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TENTERDEN
TELEGRAPH

Youngsters' petition on town industry ban



DAVID MILLS

TENTERDEN Council's plan to press for more industrial land in the town found support this week when 126 young people signed a petition urging the county council to revise the town centre plan.

The youngsters, mostly members of the youth club, object to the latest review of the Kent Development Plan which says that "there is ade-

quate employment locally", and that "there is no evidence that further industrial land is required."

The petition was organised by 18-year-old David Mills, chairman of the youth club members' committee.

At his High Halden home at 10, Greenside, on Monday David said: "We've all had just about enough of having to travel miles to work everyday"

"I have just started work again at Batchelor's factory in Ashford after looking round for a job in the area

for over a fortnight. Now I've got to travel 20 miles a day. To say that no more factory land is needed is ridiculous."

The petition has been sent to the chairman of the county council with a note saying "nine of 10 young people in the town are fed up with Tenterden" because there are no jobs.

Local names

The names were collected at the youth club and in the High Street over the weekend. "We were very careful that it was only young

people living in the immediate area who signed" said David.

The move follows the borough council's decision to engage counsel at next month's inquiry at Ashford into the Kent Development Plan. This was decided after a majority of people replying to a postal ballot specially arranged by the council said they would definitely support more industry coming to the town.

Ald. Ken Jesson, industrial development committee chairman, said, "The great thing is that these young people's action was quite

spontaneous. Their support is just what the town needs."

Youth club leader Mr. Bob Matthews commented "It was a surprise to me that they had got up the petition. They did it off their own bat."

He has added his own views, "developed in their (the club members') company," on the whole question in a letter to the council.

"Not all of them want to become shop assistants and local wages appear to be pegged to the agricultural minimum," he says.