hotel/apartment scheme (14-storey 342-room hotel and 200+ flats).
- 2 Debenhams (15-storeys – 250 flats).
- 3 Old telephone exchange / Masonic Hall (twin towers, 13 and 15 storeys – 200 flats)
- 4 Tothill Car Park/ Library/ Museum/ Communications House (15 storeys – 250 flats)
- 5 Thameside House (15 storeys – 146 flats)

Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition – a Working Group of six residents' organisations serving the interests of residents on both sides of the river.

Supported by: Staines Town Society.

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