

Sent: 31 August 2011 09:44
To: Development Plans
Cc: Medwin Sherriff
Subject: Plans for Holme Village

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Dear Sir

I am writing in response to the recent land allocation suggestions made by the public in the consultation process. My chief concern is with the village of Holme, but if I may I would like to start with a general point.

I am left somewhat dumbfounded by the procedure where the SLDC are compelled to allow respondents to suggest land for development in their local community; land which they do not own, or have responsibility for, or interest in. I realise that the Council has to pursue this but it is still a very dubious process leading to a very unsatisfactory state of affairs in Holme.

In our village this has permitted one person, who just happens to be a consultant architect (so no personal interest there then!), the opportunity to suggest great swathes of land surrounding the present settlement for development. This would involve concreting over the remaining green belt between the railway and the motorway, more than doubling the population of the village and changing forever the rural nature of the village into that of a small town.

At the moment there are a number of pleasant walks around the village, not least the one along the canal with views across green fields towards the iconic vista of Farleton Fell, for centuries a well-loved feature of the local countryside. To line the canal on both sides (one side already having been virtually completed) would be very detrimental to the area.

As the Holme Archivist for the Holme and District Local History Society I am well aware of the development of this village over the years, and there has been a significant amount of building in recent years with Pear Tree Park being the biggest. In some ways I find it difficult to take Mr. McMinn's suggestions seriously, and initial anger has changed into bewilderment that any Holme resident could consider such a huge building

programme. I believe it to be a cynical exercise on his part, designed to cause a stir in the village.

I cannot believe that the SLDC will take this seriously, but I know there would be much resistance to the idea in the village if it were to do so.

Yours faithfully

Geoff Pegg

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