

ALVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL.

Clerk to Council:

T. A. Sandys,
Ashdown Cottage,
Cold Harbour Lane,
Covenham St. Mary,
Louth, Lincolnshire.

Dear Sir,

Date as postmark.

We, the members of Alvingham Parish Council, are writing this letter with the intention of committing to paper what we believe to be the corporate views of our village, regarding the proposed reservoir. We do so with the purpose of bringing this to your attention in coherent form and in the belief that a fair hearing, or judgement, will therefore be accorded to what otherwise would be an excluded unheard minority.

In this letter, as in practice, we will represent the farming and non-farming elements of our community, as was clearly demonstrated in a recent petition sent to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government containing 156 signatures (including over 90% members of the village electorate.) Together they comprise the population of a small Lincolnshire village.

As far as the agricultural position is concerned we will not vie with the N.F.U. presentation of the problem. Suffice it to say that we deplore the virtual closing of traditional family farming businesses by reducing their acreage to a level which will not support their enterprises and, due to the lack of adjacent land, reduce their possibility of replacement let alone expansion. We concede that alternative land IN ANOTHER VILLAGE has been offered, but find unacceptable a situation which forces a small farmer to commute and face additional transport costs and probable staff increase.

The village is small and dispersed. Its roads are narrow and winding. To undertake such a project as reservoir construction, involving plant and material movement, will require major road-work, possibly before and certainly during and after construction. By virtue of the agreed pleasantness of the village, which attracts hundreds of visitors to our local pottery - the sight and sound of a working blacksmith, and the historical feature of our churchyard, it is accepted as an idyllic back-water affording to the town-dweller a release from urban life.

If, for however lengthy a period reservoir construction takes, the visitor has to jostle with moving plant machinery in these small roads, muddy conditions all round, and a noisy background of construction, then visitors will decrease and local business dwindle.

Apart from that slightly sentimental outlook, the residents are going to have this disruption and noise and, as seems to be the pattern, the inevitable speed-boats racing on the reservoir, to contend with for a very long time. Some residents regard with genuine uneasiness the possibility of "something going wrong" with such a volume of water endangering a community. We are not clear on the health hazard issue but note the marked increase of flies round the untreated water at nearby Covenham reservoir.

We do not write in special pleading, and are conscious of our civic responsibility, but submit our views in conjunction with other view points in assisting you to reach what we consider to be the right decision.

Chairman.

Vice-Chairman.