



RIVERSIDE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

29 September 2022

CRITICAL INTRODUCTION TO COUNCIL HOUSING PLAN CENSORED

THE HIGHLY CRITICAL INTRODUCTION to Spelthorne Council's own plan to meet its so-called 'government housing target' was removed prior to its submission last Friday for formal examination by the government's Planning Inspectorate ... on the advice of the Planning Inspectorate. The two-page Foreword to the plan ([click here for full text](#)) explains why it "*pleases no-one, will damage our environment and ruin the character of our small and highly constrained borough*". The decision to remove it has not had full Council approval. An explanation will be sought by Staines Councillors at the Council meeting next week.

"We can only guess why the Planning Inspectorate gave this advice; but it is outrageous that someone in the Council accepted this level of censorship, especially without referring to the full body of elected Councillors and without an explanation. The Foreword gives the plan its essential context" says a spokesperson for the Riverside Residents (Staines) Coalition. "The Plan and much of its history is deeply flawed. There's a big question mark over whether the necessary infrastructure can be provided to support the proposed level of over-development in Staines, and whether the town being designated at 'high risk of flooding' has been properly recognised. An independently conducted survey in September showed that less than two per cent of residents felt the views they had expressed in past Council consultations on the plan had been listened to; less than three per cent think the plan for Staines is 'fair', 'desirable' or 'sustainable'; and less than two per cent think it meets the 'local housing need'."

The Council's plan, if implemented, will dump 55 per cent of the borough's entire housing target on Staines. This is *twice* the target for the whole borough in the existing 'Local Plan' from 2009. It will require a 50 per cent increase in Staines' population, almost all to be housed in tower-blocks peppered across the town.

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.

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