



RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

17 MAY 2022 --

STAINES ... HIGH-RISE ... AND CRIME

STAINES TOWN CENTRE was one of Spelthorne's top three areas for crime last year, including antisocial behaviour, according to Police Statistics. The respected think-tank Policy Exchange says "high-rise living means crime, stress, delinquency, and social breakdown".

So, is this what's in store for 'Staines of the future' with Spelthorne Borough Council planning to pepper the town with tower-blocks of tiny flats, increasing its population by a staggering 50 per cent to accommodate 55 per cent of the borough's entire housing target over the next 15 years.

"It's well known and obvious that the problem of high-rise and anti-social behaviour is worse in towns where there are limited open spaces and poor provision of social facilities and entertainment," says a spokesperson for the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition. "There's not much recognition of this in the Council's draft Local Plan for Spelthorne. Councillors will be deciding on Thursday evening whether or not to approve the Plan as drafted. The Council wants to deliver it to the Planning Inspectorate in the autumn, and we want this too. All we are asking for is a couple of simple amendments that will prevent the worst excesses of high-rise and properly protect sensitive areas like the riverfront, Conservation Area, and immediately adjacent to existing residential areas. Without those amendments Staines will be largely unprotected, presenting an open goal to predatory developers."



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

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