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Selby Planning Office
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Selby

I have lived in Whitley village for over 5 years and Eggborough for 20, during this time I have witnessed a huge decrease in the local facilities and services available to me. In Whitley there are now no shops, no petrol station, no post office, no transport to speak of and no community centre.

Transport

The bus service is now limited to one per hour and will shortly cease when all buses in the village are stopped after 7pm. The only trains available are situated in the next village across the M62 motorway, a walk of 3.1km. The trains are limited to 2 per day, 1 just after 7 in the morning and one after 7 in the evening. Network Rail and Northern trains have no plans within the next ten years to improve the service on this line. The investment cost is beyond the income it currently earns.

The main road through Whitley village is the A19 Selby to Doncaster. This takes a lot of heavy traffic both in vehicle size (HGV) and numbers. There is no continuous footpath through the village on one side of the road, therefore children walking to school at the moment, continually have to cross this busy road at peak traffic times. It is only a matter of time before an accident occurs and someone is killed. ***How does the council propose to solve the problem before building another 1000 houses?*** They certainly cannot widen the road without compulsory purchase of standing property, as not only is the road not wide enough but the pedestrian pavement would also have to be put into place.

Utility Services

Whitley currently suffers a number of "Power outs" throughout the year caused by "Sub Station" problems. A huge factor in the village is that Whitley has no mains Gas supply, which leaves Calor or Oil for heating and hot water. The cost of both is extremely high and increasing, nobody wants to move into an area that does not have a main Gas supply! For the foreseeable future British Gas has no intention of investing large sums of money in what proves to be a large building programme.

Selby District Council

Since moving into Whitley village Selby Council have reduced bin collections for both waste and recycling, yet increased our rates. I believe that the roads have only been repaired at maybe twice in all the time I have lived here. **And you want to build how many houses?**

According to Waterman's report, Whitley cannot accommodate the number of houses proposed as we have no community facilities or services.

If you take a moment to consider what would happen if you were to build such a large number of houses as proposed in the plan, (which by the way totals 904 for Whitley alone) how would we accommodate the people in them because:

1. For each household there would have to be 2 cars due to lack of public transport and local shopping facilities. You cannot live in Whitley village and commute effectively without a motor vehicle.
2. A given estimate is that each household has at least one child. This would probably mean that we have an increase in our education requirements at the village school so let's be generous and say 200 children. Whitley School currently accommodates 185 pupils for which new classrooms have recently been added to accommodate them. The number of extra children would make a total of nearly 400 pupils. Is the council going to build a new school and if so where?
3. There are no businesses in Whitley other than the local pub and the mushroom factory. I understand that they plan to expand the mushroom factory up to 3 times its current size. This is great if they are to employ local people, however it is a well known fact that they currently "bus" in migrant workers from outside the area and I can see no logic for them as a business to change this system.

Waterman Report

I note comments in the Waterman report regarding availability of jobs in the area. I don't know who they have spoken to, but according to the three main employers mentioned I would point out the following :

1. Eggborough Power Station (One job at the moment)
2. Saint Gobain Eggborough (483 jobs not one in the UK)
3. Kellingley pit will cease having a seam by 2019. (So no jobs there)

According to Waterman's it is only 2km to the nearest services which are in Eggborough. Having measured this from Silver Street to the first Grocers/Post Office in Eggborough, it is actually 3.4km. The walk involves a lengthy, precarious and dangerous one along the A19 trunk road.

Then you encounter the dark and “smelly” tunnels leading to the M62 motorway bridge (very dangerous when windy and wet), finally you reach Eggborough and have to wait 20 minutes at the level crossing for the coal trains to pass that feed Eggborough and Drax power stations. Can you tell me who is going to walk all that way to buy a bottle of milk because I know I’m not?

Yes there are minor shopping facilities in Eggborough but to get to them you need a car. And there is only 1 grocer, a post office, a hairdresser and a small butcher.

What I would like to know is:

- A. Why, as a resident of Whitley village have only just learned about this proposal and meeting to be held the day before it is due? And, why is only 10 minutes allocated to it on the agenda?
- B. What is the Parish Council doing to keep people informed and updated on changes affecting the village, apparently NONE! What exactly is the PC’s position regarding this proposal and what if anything, are they doing about it?
- C. How does the Parish council propose to collate the views of the residents of the village?
- D. Can Selby Council explain why we were initially a Secondary Village and for some unexplainable reason we have been promoted to be a Primary Village even though we cannot meet the criteria necessary to sustain such an increase in housing?
- E. How can Selby Council justify such building without first taking consultation from the current residents?
- F. How much did it cost for Waterman’s to carry out a survey (which I was not approached for my opinion, so WHO selected the contributees?)

Finally in view of the current economic climate where many people are losing their jobs and homes, how can you justify spending our hard earned money in such an uneconomical and frivolous way?

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Broadbent