

BID FAILS TO HALT VILLAGE SCHEME

A BID to stop the tiny West Dorset village of Thorncombe being swamped by a huge housing estate failed at the district council's Development Committee.

But councillors got themselves into a tangle when they voted 11-10 to exclude the planned housing site from the village development "envelope" a few moments later.

They called for a recount, as the vote made nonsense of their first vote. The next time the vote was 10-11.

"I misheard the motion first time," explained Coun. Alan Read. So I corrected my vote on the second count."

But solicitor Mr. David Stephens made a quick check of the rule book.

But councillors get in tangle over vote

"The first vote must stand," he pronounced. So the two opposing recommendations will go to the next council meeting for a decision.

Thorncombe councillor Tony Terrett led the fight against the extra houses.

"The size of the development is unacceptable — 70 houses in a village of 110 houses at present is far too many," he said.

"The village has an inadequate road network. It's distance from social services, fire, police and ambulance stations and the fact that doctors' practices from three counties cover the area make it an unsuitable place for large-

scale development," he said.

But his call for an embargo on all but small

development failed to gain enough support.

Council engineer Mr. Philip Negus said a large development was needed to pay for a new sewerage works for Thorncombe.

The choice, he said, was between a housing scheme big enough to finance £300,000 new works, or none at all.

The village needed some development to ensure it could support its school and post office, add forward planning office Mr. Derek Boyt.