

Village trust fights big development

THORNCOMBE villagers have set up a trust to oppose large scale development in the wake of a planning application submitted by their district councillor, Mr Percy Atyeo. The Trust would be

“playing a large part” in the future of the village, faced by at least two other planning applications and with more in the pipeline, said spokesman Mr Ron Frampton. The steering committee

includes a cross-section of villagers including teachers, farmers, an engineer, a company director and local vicar, the Rev Lesley Harman. Among its aims are guarding against unsuitable development, protecting historic buildings and conserving the character of the village. **Continued on Back.**

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Thorncombe is a thriving community with a fair range of facilities. A possible doubling of housing and population could impose strains on the village, Mr Frampton said. “The incoming population would be in competition with the local people for jobs and housing. Already, young families have difficulty finding housing in competition with buyers of second homes and holiday cottages,” he added. There was no guarantee that the 27 houses and eight

holiday units proposed in the Atyeo development would include starter homes, Mr Desmond Derrien, chief planning officer for the West Dorset District Council, told an extraordinary parish meeting on Wednesday. The whole project could be sold to the highest bidder.

More than 50 objections to the plans had been received to date, Mr Derrien told the meeting.

Mr Frampton said the trust was particularly concerned about the effect any development would have on the unique system of country lanes around Thorncombe village. Development would inevitably lead to road widening, he said.

Meanwhile, the parish council has set up a five-man sub-committee, with repre-