

Your Letters

Tourism is not a subsidiary industry

Sir - So Coun Welch doesn't know of a married man with a wife and two children who is involved in tourism, doesn't believe that tourism creates full-time jobs and thinks that tourism is a subsidiary industry (Craven Herald, May 10).

For an elected councillor of some years standing, Coun Welch shows a surprising lack of knowledge and understanding of the economy of the area he represents. He only needs to walk around Settle Town Centre to find many examples of businesses that, directly or indirectly, rely on visitors for their continued existence and which are run by 'full-time' men and women and employ 'full-time' men and women.

The economic sustainability of Settle and surrounding area depends absolutely on its ability to attract visitors who will spend money in the shops, markets, cafes, pubs, restaurants, hotels, B&Bs, holiday cottages, caravan sites, camp sites, galleries, museums and other visitor attractions. These businesses are, in the main, small independent family run businesses.

The devastating economic consequences of the restrictions imposed during the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak demonstrated unequivocally how important the visitor economy is to our area.

A subsidiary industry? - I don't think so!

A vital local industry with great potential for growth? - most definitely!

It is such a disappointment that Coun Welch chooses to make such ill-informed comments at just the time local businesses, the town council, market traders and community groups are pulling together to attract more visitors to the town which, in turn, will help reinvigorate the local economy, protect our high street, protect existing jobs and create new jobs.

Steve Amphlett,
Settle Town Councillor

No disrespect

Sir - Thank God for people like Councillor Welch who are prepared to speak their minds. Speaking the truth these days is becoming ever more difficult in the face of politically correct 'professionals' who seem to be more interested in an agenda of sophistry than realism.

It is absolutely clear that Coun Welch meant no disrespect towards women.

Glyn Edwards, Hellifield

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