

YORKSHIRE 30
POST JAN
1957

Village views on keeping Luddenden quaint

Call for removal of garages

From our Halifax staff

When a row of four garages was built on waste land in the centre of the old-world village of Luddenden at Halifax, local pride was offended. It brought on a rash of complaints of official inactivity and stirred the villagers to seek a new plan for the place in which they live.

The garages were erected in that half of Luddenden which is within Halifax borough, and last night the ratepayers and people interested in the amenities of the village met in the community centre the three councillors who represent Warley Ward on Halifax Town Council.

There they expressed themselves with blunt good humour — like the butcher, Mr. E. Hillyard, who observed one proposed move was similar to him "cutting an oxtail from a cow that isn't mine." And they decided how they would like to see Luddenden redeveloped.

By a majority of 16 votes they resolved to ask Halifax Town Council to remove the garages, which have been erected by a private concern on its own land.

In their place they want to see the Brook Street site, on which they stand, levelled, paved with flags and planted with trees.

Constable's problems

Because the village constable has difficulty in trying to keep children in order the ratepayers are to ask for a playground to be laid out on land that used to be a tip near the housing estate in Halifax Lane.

They suggest that new dwellings should be constructed on the near-by Chapel Street site so that people can be rehoused in their own village after demolition.

These proposals are to be sent to the Town Clerk of Halifax (Mr. R. de Z. Hall). The three councillors—Councillor W. Haigh, Councillor F. L. Pay and Councillor E. C. Astin—were asked to support them.

The garages have been erected by Warnegate Products Ltd., Gibbet Street, Halifax. Last week Mr. James Warne, managing director, said that his concern had received no complaints about the garages. They were not unsightly and he claimed that some people had said they preferred them to the land being left vacant.

'In a spot'

But last night the Rev. J. A. Kings, Vicar of Luddenden, who presided, said the garages, although smart, were out of character. Luddenden should be a place where people could admire its quaintness and feel that preserved there was the character of an old West

Riding village with all its vigour and strength.

Councillor Pay said that planning permission for the erection of the garages was granted after the Housing Committee had told the Development Committee that it did not feel it had a case to interfere with private development. But a further application by the same concern to put up more garages had been turned down although this action had yet to be approved by the Town Council.

"By this time we had come to hear of your feelings," he told the crowded meeting. "And now, quite frankly, we are in a spot."

A month to plan

Having permitted the garages development the only way out was to ask the Ministry for an order revoking planning permission. But if they were to persuade the Ministry to do so they would have to establish that they had a better and essential use for the site.

The Housing Committee had now notified the Development Committee that it had changed its mind and wanted to see houses in the general development of Luddenden.

The four garages which had been erected were, however, not strictly in accordance with the original plan. It was a mere detail but in order to put it right the concern had now submitted a new application for planning permission as the garages stood at present.

The Development Committee had deferred a decision but had to decide within two months and therefore the Housing Committee had one month in which to prepare a plan for Brook Street and Chapel Street for Council approval.