

Dear Mick Coughlan,

Thank you for your letter to me as the Labour candidate in Skircoat Ward. I will try and answer your questions so that the contributors to your Face Book site can make a judgement about my position – which, at this stage, is a personal one and, if elected, I shall support the Labour Group’s eventual position on this very complex issue.

Consultation

I asked Anne “In your letter dated 24th April 2010 (copy enclosed) you mentioned concerns many of us share with regards to the public consultation, you may recall you were concerned about the length and thoroughness of the consultation. Do you think anything has changed in this respect over the last year?”

There was a further attempt at consultation by GenR8 and the meetings seemed to be reasonably informative. I know that the time for the meetings was not always considered to be the most convenient for people who were working to attend. However, I think that some useful questions were answered by the developer. There are still issues to be resolved with GenR8, including the pressure on school places and the effect on the congested road system.

Flooding

I asked “Your letter went on to address other concerns with regards to the threat of flooding, you said if you had been elected you would want to ensure the “proper measure were put in place and that these are adequately monitored.” From what you have seen of the extensive surveys made available by Calderdale MBC would you say your concerns have been addressed?

I am of the opinion that the changes made to the plan should reduce the risk of flooding and, therefore, I think there has been progress here.

Traffic

With regards to the traffic issue, do you think the proposals from Genr8 will positively affect the overburdened roads in our area? Have your concerns regarding the pollution from car exhausts been allayed?

I still have concerns about the traffic and the pollution from car exhausts caused by the likely increase in traffic passing through this narrow valley.

Objections to the Plan

I asked all the councillors and candidates this question **“Did you object to any of the recent planning applications for the Sowerby Bridge/Copley Valley Project? If not, then can you explain why?”**

I did not object to the planning application for the Copley Valley at any stage. In fact, I would like to see the valley developed in a sympathetic way if some of the above issues can be resolved.

Voting

For those standing as candidate in the May elections I asked **“Anne as you are standing for election this May, what would you like to say to our Facebook members and visitors to the website that would affect their voting this year?”**

When casting their vote this May I would ask all residents in Skircoat to consider other issues beyond the Copley Valley Scheme and to vote for a Labour candidate who will work to try and protect vital services for the people who live here.

Anne Collins

Labour candidate in Skircoat Ward