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# RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

11 September 2026

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## **COUNCILLORS REJECT PROPOSED 'MUGA' FOR STAINES MEMORIAL GARDENS ... but will seek a new location urgently ...**

THE PROPOSAL TO INSTALL A 'MUGA' (Multi-Use Games Area) in Staines Memorial Gardens was roundly rejected yesterday evening by Spelthorne Council's Environment and Sustainability Committee. The decision reflected a recommendation from Officers to do no further work on it in its present form and location "having considered the consultation outcome, site-specific issues, financial implications, legal considerations and deliverability matters". It was clear from the Committee's discussion that the problem for most Councillors was its proposed location. There was a broad consensus that another site for such a facility should be found.

In March this year the Committee resolved that the project should only progress if consultation feedback indicated overall community support. The consultation survey in early summer attracted a high response with 75% 'unsupportive' (80% of them 'very unsupportive'). Most cited opposition to its proposed location in Memorial Gardens. The proposal was also opposed by the Police because of its location.

The Committee's debate yesterday evening, and determination that another site should be found for such a facility, centred on a concern about Staines' growing population, growing anti-social behaviour, and the need to provide the town's young people with opportunities to occupy their time and improve their health and well-being.

"Given the outcome of the public consultation, the Committee's decision was probably inevitable; but it was clear most Committee members felt the same way about the riverside Memorial Gardens being an inappropriate location," says a spokesperson for the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition. "Memorial Gardens is in the Staines Conservation Area and there is growing acceptance that any development on riverfront sites should contribute to and benefit from the prized riverfront location for residents."

**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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