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Flon Shaha

Chard & Ilminster News

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1998

Newsline Chard 67474 Phone Ads Chard

VILLAGE OF 114 HOUSES FACES HAVING ANOTHER 101

DOUBLE AND WE'LL QUIT

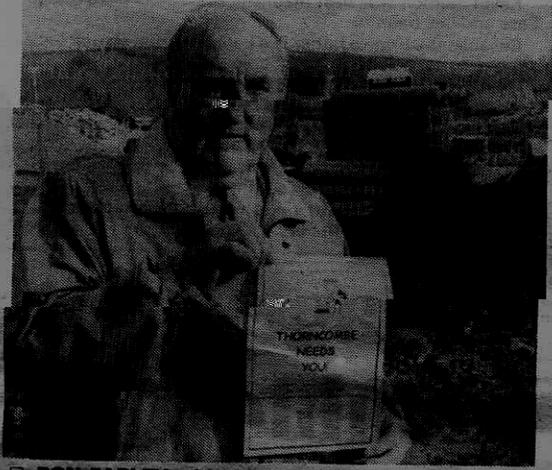
people, including Parish Council and the Village Trust. Concerned at the impact they feel this has on their environment and quality of life, especially because of increased traffic on the village-track Class C

Farley, author of a book on the parish's history and its industries, lives in Thorncombe. He, except for a year on National Service, will be 71 next week and his wife Kath said they would consider moving elsewhere if what is

he told the News that the proposed development.

roots here are very deep. "I am tempted to leave before the situation gets worse," he

Farley and parish chairman Terry both said they were against development but felt it should be



RON FARLEY with the Parish Council's leaflet on proposed development. In the background is the Higher Farm.

PEOPLE who have lived in Thorncombe all their lives feel they are being driven out by proposed development in the village.

The quiet community of 114 houses is set to almost double in size if developers get full approval for their plans; 28 houses have been or are in the process of being built at Tansee Hill by contractors C.G. Fry and Son, and another developer has started work on 14 houses at Higher Farm.

C.G. Fry and Son have also submitted three more applications for West

By SHEILA MINSHALL

Dorset District Council: one requesting full permission for the last 11 houses at Tansee Hill, an outline plan for 48 houses on the Quinn site, behind High Street and Gribb View, and a full application for the first seven of these 48.

If all these are approved it will mean at least 101 houses on the three village sites, increasing the number of houses in Thorncombe, which is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty by 90 per cent.

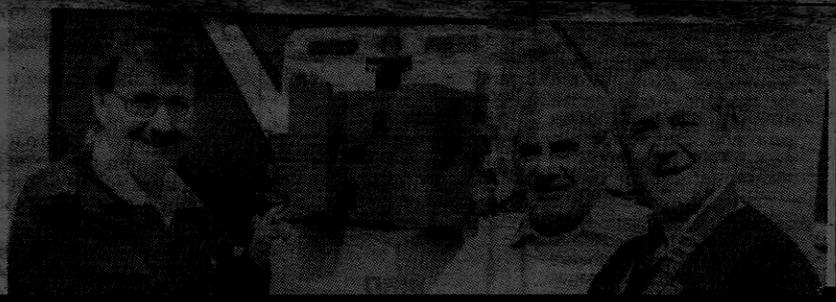
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Ron I two book history a has lived all his li period of

He will and he ar len, 65, seriously out beca

Firm hit by arson attack

OVER £10,000 damage was caused to a Chard tyre and exhaust repair busi-



Mr F he "ed" with developme "My r deep, b move o ation added.

Mr F council Bennett were no ment, b

Village fights 'double' plan

□ Continued from page 1

Thorncombe it should be in the region of 50 houses and not towards the top end of the priority village scale of 150.

This was also the feeling of the district council's chief planning officer at the time, Desmond Derrien, as the roads were seen as insufficient to cope with much more than 50 extra houses.

Thorncombe was designated as a priority village in the County Structure Plan, meaning that effort should be made to retain its school and other facilities in return for which development of 50 to 150 new homes was suggested.

Mr Bennett said the district council planning authority had allowed an "unreasonable" density of houses in the face of constant opposition from the village community.

"They have been ignored by planning officials and elected members of West Dorset District Council

alike, who have, in ignoring the findings of Mr Derrien and the county surveyor, made no attempt to adhere to the district council's own policy on density," he added.

District council spokesman Bill Raymond said: "At the moment there is planning permission for up to about 100 houses, which meets the 50 to 150 criteria and we are committed to that as per the County Structure Plan."

Mr Raymond added that the county surveyor had no objection to these proposals because they were part of the structure plan, and that the district council was having ongoing discussions with the parish council.

District councillor Ian Gillespie felt the proposals should not have been permitted in the first place, but said efforts now had to be made to ensure the development was reasonable and to prevent it from being an eyesore.

Mr Farley felt ~~that~~ housing was needed if there was a demand, but he said the time for that was 30 years ago, when a lot of young people were forced to leave Thorncombe because of a lack of affordable housing there.

● The parish council has urged parishioners to attend a meeting in the village hall on April 6 at 7.30 pm to discuss the current planning applications and their effect on Thorncombe's future, before they are discussed by the district council in May. The plans will be on display from 2 pm to 9 pm.

Arson attack

□ Continued from page 1

of new tyres and it could have been a disaster."

Mr Hawkins added that the clean-up process had been time-consuming and dirty as special chemicals had to be used.

Police Sergeant Clive Gammon said: "We are investigating the cause, which we are treating as suspicious.

"We think the fire start-