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Young folk step in with home town jobs petition

by Robert Hincks

TENTERDEN young people have wasted no time in supporting the council's efforts to secure more land for light industry in the town. A petition signed by 126 of them has already been sent to the chairman of the county council.

The names were collected last week-end by 18-year-old David Mills, of Greenside, High Halden, chairman of the members' committee of Tenterden Youth Club, and his friend, Michael Morris, 22, of Hookstead, High Halden.

David sent off the petition with a covering letter: "As chairman of the Tenterden youth club members' committee I am writing this letter on behalf of members, who all agree (as you can see from this petition signed by 126 young people of Tenterden) that there is a great deal of evi-

dence that industry is needed in the town.

"Nine out of 10 of the young people are fed up with Tenterden because they can't find enough work in and around Tenterden."

David wrote from practical experience. He has just spent over a fortnight looking for a job. Tenterden has nothing at all to offer him, but eventually he secured a job in Ashford.

This will involve a motorcycle journey three times as long as travelling to Tenterden, where he would much rather work.

Quiz 'useless'

When told of the petition, Alderman Kenneth Jessop, chairman of Tenterden council's Industrial Development committee, commented: "I don't think there is anything wrong with our youth today when they can do that sort of thing on their own. All good luck to them."

But while the youngsters are solidly backing the council, some other residents are not happy about the results of a

questionnaire published last week.

Miss A. W. Morgan, of Ingleden Park-road, Tenterden, in a letter to the Kentish Express, says there is no connection between the statistical information published and the questions asked.

"In fact ratepayers were not asked for their views (they should have been), only for factual information on where members of the family worked and where they would like to work.

"The percentages given in your paper could not possibly have been obtained or deduced from the questionnaire."

Miss Morgan says the information regarding youth employment could have been obtained from school employment officers and local employment exchanges.

"An unqualified number of people wanting to work in Tenterden is useless as a guide to the quantity of labour which

would become actually available in the various trades were factories to open in the town.

"With less than half the forms returned the information obtained is probably less accurate than a Gallup Poll could have obtained. The only logical explanation of the Town Hall's statements regarding the survey is that some of us received the wrong form!"

Mr. Keith Rosegold, of Wealden-avenue, St. Michaels, also says that the crucial question as to whether householders were in favour or otherwise of more light industry should have been specifically asked.

● A note below the questions said the information would be treated as confidential and would be used by the council for the purpose of assessing the need for industrial development. The situation was also explained in a covering letter.

Tenterden Youth Club