



Skelmanthorpe Community Action Group

Press Release

SCAG held their first of regular up date social evenings at the Skelmanthorpe Darby & Joan Club on Saturday 30th September 06, with a Pie and Pea Supper.

40 members of SCAG 'volunteer' Team spent an enjoyable time meeting each other some for the first time, creating a great sense of community spirit.

SCAG Chairman Christopher Ward gave the following update, and comments:

"So Why are we here? Well... I believe it is because we all like living where we are in Skelmanthorpe. In truth we like it as it is, and probably just want to improve the 'status quo' for instance...sort out the problems of parking, and speeding traffic plus other issues which I am sure are on our individual agenda's.

However we know cannot completely stop progress, but if we have to accept some minimal changes, they have to be balanced and sensible. 13,000 new houses is neither of these things.

So what have achieved so far?...Well we have established a cohesive, professional, 'non political organisation with teeth, that along with other like minded organisation within KMC have persuaded the new KMC Administration to think again regarding the LDF A to E proposals ' ! KMC received many thousands letters of objection to their proposals

The current position is that KMC are stating that they will come out with their new proposal in January 2007. We for our part through our Vice Chairman Richard Graham's work with the Council for the Preservation of Rural England has established 4 major points.

- *that in KMC there are 5,000 empty boarded up houses (Both Public & Private)*
- *There is enough available brown belt land to build 14,000 houses*
- *That gives a potential for 19,000 houses.*
- *That KMC stated in their proposal document that that houses built from 2004 would be counted against the 22,000 demanded houses by Whitehall. The proper date was infact 1994, and therefore deducting those built since then the actual target figure is 13,500 ... We therefore have a surplus of 5,500*

We however cannot be complacent, as while wait for the new proposals from KMC, the housing expansion within the village continues to 'creep" on with 19 houses at the rear of Park Lodge View, and the latest proposals for 48 houses by Bovis homes on Cumberworth Road. To which we all need to write to the council outlining our objection. We have written as a group, but we need individual letters sent as well. (See copy of the letter on our website)

We have to be ready for January 2007, which means have all our battle plans in position by mid-November. At the moment we are in a 'phoney war'

The web site seems to be doing a good job, and we will be letting you have the second news letter in the very near future, which we need to get out to the whole village.

*The other bit of good news is that **Connect Skelmanthorpe** our village Magazine has also become a part of our publicity machine, and for those who have not seen the October edition I would just mention that we have major section within this publication.*

To help us raise money for our 'fighting fund' Skelmanthorpe 'B' Band are to give a Concert at 7.pm on Friday the 13th November 06 in St Aidan's Church price of admission £3 (payable on the door)

There is no doubt we have and are a formable team !!

End:

For further information please contact: Christopher ward – 01484 866 705