

---

## RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

19 April 2025

---

# **FLOOD-RISK IN STAINES WHAT ARE THE RISKS? WHERE ARE THE 'HOT SPOTS'?**

## **Find out on Tuesday evening, 6 May**

**THIS IS YOUR INVITATION** to meet with the scientist who led the Royal Holloway, University of London, research into flood-risk from groundwater in Staines ... and to discover the full consequences for residents (not just in Staines) as well as the likely impact of proposed new developments. Please feel free to invite others. The meeting will be at the Thames Side Brewery, by the Two Rivers car park at 1 Hale Street, Staines, TW18 4UW ([click here](#) for detail). Doors (and bar) will open at 5.30pm, with the presentation/discussion at 6.00pm, and the bar will be open afterwards.

Dr Jonathan Paul, Senior Lecturer in Earth Science at Royal Holloway, will talk through the detailed findings of the research. These prove that flooding risks from groundwater flows through the thin gravel substrate on which Staines is built are considerable and wildly variable. Surface water run-off adds to the problem. The proposed River Thames Scheme (to reduce flood-risk from the river) will not reduce the risk of groundwater flooding ... and climate change will continue to make things increasingly worse.

Foundations, however shallow or deep, and basements for new developments, can add significantly to flood risk from groundwater for others in the area. The research findings are a major challenge to Spelthorne Council's plans for new tower blocks of flats across the town. Until the Royal Holloway research, little was known about the impact of groundwater flows under Staines, and the Council refused to accept the findings until validated by experts. This endorsement is now in place and published in the *Journal of Flood Risk Management* ([click here](#)), so the Council *must* now take the findings seriously.

The presentation and discussion on 6 May might help those attending decide whether and how to contribute to Spelthorne Council's consultation on its Local Plan and proposed developments in Staines before the deadline of 15 May.

**Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition** – a working group of six residents' organisations serving the interests of residents on both sides of the river.  
[riverside.residents.staines@gmail.com](mailto:riverside.residents.staines@gmail.com)    FB Riverside Residents Staines