

Taking the surprise out of planning

SIR, — I would like to draw the attention of the inhabitants of Thorncombe to certain important changes which are being proposed, both in general within the West Dorset development area, and, in particular, in the request for planning permission recently submitted to build a small number of industrial starter units and 25 houses. These would be built in open fields at the top end of the village.

The implications for the quality of life for those already living in the village have to be carefully considered.

When such changes do take place they are often irreversible and so any decision on this proposal must be given long and unhurried consideration.

Unfortunately there seems to be little time for parishioners and the parish council to discuss the implications of this development. Therefore, an extraordinary parish council meeting has been called at which this matter will be discussed. I strongly advise all parishioners of Thorncombe to attend. The meeting will be in Thorncombe Village Hall, at 7 pm on 28th February. The chairman of West Dorset development area, Capt Best, will be present, and, hopefully, a representative of the planning department of the district council.

Planning decisions should not take us by surprise! — R
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