

It is doubtful if many of the residents of Thorncombe have even heard of the WEST DORSET RURAL DEVELOPMENT AREA, and its aims and objectives over the next ten years to 1996.

It is however sufficient to say that our village has been chosen as one of the "Priority Areas" and unless everyone who has our village interests at heart is aware of what is proposed it will become fact and little or no means will be available to you of changing the situation, as OVERALL PLANNING PERMISSION is currently being sought by those already in the picture and who will undoubtedly benefit by such early warning.

As far as Thorncombe is concerned it is proposed to allocate land for up to 150 new houses, and existing buildings or land for a series of small workshops of about 500-1000 sq.ft. for local industries. This will without doubt improve job opportunities, local services, schooling, village shops, medical facilities and transport.

The siting of this development from the village point of view is of great importance as it is essential that what few remaining areas of natural beauty and animal habitat, not to mention our older and more picturesque buildings, should be preserved and not buried under a rash of modern private development, with the resulting deterioration of the attraction of our village to both visitors and residents alike.

This project is rapidly coming to a head and if you need further information on sites already chosen, rate and extent of development during the coming years, you should raise this with your Parish Council at your next PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, which is usually scheduled for late March or early April.

You will be kept continuously informed by this page as information is gleaned.

THORNCOMBE WATCHDOG