



Calderdale Green Party, 104 Willowfield Crescent, Halifax HX2 7JW

18 April 2011

Dear Mr Coughlan

You will be aware that the Green Party's views on the Copley Valley developments are clear cut and unambiguous.

The Green Party is totally opposed to the scheme, for any number of reasons.

We have objected to both planning applications in writing and they can be seen elsewhere on your website. No other party has objected in writing.

I, personally, have objected in writing to both planning applications. No councillors from the Conservatives, Labour or Lib Dems have objected in writing. And why would they? Those parties are committed to developing the Valley with high density housing and commercial properties.

You will well remember the first planning application to go before the Planning Committee on the 22nd of February. The Committee made up of 3 Lib Dems (who also chaired the meeting) and 2 Tories all voted in favour of Gener8's application. The Labour Party member (or their substitute) did not even attend that agenda item.

The Green Party have a long established pedigree in opposing building on flood plains. For Calderdale Council to even consider putting over 200 houses and commercial sheds next to the River Calder is sheer folly. The Pitt Report of 2008, on the floods in England in 2007, clearly indicates that building on flood plains should be avoided. Why local authorities like Calderdale Council do not act accordingly is unfathomable.

An issue that concerns many residents is that of traffic. There can be no amelioration of the situation on Wakefield Road, Copley; Skircoat Green, Salterhebble and Sowerby Bridge, however many junctions are improved or new roads are put south of the river that lead to other choke points. It is simply pie in the sky and local councillors are in denial if they think that a scheme as big as Genr8's will do any other than add to an already dire situation for both motorists and residents alike. The Highways Agency is highly critical of the developer's traffic projections and Metro has quite clearly said that there will be no modal switch from private to public forms of transport if the current plans go ahead.

British Waterways, West Yorkshire Ecology and the Environment Agency amongst others have made scathing remarks about the second planning application and you can read their reports elsewhere on www.copleyvalley.co.uk

The development will destroy huge swathes of flora and fauna in an area that links wood, canal, river, open space and hillside environments. We need to embellish the green lung between Copley Village and Sowerby Bridge, not destroy it.

Should the planning application fail, and there are enough reasons for it to do so, the area should be returned to a more natural state that can be used for recreation and leisure activities that don't require the building of permanent

fixtures and residences. That process should be clear and unambiguous and involve local people across the area. It should not be a vanity project for the local planning department who tell you what you are going to have rather than a genuine consultation process where local people are truly part of that process.

Yours truly

Charles Gate

Green Party candidate Skircoat Ward 2011.