

New date for look at major plans

DISCUSSION of a major development that could radically affect Thorncombe's future has been put back to May.

West Dorset district council's western area housing committee will consider the plan for 27 houses, eight holiday homes, an industrial workshop and new farm buildings, and conversion of a listed farm building on 22nd May rather than 10th April.

Thorncombe Village Trust, which was set up as a result of the plan arousing controversy in the village, has welcomed the change.

It has called on West Dorset District Council to draw up an informal plan for the future of the village.

More than 50 letters of objection have been sent to the district council, and a petition calling for a halt on the development until a parish appraisal had been carried out was signed by 160 villagers.

The village trust wants to know why, at the time of a Structure Plan survey in 1985, the village was chosen for Priority Development Status, and claims there was no serious consultation with local people.

It wants development to be carried out "according to the established pattern of 20 to 30 houses per decade".

The Council for the Protection of Rural England has said it would be dismayed if the application was approved.

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(C.R. Hensford)