

## TERRY BY NAME -TERRIER BY NATURE

The late Terry Bennett ( 1936 - 2014) is remembered fondly by many TVT members, especially those who worked closely alongside him on various issues. Terry stood up firmly for his principles and beliefs. His unswerving commitment, intellect and extensive knowledge of planning law combined with tremendous warmth and wonderful cockney humour helped keep eyes on the ball and heads above water when the going got tough.

Mark Agnew recalls how 'alarmed by the imminent flood of housing planned for Thorncombe in the late 1980s, Terry just couldn't stand by and watch this happen without questioning the sense of it all. He joined the parish council in 1995 and two years later was elected chairman. By then Thorncombe was in line for over 100 new houses and a doubling in the size of the village. This was too much for Terry. He led a highly effective campaign, with the TVT, against this excessive and damaging expansion of a village without the infrastructure to support it or any local need for 80 more private houses. It took several years, two planning inquiries, difficult negotiations with the developers, lawyers and the district council and a huge amount of tenacity, but it was worth it. The 40-55 house development off High Street behind the playground was stopped. Terry led an elected parish council to stand up to the imposition of unnecessary development. Leaving the council in 2003 after eight years he gave his efforts to the TVT committee to continue promoting a local voice in the future of this parish. He took on the heavy role of secretary for eight years until his health forced him reluctantly into retirement. This parish owes him much.