

# Third homes bid stuns villagers

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**RESIDENTS fighting development plans at Thorncombe, near Bridport, are reeling under the news that a West Dorset builder wants to put up 27 houses in the village centre.**

By JOHN SLATER

The latest scheme comes on top of proposals for housing and holiday units at West Dorset Council member Mr. Jim Atyeo's Higher Farm and an offer by landowner, Mr. Brian Maber, of a site for low cost starter homes near the village hall.

The latest application, submitted by builders C. G. Fry and Son, of Litton Cheney, seeks outline consent for 15 two-bedroomed starter homes, eight three-bedroomed houses and four four-bedroomed homes on a 1,000 sq. metre site almost opposite the village hall.

The Higher Farm scheme is due to come before West Dorset Council's Western Area Planning Sub-committee tomorrow but consideration is expected to be deferred while planners assess the impact the various schemes could

have on the village and its sewerage system.

Villager Mr. Ron Frampton, a member of the parish sub-committee examining the possible effects of future development, told the Echo the scale of C. G. Fry and Son's application had shocked the community.

"We now have three major proposals for Thorncombe," he said, adding that the schemes, envisaging perhaps a total of about 65 new homes, had all arisen within the last three months.

County Structure Plan guidelines suggested construction of 50 to 150 homes by 1996 and Mr. Frampton said the Parish Council were united in their view that development should be restricted to the lower end of the spectrum.

"I have lived and worked in the community for more than 30 years and I cannot find a single person who is in favour of major development, other than those who stand to gain from it," he said.

If development goes beyond 50 homes within ten years, then extensive road widening schemes will be required and that will inflict damage on the surrounding countryside.

"The village would choke on its own traffic. The streets are too narrow for a pavement system and there would be further risks to children and the elderly.

West Dorset Council's Chief Planning Officer, Mr. Desmond Derrien, said the latest application would be deferred until after the assessment of the village had been completed.

He thought the three schemes would give Thorncombe all the major development it needed in terms of the Structure Plan, adding: "In my view Thorncombe is not one of the villages where we would like to push development to the top of the Structure Plan range."

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Area Planning Officer,  
Mr. Derek Price, said the  
current sewerage system  
was not adequate to cope  
with any new large  
development and the flow  
of the river was so small  
that dilution of effluent  
was insufficient.