

Inquiry starts over "disastrous" scheme for Hampsthwaite

Village protest at housing plan

HAMPSTHWAITE villagers made their presence felt on Wednesday, at the start of a public inquiry into a controversial housing plan for the village.

More than 80 men, women and children — many of whom had come by chartered coach — crammed into the Harrogate Council chamber to hear an appeal by Tay Homes against the Council's refusal of planning permission for 77 houses on land at Rowden Lane.

The village action group had promised a large turn out and extra chairs had to be brought into accommodate them.

Mr. John Coles, for the appellant said the principle of residential development on the site had earlier been accepted by the council, and reaffirmed by the Director of Technical

Services in a report to the Area Planning Subcommittee.

Tay Homes had reduced the number of houses shown on the application to 65 with open space provision, after talks with council officers.

Access

And he told inquiry inspector Mr. Alan Williamson: "The company even went to the considerable expense of purchasing land for an access road on officers' advice."

But Miss Frances Hildred, representing the council said the application did not meet housing policy guidelines.

The development would, she argued, have a detrimental effect on the character of the village and overburden ex-

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isting services.

Mr. Edward Gordon Brown, a town planning consultant for the appellant, said the development would improve the southern edge of the village.

Landscape

The Tay Homes plan included provision for landscaping to "soften" its appearance.

Speaking from the floor Hampsthwaite Parish Council chairman Mr. John Illingworth said the annual housing target for the whole of the Harrogate district was just 570 a year.

"Hampsthwaite is now being asked to absorb five per cent. of that, and the village has already grown by 35 per cent. in the last few years."

Mrs. J. Harrington, of Manor Farm House, High Street, Hampsthwaite, described the plan as "disastrous".

"Hampsthwaite would no longer be a village, but a small town. Nothing more than a satellite of Harrogate."

"It would destroy its identity," she added.

A Royal chill



SPRING Bank Holiday Monday's cold weather failed to spoil Felliscliffe's annual festival celebrations which began with a carnival procession through Kettlesing village.

It was led by the Festival Queen, 15-year-old Jayne Spence, pictured with her attendants, Zoe Mackay, 10 and three-year-old Sarah Kay.

They rode in a 1934 Lagonda pro-

vided and driven by Mr. Mike Ho Kettlesing.

There were fancy dress competitions, children's sports, and teas at Memorial Hall.

In the evening there was a s and dance in the hall. Costs are n local fund-raising and donations each year.

Housing rap for council

HARROGATE council has come under fire from the Local Ombudsman after failing to notify a resident about an application for shell housing put up near her bungalow.

Local Commissioner, Mr. Pat Cook, says: "In my opinion the denial of the opportunity to object was maladministration and a source of injustice to her."

The development included a two-storey block of living accommodation. One corner, built on a slightly higher level than the resident's home, was about 12 feet from her boundary fence and about 58 feet from the back of her bungalow.

Windows on the first floor overlooked her back garden and her sitting and bedroom windows.

Mr. Cook commends a planning officer's frankness in saying with hindsight that consultation with neighbours would have been courteous but adds: "I cannot accept his contention that the building of such a block will not affect a neighbouring bungalow whose sitting room and bedroom face that way".

The District Valuer also offered a reduction in the rateable value of the resident's home which says Mr. Cook "must cast doubt upon the judgment that the proposed development would not affect her property".

The report of the application to the planning committee also criticised. Members were not told the possible impact the development the bungalow, nor they see that for themselves from the available plans. If Mrs. A (ident) had been given change to be heard would not have gone unnoticed" says Mr. C

But he refutes claim that she walked into believing land at the back not be built on.

The woman was identified.

Reading the future

FOR the last 36 years, Kettlesing Reading Room, a wooden building once used as a contractor's hut during construction of a pipe-line and dating from 1909 — has housed a full-size snooker table and billiards club.

For many years its players have entered teams in the Markington and District Billiards and Snooker League, and in 1948 the club had a 54 strong membership.

Now declining numbers, lack of local interest, storm damage to the building's ancient timbers and diminished funds

have forced the club committee to a decision on its future. And at the annual meeting last month it was agreed to close the room.

The closure and disposal of assets will be discussed at an extraordinary meeting on June 12 in the Reading Room, starting at 8 p.m.