

# 1968

## BOYS DEMAND LOCAL JOBS

### 'More industry' call to County Council

A BIG boost to Tenterden Borough Council's campaign for more light industry in the town has been given by a petition supporting their views signed by 126 young people and sent to Kent County Council.

The county council have refused to allocate more land for industrial development, but an appeal against the decision is to be heard in Ashford next month.

Eighteen-year-old David Mills, of Greenside, High Halden, found it difficult to get local work when he spent two weeks searching recently. So he and a friend organised the petition, which was sent to the chairman of the county council, Cdr. D. S. E. Thompson, on Tuesday.

#### 'FED UP'

The covering letter said: "Dear Sir—As chairman of the Tenterden Youth Club members' committee I am writing on behalf of the members, who all agree (as you can see from this petition which is signed by 126 young people of Tenterden) that there is a great deal of evidence that more industry is needed in the town.

"Nine out of ten of the young people are fed up with Tenterden because they cannot find enough work in or around the town."

The letter was signed by David, and accompanied by the petition which stressed the need to release more land for light industry "especially for the young people."

David and Mick Morris, aged 22, of 6 Hooksted, High Halden, who collected the signatures, may support the borough council's case by appearing at the appeal.

#### MASSIVE RESPONSE

Mr. C. A. Saunders, Tenterden town clerk, said: "The council are very conscious of the young people's feelings, which is the reason for our recent action, and for taking the matter to the appeal. We are glad to see their support."

Recently Mr. Saunders sent out 2,000 questionnaires to households in Tenterden ask-

ing if people felt there was a need for further light industry and for more jobs in the town.

The response was massive, with a high percentage in favour of more local work. Only three per cent directly opposed new development.

"We will fight with the borough council against the county council," said David. He recently had to leave his work in cold storage in Headcorn because the sudden changes in temperature brought on asthma.

After 17 days he found a job in Kennington, on the far side of Ashford, but he is still looking for local work.

"It is impossible to save because all extra money goes in travelling expenses," he said. "We want factory work near at hand."

Most young people, he said, work away from Tenterden—and some come home only once a fortnight.

"Few of the youngsters are out of work, but they have to travel to find it. A friend of mine could not find local work, so he became self-employed as a builder."

Another youth club member, John Hepburn, of Smallhythe, has written to the Resident (the magazine of the Tenterden Residents' Association) calling for more light industry in the town.

The club leader, Mr. Bob Matthews, has written to the town clerk supporting the idea of a ring road behind the Embassy Cinema, where there is provision for factories.

This is part of the proposed by-pass and town centre map; but progress has been delayed by changes in the by-pass route.

The Chamber of Trade have written to the county planning officer this week asking that the by-pass should not hold up work on implementing the town centre map.

The appeal, one of many being lodged by Kent towns against county council decisions, is to be heard on November 12.



DAVID MILLS

"Young people are fed up with looking"