



## Autumn 1987 News Letter

**S**o much has happened concerning Morton since the Annual General Meeting that you may find this news letter looking more like a saga, than a simple short set of notes.

### Future Development of Morton

Probably the possible development of the village is the most important issue affecting Morton for many a year. You may remember that only a year ago we received and published, written confirmation from Bradford Planning Department stating that when the Upper Airedale plan was implemented the only land in Morton that could possibly be considered for development was a site at the side of Street Lane and this was only as a last resort. Now we are told that there is a recommendation before the Council to release certain areas of land around Morton for development. These areas are:-

(1) Site of the old quarry in Morton Lane with a possible 60 houses.

(2) Site near Swine Lane for possible 100 houses.

(3) Site off Street Lane for 100 houses.

This makes a total possible increase, if granted, of 260 houses, which will increase the number of houses in the village by half as much again as at present. There is also the possibility that if the present proposals are approved that further areas of land adjoining the proposed developments could be granted planning permission with a potential for a further 400 houses, this more than doubling the size of the present village. Morton would then obviously become another urban sprawl. Although the owner of the quarry site has stated he has no intention of selling his land to any developer this will not alter the fact that if approved there will be the distinct possibility of the land being developed sometime in the near or distant future.

A full Council meeting is to be held to debate the issue but pressure is on to permit more areas to be developed such as Morton. This is happening only a year after Bradford Council stated in writing their intention to maintain the areas around Morton as Green belt. If you wish Morton to remain a village, you are urged to make known your objections, to the proposed new plans especially, in writing to either Bradford council direct or one of our local councillors~ Cllr K. Metcalfe, Cllr L. Owens or Cllr T. Flanagan c/o City Hall, Bradford.

Obviously such a large increase in houses and population would greatly and adversely affect the environment. With the increase in traffic on the roads and overloading of what are minimal services, Morton would be destroyed for ever more as a village.



An exhibition was held in the village institute on Sunday 18th October by the Village Society in order to show the whole village just what is planned for the future of Morton and how it will affect you. Diagrams and maps with full explanation were on view. Many villagers attended the exhibition and expressed their views.

### **Sunnydale**

In addition to the Green Belt controversy, we heard recently that the Yorkshire Water Authority propose selling Sunnydale Reservoir and the surrounding land. On hearing of this proposed sale the Village Society contacted various organisations such as Bradford council, The Woodland Trust etc to see if they would be interested in buying the land, but as you might guess, no one has any money.

Bradford Council advise us that this area should be protected by the Upper Aire-dale plan but that is now obviously just a big joke. As you may now know we enlisted support from no less a weighty character than Dennis Healey who visited Sunnydale as a boy. Both he and our Chairman John Puddephatt appeared on a recent programme on Radio Leeds to discuss Sunnydale's future.

The present position of the Village Society is that if by any chance the Y.W.A. wish to dispose of Sunnydale at a nominal sum in order to rid themselves of the area, then we would wish to be considered as an interested party. If however, they require an enormous sum of money, then obviously it would be beyond the means of the Society to make an offer to purchase this local beauty spot.

The latest information we have from the Y.W.A. is that no decision regarding the actual sale of Sunnydale will be made before next year and if they decide to sell they will probably approach Bradford Met. before offering the land elsewhere. The Y.W.A. further state that they will take careful notice of the need to preserve the character and natural beauty of Sunnydale.

## **Best Kept Garden & Hanging Basket Competition**

One event which gives the society pleasure each year is the awarding of the cup and money prize for the Best Kept Garden and this year, for the first time, the Best Hanging Basket (for those who do not possess a garden). We are pleased to announce that the results this year were as follows.

### **Best Kept Garden**

**1st Prize** (Cup and £10)

Mr and Mrs C.H. Hodgson, 10 Morton Lane

Runners up 15 Laythorpe Terrace

22 Dimples Lane

Did you see the superb photo of Mr and Mrs Hodgsons' garden in the Target?

### **Best Hanging Basket**

**1st Prize** (£5)

Mr A. Rennard, 6 Green End Road

Runners up 4 Green End Road

31 Northview Terrace



## **Green End Road**

The Society has received a long detailed letter from Bradford Metropolitan Council. The Council accepts no liability to maintain the bridge below Sunnydale Park and any part of the road above the part already maintained by them. All our arguments to have Green End Road classed as an ancient highway were rejected. Any interested party wishing to see the detailed letter, please consult the secretary.

Other items discussed at recent meetings included the absence of a pedestrian crossing on the main Keighley - Bingley road near the bottom of Morton Lane. Councillor Flanagan was taking up this matter and a report by the highways committee is awaited.

A school bus from the village to Beckfoot Grammar School is still under investigation.

The council have granted us a victorian style litter bin to be placed outside the institute and another by the bus terminus. Lets hope they will be well used.

The Morton booklet is still in process of production.

The Volsec projects in the village will be complete by the end of October.

## **Community Correspondant**

We are please to announce we now have our own Community Correspondant on the Telegraph and Argus. This is Janet Ellis (telephone Bfd 561530) who will be reporting any items of news affecting the Morton community.

## **Bonfire Night**

As you are certainly aware, this is November the 5th and once again there will be a village bonfire on the recreation ground, with the usual superb offering of pie and peas and other goodies in the institute. Any offers of wood and helpers to build the bonfire will be greatly appreciated. Please contact any committee member. We ask you not to bring non-wood household rubbish as this sometimes causes problems. Bonfire lighting time will be 6.45 pm and we hope for a fine night and no premature lighting.

## **Remembrance Service**

There will be a service of remembrance held at the Independant Congregational Chapel at 10.45 on Sunday 8th November. A wreath laying ceremony will take place at the village institute after the service.

## **Busfeild Arms**

June and Derrick have recently vacated the Busfeild Arms and we wish them well in their retirement.

We would also like to welcome Steve and Christine to the pub and wish them well.

## **Paper Rounds**

After many years faithful service to the villagers for getting up and making sure we all got our papers we would like to give our best wishes to Audrey & Mervin Child. We now hope that their successors at The Village Store will keep up the good service.

## **Country Dance**

There will be a dance at East Morton School on Friday 4th December, from 8-12pm. Tickets cost £2.00 including supper, licensed bar ~ Music will be performed by the 'Dale Country Band' and tickets available from the School or Mike Isaac, 12 Otley Mount.



Finally, after this weighty edition, we would like to leave you with a little pleasant relief from the pen of our local resident Welsh bard, Bill Hanson. We think you will find this apt with all the possible threatened changes to Morton and its surrounding area.

## MORTON MILL

Do you remember Morton Mill?  
Alas no more around  
It's useful life was ended  
So they burnt it to the ground

Morton Mill on fire  
A sight I'll ne'er forget  
A noble building set alight  
The memory lingers yet

Flames licking at the rafters  
Upset the village folk  
Morton Mill surrounded  
By a cloud of ugly smoke

It was my home for ages  
Way back in days of yore  
While serving King and country  
In the mill that is no more

Luxurious homes stand there today  
Where millworkers did lark  
And Churchill tanks like sentinels  
Stood in the millyard park

Now older wiser looking back  
I often tell the tale  
Of Morton Mill cremated  
On the park called "Sunnydale"

Bill Hanson

**MORTON VILLAGE SOCIETY**  
*aiming to preserve your village*

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