

3rd June 1968

3-6-68 Tidying up "festering sore" at Luddenden

"INACTION FOR OVER 32 YEARS"

A SITE in Luddenden was described as "a festering sore" at last night's meeting of Halifax Town Council when pressure was brought on the Housing Committee to take some action on at least the tidying-up of the site.

The matter arose following representations from the Warley Ward representatives about housing demand in Luddenden and proposed development there. The committee, however, had decided that as the scheme was not included in the current year's estimates, the matter should be deferred for six months.

Councillor S. Hirst said the site was just within the borough boundary and was an eyesore and danger to children and had been so for more than ten years. Half-hearted schemes had been brought to the council but nothing had been done. When that happened two or three years ago the Boundary Commission had come along and the scheme had been dropped like a "hot brick."

"I am certain that this site will never be developed by this council," said Coun. Hirst. "We shall procrastinate until Sowerby Bridge Council comes and takes it over. But let us clear the site and make it tidy so that we need not be ashamed to hand it over to another authority."

Councillor G. H. Smith, seconding this plea, expressed satisfaction that that week the completion of the demolition there had been put in hand and the most dangerous buildings pulled down. He hoped the process would continue.

CHARMING VILLAGE

Luddenden was a charming village and if they tidied the site they would not be the losers if it went to the West Riding. But he did deplore the previous 19 years of inaction.

The inaction, contended Ald. A. Pickles, had extended over 32 years. He had "flogged" this matter for that time and nothing had been done. He hoped they would give a special service to this remote part of Halifax—where people had been treated so badly for so long.

Councillor W. Whatmough also supported the move, and contended that a farmer could cut hay from the roofs of the buildings—and harness rats from the broken sewer to do the haymaking.

Alderman E. Whitehead, chairman of the Housing Committee, said that the Luddenden site was not only a housing problem, but a development matter and partly a highways one. He was, however, prepared to accept a reference back and examine the measure of housing responsibility involved. This was agreed.



The picture shows work in progress on clearing the site.