

23 APR 2013

RESOURCES

21st April 2013.

Dear Sir,

Here is a copy of the letter which I sent to S.L.D.C. when the Land Allocation Development Plan was first mooted. In the light of the latest revised plan I see nothing new in it to make me change my opinions.

Whilst accepting then necessity to provide "affordable/social" housing in Grange for young local families (hopefully from the Grange area), I think increasing the housing stock by over 20% and the population by probably nearer 30% and its attendant increase in motor vehicles, makes the whole plan seems like overkill.

Anybody who knows Grange well will have experienced the congestion on the roads all the way from the station along Main Street on to Kents Bank road through to Allithwaite Road and the shopping areas. Driving through, past delivery vehicles and cars jockeying for parking spaces, is already a hazardous exercise which can only be exacerbated by a large influx of extra vehicles.

Next comes the question of facilities.

Have any plans been made for the extra facilities required to accommodate new families? Play grounds?, youth clubs?, schools?, bus services?, road improvements? medical facilities? etc, or is it a chicken and egg situation whereby you wait to evaluate the ensuing chaos before providing the facilities? Even now the main grocery shops are congested and overcrowded much of the time or have you already factored in a new Booths supermarket? I understand that only about a quarter of the houses will be "affordable/social" which implies building upwards of 300 private dwellings. At present in Grange there are lots of private houses for sale which are not exactly 'flying off the shelf', indicating no great need for a large increase in private housing stock.

With specific reference to plans for the area marked MN25M on the map.

To add an extra 300 dwellings adjoining a large estate of mainly bungalows, occupied by mostly by retired couples, will destroy the whole nature of the area. The fields, the woods and the open aspect are the very reason for those people to have retired there, and mass building would destroy it for present residents and new comers alike.

Surely a much reduced building program of say a 100 dwellings leaving some recreational space would be more acceptable and beneficial to all concerned. Also the plans for the south side of Allithwaite road seem to reduce the 'gap' to the point of merging the two communities and destroying the 'green belt' along with valuable agricultural land.

Has any planning been made for the extra load on the electricity supply to the area? Already power dips and cuts are a fairly regular occurrence in high wind and storm conditions. Flooding down Kirkhead Road is also a factor. More loss of land for drainage can only worsen the situation.

I suspect that you will receive many similar arguments from lots of concerned parties and I hope you will treat them in the spirit of the government's 'Big Society' initiative and let the local people have the final say. **Please listen to the people of Grange.**

Your Sincerely

(MR A. GAGON)