

Dear Editor

May I thank you for publishing my initial letter in last month's edition regarding SLDC's proposed housing plans, as a result of which the first response from Grange residents has been extremely encouraging, and at a recent meeting we moved forward to a more 'professional' basis by the formation of "Grange and District Action Group", with a formal constitution and officers.

For those of you who are unaware of these matters, there are proposals for a potential total of new dwellings within Grange and Kent's Bank of 506 in the years leading up to 2025. In addition, there are also smaller, but still significant, sites 'identified' in Allithwaite & Flookburgh which will put increased pressure on these two small villages.

Although the fate of other villages and towns throughout the District may be of no immediate concern to the residents of G, KB, A & F, you should be aware that the SLDC are intending to foist upon their constituents an approximate total of 6000 houses throughout South Lakeland. Their plans, against which there have been an almost uncountable number (by the thousand) of objections from the population, have nevertheless been 'steam-rolled' through, flattening both objectors & objections in no uncertain manner.

In addition, the vast majority of these sites - wherever they may be - are green fields. There are a very small proportion of 'brownfield' sites identified; SLDC's excuse being, in essence, that there are few brownfield sites to 'go' for. Well, in Grange there is certainly ONE brownfield site that we are all very well aware of - the Berners Close re-development.

We at GADAG are working hard to defend against ANY greenfield development taking precedence over the likes of the Berner's debacle. But that is not the end of the story; there are green fields here in Grange which - at whatever the date in the future - will be at very serious risk of having houses built upon them. Many, many houses. I would urge anyone who has even the slightest reservation about Grange losing its remaining lungs, and becoming a long, narrow urban sprawl, to contact our existing e-mail address - gos.housing.kbr@gmail.com. - whence we shall respond with a great deal of further information. And our new website www.gadag.org.uk (currently under construction) will be the source of updates and news once launched; so keep your computer mouse at the ready!

Although we already have a caucus of active supporters, we welcome everyone who has Grange and its Edwardian legacy at the forefront of their concerns. There are many people in the locality with professional experience across a wide field of interests, and their guidance, somewhere, may just make the difference!

Peter Nightingale, Acting Chair, "Grange And District Action Group". Please send postal responses to 'Hillcroft', Thornfield Rd, GoS, LA11 7DR

Dear Editor

I'm hoping you have had a lot of responses/reaction to the CCC proposal to close the Guides Lot HWRC. However, I wanted to point out a significant error in the 'consultation' document relating to the Table on page 4 of the document. CCC attempts to compare Cumbria to Cheshire but they have referred to the total population for Cheshire (i.e. Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester) whilst stating there are only 7 HWRC sites in the whole County. This is incorrect and misleading. According to the Cheshire authorities' websites there is a total of 16 HWRCs in the county - 7 in Cheshire West/Chester and 9 in Cheshire East, making the number of HWRCs per 100,000 population 2.28 and not 1 as stated.

From April 2012 all the Districts in Cheshire will be providing a comprehensive roadside collection service with a bin dedicated to recyclables including plastic, cardboard, directories, plastic food containers and trays, 'tetrapaks', clean aluminium foil/trays etc. In addition, Cheshire West/Chester is embarking on a 14 year contract which will see kerbside collection of household and car batteries, textiles, small electrical items, used cooking and engine oil, shoes, printer cartridges, garden and kitchen waste.

The action by CCC to close the HWRCs in areas of sparse population but with a large catchment area is a massive backward step and will result in many people turning away from recycling, especially plastic and cardboard which will end up back in landfill.

Until the kerbside collections are upgraded to a similar standard to Cheshire it is unrealistic to remove an excellent facility like the one at Guides Lot (where considerable investment has been made to improve the well-managed site) and replace it with next-to-nothing. However, we are unlikely to see any expansion in kerbside facilities as this is the responsibility of SLDC which is currently unable to supply replacement green bins.

With the proposed increase in the number of households in the Grange/Allithwaite/Cartmel/Flookburgh area courtesy of the Local Development Framework the removal of a local HWRC is bordering on madness.

**Kate Lennox
Brandywell, Cark in Cartmel**

Dear Editor,

We would both like to express our thanks and gratitude towards the many wonderful people who came to Grange C E Primary School to say farewell in December to mark the occasion of our retirement. We have received hundreds of letters and cards of well wishes, and also a great amount of presents from children, staff, governors and parents.

With the proceeds of the very generous retirement collection, I have recently purchased a new mountain bike, and Mrs Milner was presented with an i-pad at the occasion of our leaving assembly. We have marvellous memories of our time together working with the children of Grange going back to 1989, when we arrived. We have always strived to make Grange C E Primary School a happy place of learning and experiences for the pupils and we would now like to wish the school well for the future under Mrs Summer's leadership.

Colin and Dorothy Milner

Dear Editor

I find it strange that some part of British Rail finds it necessary to produce several large notices showing plans of Grange Station (2 platforms, for goodness sake!) and yet, in the underpass from Main Street Car Park to the Prom., there are at least 18 lights which don't work and haven't been mended for weeks now.

Which do they think is the more important? The response will probably be that it involves two separate entities of our rail system i.e Network Rail and National Rail. This just goes to show the inefficiency of our railways and part of the culture of how to spend other people's money.

No wonder the public have so little faith in big concerns.
L.Woodley, Grange.

Dear Editor

As one of the guests, may I thank everyone involved with the "Friends at Christmas" luncheon. The generosity, hard work, warmth and love given to each of us on Christmas Day was truly remarkable. A special day. A happy day. One to remember and treasure.

Name and Address supplied.

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