



Winter News Letter 1988

Probably one of the most important events to affect this village in its history will take place on June 21st in Keighley Town Hall. This is when the public enquiry will take place to hear the Bradford Councils application to release land in and around East Morton for private development. The sites involved are in Morton Lane, Street Lane and Swine Lane. Full details of these sites were given in our previous news letter.

Your Village Society will be represented at the enquiry, but it may be necessary to retain professional representation at the enquiry as we feel we must fight these proposals with every means at our disposal. This may involve an appeal for a "fighting fund". All help would be very much appreciated as this affects all you villagers. Contact your councillors ~ Kathryn Metcalfe, Liz Owens, Tommy Flanagan at Town Hall, Bradford or your M.P. Gary Waller at Churchill

House, North Street, Keighley. Any individual can attend the enquiry to express an opinion for or against the proposed developments, but they must contact the Area Planning Office, Town Hall, Bow Street, Keighley at least a month prior to the date of the hearing. Applications to be heard must be in writing.

The stance of the Village Society, with overwhelming support from our members, is the same as before. We oppose any wholesale development in Morton Village as we have no desire for Morton to become just another urban sprawl. We object to the proposed sites being released for housing as this would increase the size of the village by over 50% and possibly lead the way to further ribbon development. Roads and other services in the village are totally inadequate to support any increase of population on the scale envisaged. To date there have been over 250

objections to the proposed development of Morton but to anyone who has not written, we urge you to make your objections known. Letters should be sent to the Area Planning Officer at Keighley Town Hall. Most people in Morton continue living here or have moved here simply because it has remained an unspoilt typical Yorkshire village with a good community spirit. Don't let it be turned into just another suburb with no distinguishing features. We don't want to just form part of suburbia between Bradford and Keighley.

There is a complication occurring at the same time as the enquiry on June 21st. There is an application by a local builder to take land out of the green belt in East Morton. This is land adjoining the recreation ground between Morton Lane and Dimples Lane. We feel if this land is taken out of the green belt area it could

possibly become the subject of future planning applications for building. Several attempts to obtain planning permission for housing have been made previously on this land and all have failed. The land in question could support up to 400 houses - yes 400. The Bradford Planner's are to oppose the application to remove this land from the green belt and in this instance we will be supporting the Planning Department. There is an intention by the council to try and maintain a barrier of green belt land between Morton, Micklethwaite and Crossflatts. A public enquiry only 4 years ago turned down proposals by this builder to use this land for development, stating that access was inadequate and that the land was on a prominent sight line in the village. Anyone wishing to object to the builders proposed change of this green belt land should write to the Planning Office, Town Hall, Keighley.

Village Radio Star

On a lighter note, we hope you heard the broadcast on

Radio 4 recently by Ray Gosling, called "Who Owns Britain". Morton featured in this broadcast as a typical Yorkshire Dales village and we are now forever in the annals of national radio. Our secretary, Marian Doyle, played a starring role in the broadcast and awaits the well earned Oscar.

Pelican Crossing

Proposals for the siting of a pelican crossing or a traffic island on the main road near the junction with the new Aire Valley trunk road have been turned down. The Bradford Traffic Department are aware of the difficulties of crossing this road. The Society are making further representations, but anybody feeling strongly about this issue should contact the Traffic Department and their council representative or Gary Waller the local M.P.

Sunnydale

We have no further news regarding Sunnydale and its future at present, except that the Yorkshire Water Authority

is to further reduce the level of the reservoirs between April and December of this year.

Otley Road Flooding

The stretch of Otley Road alongside the Pond frequently is flooded in heavy rain. The Highways Department have instructed us to contact them whenever this happens so that they can see the size of the problem and hopefully will then be able to do something about it. So if you use this route please bear this in mind.

W.I. Spring Fling

The Womens Institute are flinging themselves into Spring on Saturday 26th March, from 11am to 3pm. They are creating a hive of industry in the Village Institute. They are having stalls, both for demonstration and for profit. Also available will be a warm bowl of Home-made Soup or a Ploughmans Lunch. Why not pop in and see what your branch of the Womens Institute has to offer. You can be assured of a very warm welcome.