



RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

15 OCTOBER 2021

CROSS-PARTY COUNCILLOR POWER AND PERSISTENCE ENSURES IMPORTANT CHANGES TO ARORA HOTEL INVESTIGATION

Important changes to the terms of reference and administration of the independent inquiry into the Waterfront Development Project were approved by Spelthorne Borough Council yesterday evening, boosting confidence it will be a 'comprehensive, robust and credible' exercise. These changes are the result of cross-party collaboration between all nine Councillors for Staines wards, their negotiations with the Council's leadership, and a strongly worded motion approved by councillors (with two abstentions) last night.

The motion calling for the changes, signed by all nine councillors, was proposed by Cllr Sinead Mooney (Staines South) and seconded by Cllr Veena Siva (Staines).

"The terms of reference have been strengthened significantly to include many aspects of the provenance of and contract for the Arora scheme that were missing from those announced in August," says Cllr Mooney. "Also, administrative aspects of the investigation, including access for the investigator to Council documents and personnel, will now be through a borough lawyer, not the Chief Executive".

PETITION AGAINST HIGH-RISE IN STAINES ENDORSED BY FULL COUNCIL

Our petition calling on Spelthorne Borough Council to prevent high rise developments close to the river or in the Conservation Area, and to spread Spelthorne's housing target more equitably across the borough, was welcomed by Councillors at their meeting yesterday evening. It will now be referred to the Environment and Sustainability Committee overseeing the development of the new Local Plan for the borough including the new plan for Staines.

"We'd all love to see this motion implemented; but we are currently constrained by the existing Local Plan from 2009 and the current government-imposed housing target which makes that problematic," says Cllr Ian Beardsmore, Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee. "The new group working urgently on the new Plan was created in June and expects to deliver its draft in the Spring. The problem is the entire year wasted before that by the previous task group which produced nothing."

We will report more fully on both the above items in the coming days.

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 the Staines Town Society.

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