

Minister's help may be sought to solve motorway plan deadlock

Sports clubs face disruption

MR. DENIS HOWELL, M.P., the Minister of Sport, is to be written to by the Huddersfield Sports Advisory Council in an effort to hasten a solution to the procedural deadlock which is confronting some local sporting organisations affected by the Lancashire—Yorkshire Motorway proposals.

One of the town's keenest cricketing enthusiasts, Mr. Herbert Robinson, a member of the Town Council and vice-president of the Huddersfield and District Cricket League, is prepared to go to see the Minister himself if it will help matters.

The organisations concerned are the Outlane Golf Club and Outlane Cricket Club. The Outlane-Caldar section of the Motorway scheme, work on



Mr. Herbert Robinson: "Ready to see the Minister."

which is scheduled to start next year, will not only slice through fairways and greens of the first and eighteenth holes at the golf club but will isolate the club-house completely from the course.

Outlane Cricket club face worse disruption. The motorway will go straight through the middle of their field.

Difficulties

The problem which worries these two organisations most of all is that of time — the time which it is taking for them to negotiate with the Ministry of Transport and plan for the future.

Ministry of Transport consultation procedure, they

claim, is dreadfully slow and this places them in a most difficult position to plan and negotiate for alternative site accommodation.

Huddersfield Corporation were approached by the Sports Advisory Council in February asking if they had any alternative land available for the cricket club, who would lose their field.

The Parks Committee discussed the matter, and decided that there would be no objection to the use of an area of land at Peat Ponds as a cricket field.

When a question was raised in the Council Chamber at the April meeting, the reply given was that the cricket club were "very happy" with that decision.

But today, the cricket club are far from happy. They point out that all the Corporation have done is to schedule a plot of land.

Biggest snag

Mr. Peter Gronow, a vice-president of Outlane Cricket Club, summed up the situation. "The Corporation have merely scheduled a piece of land as being suitable. But this is privately owned land, and we can only hope that the owner is prepared to sell it to us for this use.

"The biggest snag, though, is this matter of compensation. We have been given no indication whatever as to how much we are likely to receive from the Ministry."

The fear of Mr. Gronow and his committee colleagues is that if things don't speed up soon they will have no cricket field at all next year.

The golf club people, "The Examiner" understands, are encountering the same sort of difficulties. Mr. Gronow commented, "To



Lindley Moor—a gift to the Mayor and citizens of Huddersfield for preservation as "an open space for ever," says the inscription on the stone tablet in Lindley Moor Road. But by next summer the bulldozers could be ploughing through the heath, blasing a trail for the new Motorway. A notice on the right publicises the Minister of Transport's intentions.



Outlane cricket field, adjoining Lindley Moor, which will be wiped off the map when work starts on the Outlane-Caldar section of the Lancashire—Yorkshire Motorway. The fear of the cricketers is that they will not have a new field ready for playing on before their boundary walls come crashing down under the weight of the bulldozers.

me, the whole thing is a disgrace. We are kept in the dark. Everywhere we turn, we seem to hit a brick wall. In official quarters everybody is absolutely non-committal."

Outlane Cricket Club are members of the Huddersfield and District Cricket Association.

"We are safe with our fixtures this year, but who can say what sort of a position we will be in twelve months hence? It is ridiculous that this matter should have dragged on as long as this," he added.

Notices have recently been put up in Lindley Moor Road and on the near by open heath

declaring the Minister's intention to make a B16, Roads Order in connection with the Outlane-Caldar (Clifton) section of the Lancashire—Yorkshire Motorway. Objectors have until August 24 to make their representations.

A Sports Advisory Council official sympathised with the feelings of the two Outlane organisations.

"This is a very important issue," he said. "Re-planning and laying a golf course or a cricket field is not like rebuilding a house. It is something which takes years, not months, to carry out.

"For these organisations, the time factor is of vital importance. We are writing to the Minister of Sport to acquaint him with the situation and inform him of the delays that are being experienced."

Mr. Herbert Robinson, vice-chairman of the Parks and Cemeteries Committee of the Town Council and vice-president of the Huddersfield and District Cricket League,

said that he doubted whether any club in the area had had a more raw deal than Outlane.

He declared, "They have been victims of circumstances which have almost reached the heartbreak stage. But if it means seeing the Minister of Sport in London, I for one am prepared to go and make a plea for the club's survival."

Sympathetic

The Corporation, said Mr. Robinson, had done everything possible to help Outlane Cricket Club in their difficulty.

"Every sympathy was expressed by the Parks Committee, but we could only go to the limit of our powers. If the Corporation were to provide a field, then it would mean they could allow the club to play their matches on it but not guarantee a full season's fixtures list. Once a ground was provided by the Corporation, any organisation in the area would have a right to apply to use it."

Compensation for Outlane clubs not decided

—Mr. Lomas told

MR. KENNETH LOMAS (Lab., Huddersfield West) asked the Minister of Transport what representation he had received from Outlane Golf Club and Outlane Cricket Club in connection with the Outlane-Calder section of the Lancashire-Yorkshire motorway, near Huddersfield, and why negotiations on the subject of compensation were taking so long to complete.

Mr. Bob Brown (Parliamentary Secretary), in a written reply, said, "The cricket club objected to the draft scheme. Both the cricket club and golf club subscribe to the Outlane Objection Committee, who contended at the public inquiry into the scheme that the published line would seriously affect the golf club and would make the cricket ground unusable as such, and suggested an alternative line.

"The inspector recommended that the scheme be made as published, and this was done.

"Negotiations on compensation had not yet been completed because of the complex issues involved and the uncertainty of the clubs' proposals for their future