



Mrs. Warner (left) collecting names for the petition over the allocation of bungalows (in background) at Hempstead.

Old people's bungalows dispute at Hempstead

Hempstead villagers have signed a petition protesting that one of four council bungalows they believed were being built for elderly people has been allocated to a young couple.

The secretary of the village old people's group—The Evergreen Club—Mrs. Kathleen Warner, who has been taking the petition round the village said: "We were led to believe they were old people's bungalows.

Now we are told they are to be 'all-purpose.' The village is up in arms about it.

"We have nothing against a young couple but we were told they would be for old people, and we think it is unfair, we should have the wool pulled over our eyes."

Mrs. Warner, a former clerk to the parish council, and now a parish councillor, said past correspondence from Saffron Walden Rural Council, who have nearly completed the two-bedroomed bungalows, Mill House Cottages, had been headed, "Old People's Bungalows."

She said: "When we heard about the young couple a lot of people asked me to take a petition round, so I did and more than 50 people have signed it. I am going to hand it in to the rural council.

"Originally all four bungalows were allocated to old people but one of them decided not to take it, and then it was offered to the young couple, although there are other elderly people in the village who have applied."

Annoyed

Mrs. Warner added: "We only have these four bungalows for old people and do not want to lose one. The rural council should change their minds and find somewhere else for the young couple."

The present clerk of the parish council, Mrs. Margaret Grimster, said: "The reaction in the village is unanimous—everyone is annoyed."

Added Miss Winifred Turner, a member of The Evergreen Club: "A young couple could occupy a place for 40 years."

The clerk to Saffron Walden Rural Council, Mr. A. W. Overall, commented: "These are not old people's homes. Over the years I have referred to bungalows for old people in letters to the parish council but having three out of four of these bungalows for old people is not bad. I don't think they have anything to grumble about."