

# Villagers in fear of development

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VILLAGES in North Dorset met in Thorncombe in September to discuss the over-development problems they share. The village trust invited residents of nearby villages to a meeting at the village hall to try to work out a joint approach to planners.

Speakers were critical of the remoteness of local government, with councillors far from the villages making important decision for them.

Cllr Trevor Jones said it was vital to influence district councillors with written representations, because they were caught in the middle of developers and the structure plan. Others referred to the frustration and fear felt by parish councils as their views were apparently swept

Mr Trevor Harris, an architect, experienced in the local effect of ~~the~~ structure plan, spoke about the need for a local parish plan.

Delegates met in small groups and decided all the villages represented were under threat, and the fight for the future of the communities should be stepped up. A follow-up meeting is planned in November. Representatives from Beaminster, Hawkchurch, Mosterton, Punc-knowle, South Perrott, Oake and Thorncombe attended.