

Cowling Parish Council

Mr A Mallinson
38 Aireburn Avenue
Steeton
Keighley
BD20 6NH

Tel (01535) 656171
clerk@Cowlingcouncil.co.uk

Date 21st April 09

PRESS RELEASE

Last night saw a packed audience of approximately 130 people gather at the old village hall in Cowling to give their views on affordable housing. The meeting had been organized by the parish council at the request of local residents who were unhappy at the numbers of houses that have already been built and new ones that are being proposed.

County Councillor Mark Wheeler chaired the meeting and all the parish councillors were in attendance as was district councillor Ady Green and the leader of Craven District Council, Chris Knowles-Fitton.

The chair of the parish council, Alan Perrow said “we were delighted that so many local people took the time to attend the meeting and show their dismay at having more and more housing forced upon them in such a small village. It was clear that enough is enough and that to have proposals to build on green field sites is completely out of the question. The village does not have the infrastructure to cope.”

Of the many questions put forward by the chairman was for a show of hands as to whether people would accept more housing when there are a large number of empty houses within the village. The resounding answer and one which they wanted to be heard at district and government level was, NO.

Frustration broke out when certain technical answer could not be answered as no planning officers were in attendance from Craven Council despite a number of emails confirming they would be there.

Cllr Green could not engage in discussing planning matters as he sits on the planning panel but he too was frustrated at not having the right officers there to put the record straight.

Cllr Wheeler volunteered to take this up with Council officers to find out why they had not attended as did the leader of CDC.

Cllr Perrow added “its not acceptable that rate payers have not had the opportunity to get the answers they deserve Not just on planning issues but also about why they think Cowling needs more affordable housing. CDC are basing their figures on a report that was done in 2005 and has not been reviewed to take into account changing circumstances.”

Representatives of Cowling parish council have already arranged a meeting for this Thursday to talk with planning officers over these and other planning issues.

Andrew Mallinson, Clerk to the Cowling Parish Council.
38 Aireburn Avenue, Steeton, Keighley, BD20 6NH
Tel. 01535 656171
Mob. 07971 274785
E mail. clerk@Cowlingcouncil.co.uk

Cowling Parish Council

Mr A Mallinson
38 Aireburn Avenue
Steeton
Keighley
BD20 6NH

Tel (01535) 656171
clerk@Cowlingcouncil.co.uk

Date 21st April 09

Cont.

Firebird Homes, who were represented by Nigel Guy, explained that it was they who approached CDC with proposals to build affordable homes for local people. They have already purchased 4 houses from Skipton Properties in an attempt to fill that need and have proposals to build more.

This prompted a question from one of the residents “why don’t you buy up more of the empty houses and use them for affordable units and stop build on our green fields.”

Mr Guy gave assurances that they would look at any alternatives that were financially viable but also added that he hoped to submit a planning application for 19 affordable units within 14 days. He added “these houses will remain as affordable units for ever and be available through CDC housing scheme for local people.”

The meeting , which lasted an hour and a half, remained resolute that residents feared that the village identity was being eroded away and that they weren’t being listened to by Craven Council.

ENDS

Andrew Mallinson, Clerk to the Cowling Parish Council.
38 Aireburn Avenue, Steeton, Keighley, BD20 6NH
Tel. 01535 656171
Mob. 07971 274785
E mail. clerk@Cowlingcouncil.co.uk

Cowling Parish Council

Mr A Mallinson
38 Aireburn Avenue
Steeton
Keighley
BD20 6NH

Tel (01535) 656171
clerk@Cowlingcouncil.co.uk

Date 21st April 09

Andrew Mallinson, Clerk to the Cowling Parish Council.
38 Aireburn Avenue, Steeton, Keighley, BD20 6NH
Tel. 01535 656171
Mob. 07971 274785
E mail. clerk@Cowlingcouncil.co.uk