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## RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

6 October 2022

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### **COUNCIL LEADER CALLED ON TO RESCIND GAGGING ORDER CLOSING DOWN DEBATE ON 'DEEPLY FLAWED' BOROUGH HOUSING PLAN**

A GAGGING ORDER forbidding further debate on Spelthorne Council's 'Local Plan' to build almost 5,500 new homes in Staines has been slapped on members of the committee responsible for developing it. The chairman of the committee has refused to approve a request from some of its members that it be on the agenda for discussion at its next meeting on 11 October, and also refused to discuss a number of questions submitted by residents' associations on the 'soundness' and 'legal compliance' of the Local Plan.

"We have written today ([click here for full text](#)) to Council Leader Cllr John Boughtflower urging him to seek the views of the whole committee on whether the Local Plan needs amendments to reflect feedback from the public consultation on the Plan and the many claims that it is 'unsound' and not 'legally compliant'", says a spokesperson for the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition. "Dumping 55 per cent of the borough's so-called housing target on Staines, increasing its population by 50 per cent, with no real protection for sensitive areas like the riverfront and Conservation Area is not just civic vandalism. Environment Agency scientists have said that if people knew then what is known today, it is highly unlikely a town would have been established where Staines is because of flood risk. This risk and its consequences are made worse by adding new buildings, particularly high-rise developments with deep foundations.

"But there are many other reasons why the Council's proposed Plan is deeply flawed. It includes a number of inconsistencies and contradictions, and was missing about 20 key supporting documents when it was approved by the Council in May. In fact a key paper on flood risk was only added in July and at least one other key document, a current Strategic Land Availability Assessment, is still missing."

**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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