

Intense human problem because of lack of long term planning by the former Rowley Regis Borough Council, which became part of the new Warley borough two years ago," he added.

Ald. Niven has met the families involved and was invited at the weekend to inspect their homes. "More than half of the houses in these streets are provisionally fit at the moment," he said.

"I have given them an assurance that the committee will give urgent consideration to their cases," he added.

Looked after

Warley's two Independent councillors, Mr. Joe Shakespeare and his brother, John, have been fighting for three months to save the houses.

Coun. Joe Shakespeare said last night: "Some people have spent £200 on these houses. It would be a tragedy for them to come down."

"Most of the houses in the two streets are extremely well maintained. When the committee reconsiders their decision, I am sure these houses will be saved."

Iron Curtain housing ideas

Two members of Tamworth borough council, the deputy Mayor, Councillor Ronald Watson and Alderman George Perkins, will be looking for new ideas for the town's housing schemes when they visit a local government conference in Dresden, East Germany, later this month.

'Fascist' remark withdrawn

Mr. Peter Archer, Labour M.P. for Rowley Regis and Tipton, has withdrawn his "Fascist" remark about 14 Warley workers who protested about immigration in a letter to him.

He told the workers from Thomas Price Limited drop forgings in Meredith Street, Cradley Heath, that he had made the "Fascist" allegation in a private letter to his agent, Mr. Bill Bastable.

Mr. Archer told the workers at a meeting on Saturday night that he had been "bad tempered" about the letter from the workers when he wrote to his agent.

Over a glass of beer at Cradley Heath Labour Club he said: "Let's forget each other's letters."

When challenged by the works foreman, Mr. John Humphries, about the allegation that workers who had sent the letter were "Fascists" Mr. Archer withdrew the allegation, but pointed out that he could not accept racial prejudice. Afterwards he commented: "This meeting has cleared the air. We are entitled to our views."

After presenting the unit with the "Earl Mountbatten Trophy" he flew back to Liverpool.

Extra subjects 'a strain on pupils'

Birmingham Post Reporter

Suggested increases in the number of subjects covered by sixth-form schoolchildren would cause strain on pupils, a Birmingham headmaster claimed yesterday.

Mr. D. B. Gaskin, of Moseley Grammar School for Boys, was speaking at a conference at Birmingham University on specialisation and the universities.

He referred to proposals by a working party of the Department of Education's Schools Council and the Standing Conference on University Entrance on the broadening of subjects covered in sixth forms.

The working party is to look into a suggestion by the Standing Conference that students should take four or five equal subjects covering arts and sciences.

Among his objections, Mr. Gaskin said that no subject would be studied in depth and teachers would be working "against the syllabus, afraid to digress."

He said students would find difficulty in choosing four or five subjects and there would be strain on children.

He thought more could be done without change by having more first-class teachers and university lecturers, and more

Planning decision challenged

Birmingham Post
Lichfield Staff

Members of a housing estate residents' association are asking for a full inquiry into a Lichfield Rural Council planning decision.

Mr. Robert Douglas, secretary of the association which represents 200 families on the Ryecroft and Moorings Farm Estate at Burniwood, claimed last night that there was "something very odd" about the handling of a planning application for a fish and chip shop on the estate.

The association is writing to the Minister of Housing and

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