



## RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

16 JUNE 2021

### **HIGH TIME SPELTHORNE COUNCIL CAME CLEAN ON HIGH-RISE IN STAINES**

Spelthorne Borough Council's new Planning Committee will determine next week an application by Inland Homes for a twin-towers development (13 and 15 storeys) for 206 small flats close to the river frontage. This was announced yesterday, two weeks before the close of the ongoing public consultation on the future development of Staines. It is one of five tower block developments currently in the pipeline for sites at or close to the river frontage ([click here](#)).

There is at best a profound disconnect between the plans and proposals already announced by the Council and both the public consultation and its supporting 'Objectives and Options Report'. Both suggest that more tower-block developments in Staines are only options under consideration. The consultation survey asks residents whether they want them – with specific questions relating to sites at or close to the river frontage.

"We have been trying to secure a clear answer to this obvious disconnect since last summer when the Council's plans for several new tower-blocks and a massive population increase in Staines began to emerge", a spokesperson for the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition said this morning. "It is claimed that the results of the consultation will influence how the town is developed in future; but that won't be finalised for about another year. In the meantime the Inland Homes development and other tower blocks currently under discussion with developers can be approved and precedents will have been set for others. In other words, the Council will have held the stable door open for the rest of us to watch helplessly as the horses bolt."

"The town's proximity to Heathrow imposes an effective height limit of 15-storeys", the Coalition's spokesperson continued. "So in our latest attempt to get to the bottom of this we have asked Council officers (2 June) a simple question 'What planning policies or other legal devices could be employed to limit the height of buildings in Staines below that imposed by proximity to Heathrow?'. If the answer is that there are none until the new town plan is finalised, the public consultation will be seen as a deliberate and unconscionable deceit. If limits can be imposed, the community and the Councillors elected to represent Staines residents must be told. Either way, we hope Councillors elected to represent residents' interests will speak up as they did in voting unanimously last December for a moratorium on high-rise developments and during last month's election when they pledged to oppose more tower-block developments in the town, particularly in the Staines Conservation Area and at or overlooking the river frontage."

#### **We believe the Council has two options:**

- **Declare and enforce a moratorium on all high-rise developments pending finalisation of the 'Staines Development Framework', or**
- **Admit that the consultation and its supporting Objectives and Options Report may have no impact at all on how the town is developed.**

[Click here](#) for more detail and background on this critical issue for everyone who lives in or near Staines.

**Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition** – a Working Group of six residents' organisations serving the interests of several hundred residents on both sides of the river. Supported by other residents organisations across Staines and the Staines Town Society.

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