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HOW WILL COUNCIL DEFEND PLANNED URBAN WRECKAGE OF STAINES?

A PUBLIC CONSULTATION begins tomorrow on Spelthorne Borough Council's plan to develop the borough over the next 15 years. 55 per cent of the borough's entire housing target will be built in Staines. There will be tower blocks of tiny flats across the town to accommodate a 50 per cent population increase. The plan was approved by the Council last month by a majority vote. All but one of the Councillors representing Staines wards voted against it. All of the Councillors bar two representing wards outside Staines voted for it. Staines residents can question Council officers on the plan at a number of events in the town during the coming weeks.

"Not even Councillors have been consulted on the materials and arguments the Council officers will deploy during the consultation to defend the urban wreckage and planned grotesque overdevelopment of Staines," says a spokesperson for the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition. "When we've seen how they defend the plan we will give residents our views on the key issues and aim to do this by the end of the month ... so watch this space!"

Residents will be able to give their views on the plan through the Council's questionnaire survey. The findings will be sent to the government Planning Inspector who will decide if the plan should be approved. But the Council's plan as it stands today will be sent to the Inspector unaltered, regardless of the findings of the consultation. The plan begs so many questions, including: **Why** must more than half the borough's housing target be dumped on Staines? **Why** is the plan to provide the necessary infrastructure (schools, doctors, roads, parking, etc) so vague? The Council says the height of new developments in sensitive areas like close to the river and the Conservation Area will be limited through a zoning scheme; but **why** is there no robust regulation to ensure this, and **why** is the Council already proposing a zone-busting development of its own near the river? **Why** has the Council ignored invitations from the government to propose development plans for a lower housing target where local constraints can justify this?



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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