

# **Press release: Skelmanthorpe community action group.**

*Skelmanthorpe Community Action Group* will be holding it's inaugural public meeting at The Church of St Aidan, Radcliffe Street, Skelmanthorpe at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 16 August 2006.

The objective of the meeting is to galvanise the community of Skelmanthorpe to oppose Kirklees plans for major house building projects in the village over the next 15 years. The group believes that the majority of residents in the village are opposed to any major expansion of house building, and especially to any attempts to make incursions into the green belt.

Given the targets set by central government and the threats to withdraw significant funding from Local Authorities that don't comply, there is a real threat to villages such as Skelmanthorpe unless the local people are prepared to fight to preserve their way of life.

The public meeting is seen as a first step in organising a long-term campaign of opposition to these plans. Richard Graham of SCAG comments:

" We need the support of the whole community, so we hope many people from Skelmanthorpe and the other local villages will attend the meeting. We are interested in meeting representatives of other organisations who are as concerned as we are by the options put forward for future house building. We believe that we will all need to work together if we are to have any chance of beating these proposals.

While we know the majority of people oppose these plans we need people to join us who are prepared to be active in their opposition. We would like to form a committee that represents all parts of the village and to elect officers who can build Skelmanthorpe community action group into a strong organisation capable of organising a long-term campaign of resistance to major housing developments such as those outlined in option E of the recent consultative document.

While housing development is our most pressing concern we want to build a group that can bring pressure on the local authority to take action on other issues that affect our village such as the lack of off street parking and recreation facilities. We can only do this if we get the backing of the people who live here, so we hope everyone will lend us their support.

**END**

***For further information please contact:***

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