

FOR THORNCOMBE?

Alarmed residents hit out at a plan to nearly double the size of Thorncombe, saying there are already great problems in the village.

Narrow roads and the village's awkward position on the county border mean emergency services are sometimes slow in getting to Thorncombe.

Now West Dorset district councillors are trying to slap a complete ban on any more housing for the attractive village.

Ambitious plans to build at least 77 new homes in the village worried residents and councillors at a western area planning meeting.

The committee is recommending to the full council that an embargo be placed on building in the

village until the sewerage system is improved - and that is not expected for at least 10 years.

Thorncombe's district councillor, Mr James Terrett, said it was 'ludicrous' that the village should have such a major expansion programme planned.

'There is great difficulty in getting onto a doctors waiting list at the moment because of the village situation,' he said.

'Doctors from Axminster, Chard and Beaminster are all used by villages and serve the area.

'But just last weekend a lady fell ill and needed to be taken to hospital and she had to wait 55 minutes before an ambulance

arrived from Beaminster'.

'That is the sort of problem villagers face and things can be very difficult'.

South West Water Authority officials said the sewerage system could not cope with any further building in the village.

And the meeting was told it would be around 10 years before improvements could be made.

Stonelake Brook, which is already polluted from effluent, would get even worse if more houses were built before improvements were made, said officials.

The recommendation for an embargo goes to the district council's Development and Planning Committee.

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