



RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

19 May 2021

CONSULTATION ON STAINES' FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ... golden opportunity residents **MUST** take ...

The public consultation launched yesterday by Spelthorne Borough Council, seeking residents' views on the future development of Staines, is a golden opportunity for the community to make its views and feelings known. We encourage everyone to complete the survey questionnaire.

[Click here](#) (or go to www.spelthorne.inconsult.uk) for the questionnaire (available for on-line completion or ask for a paper copy) and related background documents. For those who share our opposition to tower-block developments, especially on or overlooking the riverfront, we recommend you pay particular attention to:

- The **Introduction** to the questionnaire which sets out its objectives. Be aware that although the map confirms the sites earmarked for high-rise development, neither the questionnaire nor background documents show the impact of their proposed height up to 15 storeys ([click here](#) for an illustration of their visual impact).
- **Objective 1** in the questionnaire deals with "Accommodating sustainable and inclusive growth while protecting the existing valued built environment and green spaces". *Questions 5 to 14: but questions 10, 11 and 12 refer specifically to high-rise.* You might want to comment here on the adverse impact of tower-block developments, not least the 14-storey riverfront Arora hotel and apartment scheme for the Staines Conservation Area. It is worth noting a) that nothing around these proposed developments is higher than six storeys and most are four or five, and b) the illustrations of high-rise in the questionnaire minimise their visual impact through distorted perspective and absence of real context.
- **Objective 5** in the questionnaire deals with "Protecting and enhancing the riverside and integrating it with the wider open space network". *Questions 31 to 34.* This section invites residents' views on limiting the height and size of buildings close to the riverfront, and what kind of facilities would enhance the riverside "as a place to relax and enjoy".

"The questionnaire covers a wide range of issues relating to the future development of Staines. What's missing in the questionnaire and background documents is an honest assessment of the conflicting constraints of the town's infrastructure and currently intended growth in housing, any strategic decisions on how much of the borough's housing target should be dumped on Staines, and the horrific visual impact of tower-block developments under consideration," says a spokesperson for the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition. "However, this consultation is the best opportunity the community has to make its feelings known. We will continue to press the Council for Spelthorne's housing target to be shared more equitably across the borough, and for there to be no tower blocks anywhere near the riverfront. We will also be pressing for a full disclosure of the survey's findings when the final version of the town's development plan is unveiled."

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, and Staines Town Society

www.riversideresidentsstaines.org.uk

e-mail riverside.residents.staines@gmail.com

FB [Riverside Residents Staines](#)