



## RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

18 October 2022

---

### **COUNCIL WARNED ABOUT DANGERS OF APPROVING A FLAWED LOCAL PLAN**

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS IN STAINES have today raised a number of concerns with Spelthorne Councillors about their approval of the Local Plan for the borough and their role in the process, given the weight of responses to the public consultation on it ([click here for full text](#)). According to Council Officers, some 1,200 issues were raised by the 331 individuals and organisations that participated in the consultation. Overwhelming opposition to aspects of the Plan were also registered by the 620 residents who participated in a survey on the Plan commissioned by the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition. Yet discussion by the Council committee charged with developing the Plan on any of this input was recently blocked by its chairman, and the Plan is not even an agenda item for this Thursday's full Council meeting. As things stand, the Plan will be submitted next month to the Planning Inspector with any amendments agreed in private by Council Officers and the committee chairman and vice-chairman.

"Our coalition of residents organisations has not been alone in raising serious concerns and opposition to the Council's plan to dump 55 per cent of the borough's entire so-called 'housing target' on Staines, leading to a 50 per cent increase in the town's population," says a spokesperson for the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition. "Government guidelines on Local Plan examinations are very clear that a Council must fully consider public consultation responses and ensure that those affecting soundness and legal compliance are factored into the Plan before submission. The guidelines are specific that these matters must not be left solely to be resolved during the Planning Inspector's examination.

"Every Councillor is equally responsible for the Plan that will be submitted to the Inspector and we believe there are a number of critical steps elected Members must undertake before this happens. Everyone recognises the urgency for Spelthorne to have in place a long overdue Local Plan for the borough. But submitting a Plan that fails the test of soundness and legal compliance will simply waste considerably more time and residents' money."

**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.

[www.riversideresidentsstaines.org.uk](http://www.riversideresidentsstaines.org.uk)

E Mail [riverside.residents.staines@gmail.com](mailto:riverside.residents.staines@gmail.com)

FB Riverside Residents Staines

