May 16 2012

Dear sir or Madam,

I am writing to oppose the proposed building of over 1000 new homes in Clitheroe, and in doing so, join the ranks of thousands of others who have similar concerns. It may well be in the Government’s manifesto to build more affordable new homes, but I am far too long in the tooth to be impressed by yet another ‘here today gone tomorrow’ transient government initiative, and politicians who simply tows the party line. The Ribble Valley Borough Council is living in fool’s paradise if you think that you will somehow be penalised for not going along with this.

We are unfortunately governed by an ever increasing army of ‘career politicians’ who are only motivated by the 3 “Ps.” Pay, Pension and Promotion.

If you honestly think that they will take some form of punitive action against us for not building thousands of unwanted homes, then I have to conclude that you do not have the interests of the residents of Clitheroe in mind. (You may wish to reflect upon your 3 “Ps”).

Clitheroe and the Ribble Valley is the jewel in our Nation’s crown (your promotional literature states this).

These proposed new homes should not be built for the following reasons:

We already have plenty of houses for sale on the market.
The Schools are full .... Building more schools does not solve the problem, it simply creates another.
The health centre is already running over-capacity .... Building another does not solve the problem, it simply creates another.
Our roads are full .... Building more does not solve the problem, it simply creates another.
The sewerage handling is running at maximum capacity .... Building another does not solve the problem, it simply creates another. Do I really need to carry on?

Building thousands of homes on these proposed new sites simply creates a sub-society of commuting out-of-towners. They will never be part of our society and travel into town to spend their money .... They can’t. The roads and infrastructure won’t allow them.

They will simply stay on the A59 and head-out to Skipton where they can park in comfort for free, do a week’s shopping then head back home down the A59 to their homes on the commuting fringe.

This whole proposal is nothing short of madness, and I urge you to listen to the lifelong residents of Clitheroe and abandon building any new homes (affordable or otherwise).

There will no doubt be a change of government in the very near future, and with that comes more new initiatives.

Sit this one out and preserve our jewel in the crown. If you don’t, then by the time the rot has really set in you will all be dead, gone and answerable to no-one. Please remember:

You are answerable NOW!

Regards,