



## RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

19 MAY 2022

### **DON'T WRECK STAINES WITH 'HIGH-RISE HELL' ... a final plea to Spelthorne Councillors ...**

SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS meet this evening to decide whether to approve the draft Local Plan that will add more than 5,000 new homes in Staines, mostly tower blocks of flats, to accommodate some 10,000 new residents. This would mean 55 per cent of the borough's entire housing target dumped on Staines and a 50 per cent increase in the town's population!

"If the Plan is passed this evening unamended, it will transform Staines dramatically from a mid-size market town into a high-rise money-making Wild West for predatory developers," says a spokesperson for the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition. "To bring some common sense and balance to this, we have proposed two simple amendments that would protect sensitive areas (the riverfront, Conservation Area, and immediately adjacent to existing residential areas), and ensure flexibility to vary the housing allocation as new opportunities emerge elsewhere. Doesn't seem a lot to ask, given Staines will inevitably bear the brunt of the Local Plan's misery whatever happens. Councillors will be 'drinking at the last chance saloon' this evening ... if they approve the Plan, that's what will go to the Planning Inspector. There will be a public consultation, but the Plan won't be amended!"

"As it stands, the Plan means a number of car parks will have to go, open spaces will be constrained, there is no credible plan to deliver the infrastructure needed to support such massive overdevelopment or meet the community's actual local housing needs, and no plans to add entertainment and cultural activities to nourish a vibrant community. 30 of the 39 Spelthorne Councillors represent wards outside Staines, but it would be blind selfish prejudice for them to take no account of the misery they will be inflicting on the borough's main town and those who live, work and visit here. At least we should be able to rely on Councillors with a genuine interest in Staines to vote down the Plan unamended."



**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.

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