

THORNCOMBE SNUBS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

You may have attended the **Parish meeting held on 5th February at Thorncombe Village Hall** where the subject of the **Neighbourhood Plan was discussed** with a panel of experts, which included Mike Robinson, chair of the Joint Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee (and West Dorset District Councillor), Jan Farnham, Neighbourhood Plan advisor for West Dorset District Council, Alison Eardley, Private Consultant on Neighbourhood Plans, Fred Horsington, chair of Cerne Abbas' Neighbourhood Plan Committee and John Vanderwolf, secretary of Joint Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee (and Clerk to Upper Marshwood Vale, Hawkchurch and Thorncombe Parish Councils).

Below is a report published in the Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council's magazine 'Beneath the Vale' of this meeting.

Those who were present at the meeting may disagree with the accuracy of this report. Should you wish to make any comment – **please address any concerns to the Clerk of Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council, John Vanderwolf Newenham, 5 Halletts Way, Axminster EX14 5NB** or email johnvw@tiscali.co.uk.



Beneath the Vale
Published on behalf of Upper Marshwood Vale
Parish Council

Thorncombe snubs Neighbourhood Plan

A vociferous and determined group of men took over the parish meeting at Thorncombe village hall and completely destroyed attempts to follow an agreed agenda. The subject was introduced by Mike Robinson, Neighbourhood Plan chairman, but he was cut short by a series of very similar irrelevant question.

Chairman Dick Arnold tried to hold the meeting together but members of the Thorncombe Trust took no notice and posed their disagreement as questions.

Most of the Thorncombe Trust complained that the Plan was not specific in subjects nor approach, which completely ignored the fundamental point of such a Plan: that the research and fact finding that would form the basis of all decisions put before the community in a referendum, as opposed to predetermined and undemocratic

policies imposed on the rest by a tiny minority.

Those of us not from Thorncombe who are involved with this project have been very patient with that village, but our own efforts are being handicapped by Thorncombe dissent, so it has been decided that Hawkchurch, Netherbury and Upper Marshwood will proceed without Thorncombe.

Should a consensus arise from Thorncombe, it will be up to them to join in later, if that proves possible.

Most of us are very sorry that we have had to adopt this approach, sorry for the quiet inhabitants of Thorncombe who will lose out unless they can join in, but that is the penalty of having a ghost council in the form of the Thorncombe Trust.