
RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

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COUNCIL TAKES IMPORTANT STEP TO PREVENT INCREASED FLOOD RISK ... it's a start, and now for the detail ...

SPELTHORNE COUNCIL HAS TAKEN AN IMPORTANT STEP towards much needed protection for Staines residents against increased flood risk from the many new developments called for in the borough's Local Plan. The Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition has sought for some time a commitment from the Council for "clear, robust and enforceable policy directives and processes that will get as close as is possible to a guarantee that no new development in Staines will increase flood risk for other properties and public spaces". In a statement yesterday evening, Council Leader Cllr Joanne Sexton said "Our residents can be assured that the Group Administration will do everything it can to ensure that no new development will increase flood risk for other properties and public spaces. The Council is working with Surrey County Council, the Environment Agency and Dr Paul (Royal Holloway, University of London) on developing a guidance note on how to deal with groundwater issues".

The findings of the research by Royal Holloway, led by Dr Jonathan Paul, first revealed in the Spring of 2024, show how the foundations and basements of new high-rise developments can cause flooding in the area around them. This is due to the vast quantities of water that flow through the thin gravel layer under Staines.

"We certainly welcome Cllr Sexton's pledge that the Council will *'do everything it can'*. This is an important reassurance. Of course, a *'guidance note'* is some way short of a *'clear, robust and enforceable policy'* and the kind of detailed policy documents other boroughs along the Thames have to deal with similar but much less severe or complex flood risk problems," says a spokesperson for the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition. "With the Council now actively marketing its development sites across Staines, we have asked to see what the Council is currently telling prospective developers and demanding from them in relation to flood risk impact."

Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition – a working group of six residents' organisations serving the interests of residents on both sides of the river.
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