

Copley Valley



Environment Protection Group

www.copleyvalley.co.uk

The Copley Valley Environment Protection Group

July 2011 Newsletter

It is over a month since Calderdale MBC's Planning Committee nodded through the destruction of the Copley Valley for over-development by their partners Genr8. However the campaign group have been beavering away looking into the various aspects of this project.

At the Planning Committee it was stated that there were somewhere in the region of 800 objections and just 3 letters of support including 1 letter of each submitted after the closing date. This was repeated by Mr John Early of Genr8 in his address to the committee plus he added that this letter was from "Sowerby Bridge Community Forum – an umbrella organisation for many others".

We have looked into these 3 letters of support and find that the one claimed to be from Sowerby Bridge Community Forum was a personal one from the Chair and Secretary of the forum and not actually addressed to The Council but a copy of one sent to the Halifax Courier! This was subsequently published in The Courier in the Your Say letters section. This then is not an official letter of support of the application.

In fact the forum has never actually voted to approve or not the Sowerby Bridge/Copley Valley scheme.

Of the other letters, one was from a member of CMBC's regeneration Department and the other from a member of the Planning Department of a neighbouring authority. Neither stated they were interested parties.

Four of us attended the Sowerby Bridge Community Forum Thursday 28th July and asked about the letter. It transpired that the letter had been requested by an un-identified Planning Department officer. This clearly supports our suggestion that Calderdale MBC's planning department did not diligently and neutrally carry out their work but instead pushed forward this scheme against public opinion. They are actually attempting to show public support and have failed – because there is very little from local people who actually examine what is planned. Council Officers have misled the Planning Committee.