

Villagers lose battle to stop housing plan

A BATTLE fought by nearly every resident in Hempstead to stop an executive-style housing development in the village has been lost.

It was the first time that so many people in the village had come together over one issue.

They found numerous reasons for objecting to six

detached houses being built on a one and a half acre site off Hill Road, but none of them were good enough to prevent Uttlesford District Council from giving consent.

More than 200 residents signed a petition protesting that the proposed development had caused a great feeling of outrage in the village as the houses would be out of character and would create a

precedent for other such developments.

It was also argued that the proposal would introduce the concept of a 20th century housing estate in the village and would increase traffic in Hill Road where the access is said to be an accident black spot.

But Uttlesford's planners felt that none of the reasons were sound enough in planning terms to turn down the application to

replace an existing bungalow with a detached house and build five other detached houses.

The parish council clerk, Mrs Margaret Grimster said the decision had not come as a surprise.

"I did not think there were any real planning reasons for not giving consent and that is why it went through, but I know villagers will be greatly upset," she said.

Anger over burglary charges remand

A NOISY protest broke out when three men, accused of burgling a house at Debden, were remanded in custody for a week by Saffron Walden magistrates.

Magistrates rejected an application for bail even though it was not opposed by the prosecution.

The three, who all came from London, were Paul Bradley of Grove Park, Anthony Cox of Sydenham and Anthony Smith from Anerly Vale.

£200 fine

AROUND THE VILLAGES

More involved, he quickly

Mrs Winifred Rumsey de-