



RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

14 September 2022

LESS THAN 3% OF RESIDENTS THINK COUNCIL PLANS FOR STAINES ARE FAIR, DESIRABLE OR SUSTAINABLE

A DEVASTATING INDICTMENT OF SPELTHORNE COUNCIL's plans for the future development of Staines has emerged from an independently conducted survey of residents' views. More than 600 residents participated in the survey which covered many aspects and consequences of the Council's plan to allocate some 55% of the borough's entire housing 'target' to Staines. The following are among the key findings:

- Less than 3% of residents surveyed think the plan is "fair", less than 2% think it is "desirable", less than 1% think it is "sustainable" ... and less than 2% think it meets the "local housing need".
- Support for limiting the height of new developments in sensitive areas of the town is also overwhelming: 'very important' within 50 metres of the river (95%), 'very important' in the Staines Conservation Area (95%), and 'very important' immediately next to existing residential areas (87%). 90% believe there should be *NO* exceptions to the zoning restrictions.
- Concern for the provision of all the necessary infrastructure (from schools, medical services, and utilities to roads, public transport, leisure and entertainment) is also overwhelming.
- 75% feel the Council has explained its plans for the town "poorly", and only 1% think this was done "very well".
- 44% of all those surveyed had participated in the Council's earlier 'public consultations' before the Local Plan was written. Less than 2% feel their views were listened to.

77% of those who participated in the survey are Staines residents. One of the surprise findings is that the views of residents who don't live in Staines are broadly the same as those who do. [Click here](#) for the detailed findings from all respondents. [Click here](#) for the views of Staines residents only.

"We commissioned this survey because we became increasingly concerned about the Council's own current public consultation on its 'Local Plan' for the borough, given its earlier consultations on supposed options," says a spokesperson for the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition. "The Council's plans for Staines are a major part of its 'Local Plan' for the borough which will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate for government approval. We plan to submit detailed arguments (to the Planning Inspector via the Council) in the next few days for why we believe the Local Plan is unsound and should not be approved."

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.

www.riversideresidentsstaines.org.uk

E Mail riverside.residents.staines@gmail.com

FB Riverside Residents Staines