



## RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER 9 OCTOBER 2021

### HIGH-RISE NOW A HOT TOPIC FOR SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Opposition to high-rise developments in Staines has suddenly become a hot topic for Spelthorne Borough Council with four key events coming together at more or less the same time.

#### **Debate on high-rise petition**

Next Thursday evening (14 October), the full Council will debate our petition calling on the Council to prevent high-rise developments overlooking the riverfront and in the Conservation Area, and to spread Spelthorne's housing target more evenly across the borough. More than 3,500 signed the petition. We plan to produce a report on the discussion in a *Residents Newsletter* next week-end. For the agenda and YouTube link if you want to follow proceedings, go to:

- <https://democracy.spelthorne.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=133&Mid=3469>.

#### **Waterfront Development Project Investigation**

Major concerns about the independent investigation into the provenance of and contract for the 14-storey Arora hotel/apartment complex in the sensitive riverfront Staines Conservation Area by Staines Bridge also features strongly on the Council's agenda for next Thursday. Two key agenda items focus on the narrow terms of reference for it and the role that has been assigned to the Chief Executive in its administration. A strongly worded motion on these aspects, signed by a cross-party group of a dozen Councillors will be debated. Four of our Coalition residents' organisations have also tabled questions on the same issues for the Leader to answer. We plan to report on this too in a *Residents Newsletter* next week-end.

#### **Inland Homes twin-towers appeal/inquiry**

Tuesday of next week (12 October) is the deadline for 'interested parties' to submit comments to the Planning Inspectorate on the proposed twin-towers (15 and 13 storeys) development for the Old Telephone Exchange and Masonic Hall site next to Debenhams. The planning application by Inland Homes was rejected unanimously by Spelthorne's Planning Committee in June. Last month the company launched an appeal against the decision and lodged a Statement of Case to support this. We have analysed it. We will submit our observations and further evidence to support the Planning Committee's decision in the next couple of days. This will be published next week on our website [www.riversideresidentsstaines.org.uk](http://www.riversideresidentsstaines.org.uk).

#### **Debenhams redevelopment**

A reminder: There will be a public exhibition on the proposed 14-storey twin-towers redevelopment of the Debenhams site **from 4.00pm to 8.00pm on Wednesday 13 October**. It will be at Staines Methodist Church in Thames Street. The developers want to know what residents think of their proposal so, whatever your views, please take a look and tell them.

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

**[www.riversideresidentsstaines.org.uk](http://www.riversideresidentsstaines.org.uk)**  
**e mail [riverside.residents.staines@gmail.com](mailto:riverside.residents.staines@gmail.com)**  
**FB Riverside Residents Staines**