



RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

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KWASI KWARTENG MP BACKS CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE SPELTHORNE'S HOUSING TARGET

Spelthorne's Member of Parliament Kwasi Kwarteng is backing the campaign against high-rise developments in Staines with a proposal for "a new approach" with Spelthorne Borough Council, announced yesterday evening. In a letter to the Council's Leader and Chief Executive he has urged the Council to take a fresh look at building a convincing case for a lower target based on the particular constraints in the borough and potential opportunities in the government's recent revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework. He has proposed a small cross-party group of Councillors to work with appropriate Council officers focused on this single task.

"I am well aware of the increasing alarm of residents about the significant impact the current housing target would have on the appearance and amenity of Staines in particular. I share these concerns and want to help the Council find a solution," says Mr Kwarteng.

"Mr Kwarteng confirmed his concern about Spelthorne's high housing target in correspondence with the Riverside Residents Coalition a couple of months ago (*Residents Newsletter* 4 June)," says a spokesperson for the Coalition. "A reduction in the housing target and a more equal sharing of the target across the borough could kill off the need for current draft plans to pepper the town with tower blocks of flats to accommodate a 50 per cent increase in Staines' population. Mr Kwarteng's proposed new initiative will prove to be a significant development if the Council follows through with a level of commitment, imagination and urgency that has not been in evidence hitherto. Our understanding is that he will then help press the case with appropriate government colleagues."

Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition – a working group of six residents' organisations representing several hundred residents. Supported by other residents' organisations across Staines and the Staines Town Society.

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