

THORNCOMBE VILLAGE TRUST

LARGE SCALE DEVELOPMENT - THORNCOMBE

Thorncombe is situated within one of the thirty-six nationally designated areas of 'Outstanding National Beauty' (England and Wales). The Trust feels that house-building within the parish over the next ten years should be in line with the established pattern of approx. 20-30 houses per decade.

Summary of events to date:

- July 1985 WDRDA Consultative Document - The following information should have been submitted by the Parish and District Councils in connection with the RDA Officers to the Rural Development Joint Committee by 16th Sept.1985. We understand that this was not carried out.
- a. The suitability of the objectives
 - b. The existence of resources in the RDA (buildings, facilities, personal skills), which could be more fully used
 - c. The priority to be given to different issues such as jobs, housing, transport, the young, schooling, training, shops and village facilities, health
 - d. The detailed assessment of housing and transport needs as part of a village appraisal
 - e. Ways of improving regular communication and publicity on RDA matters
- 1986
Feb 12th Parish Council Meeting was informed of the Higher Farm development by councillor P.J.Atyeo. This plan was not on the agenda. Councillor Atyeo declared his interest. He cannot represent the Parish or District Council on this issue.
- Feb.19th Plan of Higher Farm Development published on Parish Notice Board.
- Feb.28th Extraordinary Parish Meeting called. The well-attended meeting voted 68 votes to nil to ask West Dorset District Council to defer the plan for a major development of houses, industry and holiday units, and complained that it had been 'sprung on them'. Immediately after the Parish Council recommended that the plan should be refused.
- March 12th Second Extraordinary Parish Meeting held for discussion on major development in Thorncombe. Mr.Derrien, Chief Planning Officer WDDC said he thought, fifty houses in a ten-year period would be appropriate to Thorncombe. Again, the majority of the ninety people attending were dissatisfied and feared development could go way beyond the figure Mr.Derrien mentioned. The meeting called upon the Parish and District Council to carry out a full and thorough parish appraisal before any outline planning approval is granted. Later at the parish council meeting a sub-committee was formed to carry out a full parish appraisal.

GLOSSARY - WHO'S WHO

- W.R.D.A.** Western Dorset Rural Development Area
R.D.A. Rural Development Area
R.D.P. Rural Development Programmes
D.C. Development Commission, Wing of Central Government
D.S.I.C. Dorset Small Industries Committee
R.D.J.C. Rural Development Joint Committee, formed from D.C.C., W.D.D.C., D.S.I.C. and Dorset Community Council
COSIRA Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas
ENGLISH ESTATES - The industrial arm of the Development Commission

According to information made available to the Thorncombe Village Trust:
More than fifty letters of objection have been sent to the W.D.D.C.Planning Dept.
Over 160 people have signed a petition opposing large scale development in Thorncombe.