



UNITED SPELTHORNE GROUP

PRESS STATEMENT

From	Cllr Ian Harvey Leader, United Spelthorne Group
Dated	03 May 2021
Embargo'd to	For Immediate release
Subject:	Formal Rebuttal Statement re Conservative Association Press Release 24th April 2021

BEGINS:

We are compelled to respond to the press release issued by Spelthorne Conservative Association on 24th April 2021, that they are planning an "Independent Enquiry" (sic) into the awarding of the development and operating contract for a new hotel and conference centre on the river front in Staines upon Thames.

USG welcome this investigation providing it is completely independent, balanced, transparent, and all-encompassing. Clearly due to the complex procurement regulations involved it needs to be performed by an appropriately qualified body who has the skill-set to judge the 'Value for Money' of the contract for the Borough's residents.

Crucially it must include the circumstances surrounding the process including exploring the actions and motivations of all Conservative Councillors, past and present, including those who may be perceived as having conflicts of interest. It should also include all the circumstances surrounding, and processes involved in the previous 2015 ultimately abortive disposal by outright sale of this site to house builder Bellway, which did result in a 6-month police enquiry (including a visit to Moscow) into the actions of some Conservative Councillors involved in that exercise.

We note the implied allegations that 'misconduct and/or fraud' may be involved in the conduct of Officers and Councillors and indeed by implication the successful bidder. This is profoundly serious and unless supported by evidence, is defamatory and unlawful and should be immediately and publicly retracted. We call upon Spelthorne Conservative Association and its Officers to immediately provide evidence to support their insinuations or retract them.

It is a matter of public record that various investigations and "delvings" have been ongoing for several months and clearly nothing has been found to be amiss as, if there was even a shred of evidence or indication of any fraud or corruption by Councillors or Officers then they would have been reported immediately to the police, which is the required entity of recourse for any suspected or alleged wrongdoing in the Local Government realm.

It is particularly despicable that the good reputation and integrity of Officers is being sullied by what is clearly blatant electioneering and pursuance of a politically motivated vendetta.

For the record Cllrs Amar Brar, Helen Harvey, Ian Harvey and Olivia Rybinski totally and utterly deny any fraud and misconduct whatsoever in the matter.

Cllr Ian Harvey

ENDS

For further information please contact: Email ian@ian4sunbury.org or telephone 07917 773595