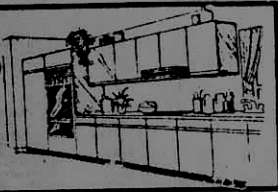


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Bridport News

and DORSET COUNTY JOURNAL

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1986



Building plan worries village

DISTURBED Thorncombe villagers met on Friday to probe an ambitious development scheme on land owned by a high-ranking planning official.

At the 90-strong emergency meeting, the villagers voted to ask the district council to postpone its decision until it knows more about the scheme.

The land, backing on to gardens of the beauty spot village, is owned by Thorncombe parish councillor and

Western Area planning committee vice-chairman Mr Percy Atyeo.

The development scheme, due to come before the sub-committee on Thursday, included the building of 25 homes, a farmhouse, light industrial units and a holiday complex.

Residents attending the meeting felt the proposed development would prove detrimental to the character and way of life of the village.

Thorncombe was also in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty.

Area county councillor Col Hugh Gibson urged residents to submit their objections to the district council if they wished. Apart from this, their

By Maureen Hymas

only other course of action would be through their district councillor.

But, in this case, their district councillor was Mr Atyeo himself, and he would be obliged to stand down. Said a Thorncombe resident,

Ms A. Greenlees, of Cottage: "We are un-2 Knapp ably agitated as this understand a rather sudden announcement, and we only have a few days to submit our views to the planning department at Bristol.

'Marriage

"This parish is designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty being under the new development plan, priority well as development plan of the West Dorset District Council.

"Although there seems to be a conflict of interests with

these two ideas, we feel there can be a happy marriage if enough care and attention is given to all details and, where possible, everyone's ideas are heard and taken into consideration."

District council chief executive Mr Michael Taylor said it was possible that no decision would be made on Thursday and that the application might have to go before the district council's development and planning committee.

Added Mr Taylor: "Col Gibson should be allowed to speak at the meeting and to represent local people. Whatever happens will depend on the day itself and on the decision of the chairman."

Commented Mr Atyeo on being told about the emergency meeting in the village: "I appreciate their feelings, but this is a family matter which does not rest entirely with me.

"I declared an interest, which was why I was not at the meeting. There is no way in which I can participate in any decisions, and I am unable to comment further."