

In November 2017, the Parish was consulted via the Thruxton Times on 3 questions in order to support the further evolution of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies. Parishioners were asked to respond by email or telephone to a Steering Group Committee Member with their views. Each question is detailed below with the responses to each question added verbatim. We had 14 email responses, 3 of which were from Dauntsey Lane residents and the rest from Thruxton Village. Alan Leslie, a Steering Group Committee Member and resident of Thruxton Down, organised a house by house collation of answers to these questions in Thruxton Down and Park House Cross and his answers are detailed in the DropBox Appraisals Folder.

“Your Neighbourhood Development Steering Group needs your help with 3 items this month.

We have been asked by our Consultants, to look in more detail at the different settlement areas in the Parish (The Village/Dauntsey Lane/Thruxton Down/Thruxton Farm and Parkhouse Cross).

1. **We would like your views as to what makes the settlement area you live in special? What are the characteristics that make it unique – is it the people, the quiet, the night sky, the countryside, the roads, the buildings...? We want to hear about anything you think makes these settlements individual.”**

Comments from Thruxton Village residents.

- Just some thoughts about the pleasure I get from living in Thruxton
1. Walking through Stanbury Close and across the fields to Fyfield Church - sense of continuum and tranquillity.
 2. Enjoy looking down on the village from the above walk and seeing how the village "snuggles" down into its little valley alongside the A303 - still a sense of community even with the larger road alongside.
 3. A sense of peace, quiet and tranquillity when returning to the village after negotiating busier neighbourhoods.
 4. The green space of the village green - a place for contemplation - or memories about fetes various.
 5. The churchyard, with its memorials to friends/neighbours who have passed on - and peeping over the wall into the walled garden of the Manor.

All of the above may seem a little too intangible - but isn't - to some part - what all of this is about?

- Having moved to Thruxton after a lifetime living and working in London, I particularly enjoy the peace and quiet of village life and the friendliness of the local population. It is a beautiful village surrounded by pleasant countryside. It needs to remain distinct from nearby settlements especially the town of Andover to preserve these unique features.

If there is any criticism it is with regard to children in the village. We know they are there but seldom see them nor do they participate in most village activities except for the Fete. This is probably because we provide little or nothing for them to do after school or in the holidays. They need to feel a valued part of our community.

- Thruxton is my village and I think it is a beautiful one as is the church with its amazing history. I for one hope that it can remain the way it is and not become built over and spoilt in any way.
- What makes Thruxton special:
The green spaces at each end of the Village, daffodils etc. giving a welcome showing people we are a village area- this would be improved by gated signs which we are finding difficult to put in place!!
Diversity of houses and various cob walls and hedges.
- I live in Lambourne Close, in Thruxton village. My biggest concern at the moment is the possible development plan, for the houses proposed on the field which has been an open space for the past 40years. It is numbers that concern me.
What makes the village area special? It is the village atmosphere. It is quiet with greenery surrounding us. The people and the place are unique. When one needs help and support it is there, which is part of village life. The countryside and openness, with the peace that brings surrounds us. This makes the Village a lovely place to live.
A wonderful place to live I would hate to see any development which puts this peace at risk.
- I would like to add the December 1997 article "Bird's Eye View – A microcosm of Thruxton" which opens the Thruxton Appraisal and was written anonymously:

BIRDS EYE VIEW

A MICROCOSM OF THRUXTON

IT IS AN HOUR BEFORE DAWN ON ANY DAY IN EARLY APRIL. THE FIRST RISERS ARE UP AND ABOUT. A SECURITY LIGHT CLICKS ON ILLUMINATING THE GARAGE AND DRIVE OF A SMALL HOUSE NEAR THE VILLAGE CENTRE. THE CAR'S HEADLIGHTS PICK OUT ITS PATH ALONG THE MAIN STREET TO THE EASTERN EXIT AND ONTO THE A303: OUR EARLY TRAVELLER PERHAPS ON HIS WAY TO HEATHROW OR EVEN DOVER AT THE START OF AN EASTER FAMILY HOLIDAY. HIS CAR IS CERTAINLY NOT ALONE ON THE MAIN ROAD EVEN AT THIS UNFAMILIAR HOUR AS THERE IS A CONSTANT TRICKLE OF HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES HEADING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, THEIR DRIVERS TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF A RELATIVELY UNCLUTTERED ROAD AS THEY HEAD DOWN TO THE WEST COUNTRY. THE A303 NEVER RESTS.

NOW THE BRIGHTENING LIGHT OF A CLEAR, COOL, SPRING DAY ALLOWS US TO SEE SOME DETAILS. THE SNOWDROPS IN THE FIELD BELOW THE MANOR HOUSE HAVE ALL BUT DIED LEAVING THEIR GREENERY AS A REMINDER OF JUST HOW SPECTACULAR THE PASTURE LOOKED SIX OR SO

WEEKS AGO. DAFFODILS ARE EVERYWHERE, BUT THESE TOO ARE NOW PAST THEIR BEST, LEAVING US WITH FORSYTHIA AND PRIMULA TOGETHER WITH THE FIRST LOADING OF ALMOND BLOSSOM SCATTERED IN OUR NEAT GARDENS.

OUR REGULARS HAVE ALREADY STARTED THEIR DAILY ROUNDS BRINGING US MILK AND PAPERS AND WE WATCH THEM AS THEY SCURRY FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE ON WELL-WORN ROUNDS. THE FAMILIAR POST OFFICE RED VAN STANDS TEMPORARILY ALONGSIDE OUR EQUALLY RED PHONE BOX, ITS MESSENGER WEIGHED DOWN THIS MORNING WITH HIS POUCH FULL OF UNWELCOME PHONE BILLS AND, TO OUR MESSENGER, EQUALLY UNWELCOME ANNUAL REPORTS OF ONE OF THOSE 'SID' PRIVATISATIONS - BT, BG OR RAILTRACK, IT MATTERS NOT.

THOSE UP AND ABOUT MIGHT CATCH A GLIMPSE OF A SMALL FORMATION OF CANADA GEESE, SWOOPING LOW OVER THE VILLAGE OUTSKIRTS ON THEIR WAY TO A WATERY LANDING AT MULLENSPOND. THIS YEAR, PERHAPS UNCHARACTERISTICALLY, AFTER HEAVY AUTUMN AND WINTER RAINS, OUR BROOK FLOWS MERRILY THROUGH THE VILLAGE AND MULLENSPOND IS FILLED TO A HEALTHY LEVEL. ANOTHER LOUD HONK AND THE GAGGLE HAS GONE BEYOND OUR VIEW.

CARS ARE MOVING EVERYWHERE AS VILLAGERS LEAVE FOR WORK, SOME LOCALLY AND OTHERS, MAYBE CATCHING A COMMUTER TRAIN TO SALISBURY, BASINGSTOKE, OR LONDON. MANY WE SHALL NOT SEE AGAIN UNTIL THIS EVENING, MAYBE EVEN AFTER DARK. FROM TODAY WE SHALL MISS THE SCHOOL BUS COLLECTING ITS GANGLING TRIBE FROM THE SHELTER OPPOSITE THE 'GEORGE' AS HOLIDAYS ARE WITH US, BUT THE LOCAL BUS WILL STILL ARRIVE TO GATHER UP ITS TRUSTY FEW AND TRANSPORT THEM TO WORK OR SHOP IN ANDOVER.

ALONG THE MAIN STREET THERE IS CONSTANT COMING AND GOING TO THE POST OFFICE, ON FOOT OR BY CAR, TO PAY THESE UBIQUITOUS PHONE BILLS, COLLECT A PENSION, BUY A PACKET OF CIGARETTES OR JUST EXCHANGE A FEW PLEASANTRIES WITH THE POSTMASTER. ONE IS PLACING A NOTICE IN HIS WINDOW ADVERTISING SOME NO-LONGER-REQUIRED AND NEGLECTED HEIRLOOM TO A GOOD OWNER; ANOTHER CASTS A GLANCE AT THE AGENDA FOR TONIGHT'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - UMM.

AT THE TOP END OF THE VILLAGE A STRING OF RACEHORSES MOVE ON THEIR DAILY ROUTINE SLOWLY UP THE SHORT HILL FROM FYFIELD TOWARDS THE HOUSES AT THE TOP OF STANBURY ROAD. A COUPLE OF THE ANIMALS SEEM UNUSUALLY FRISKY, PERHAPS CONCERNED ABOUT THE LORRY, STACKED WITH BAGS OF SOLID FUEL, FOLLOWING THEM UP THE HILL. THEIR RIDERS GIVE A CHEERFUL SMILE OF THANKS TO THE LORRY DRIVER AS HE EDGES PAST NOW THE ROAD IS WIDER, BUT THE DRIVER IS PROBABLY MUMBLING ABOUT THESE UNTHINKING JOCKEYS WHO ALWAYS SEEM TO BE RIDING TWO ABREAST. THE LORRY MOVES ON, PARKS NEAR THE OLD-PEOPLE'S BUNGALOWS AND THE DRIVER STARTS HIS BURDENSOME TASK OF UNLOADING HIS SACKS AND DELIVERING THEM TO INDIVIDUAL DOORSTEPS.

OPPOSITE THE BOTTOM OF LAMBOURNE WAY THE COUNTY MOBILE LIBRARY ARRIVES ON ITS TWO-WEEKLY VISIT, PULLING UP ALONGSIDE THE COUPLE WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING THERE PATIENTLY, ALBEIT FOR ONLY A FEW MINUTES. THE VAN CAUSES A TRAFFIC OBSTRUCTION BUT MOST DRIVERS ACCEPT THIS AS A TEMPORARY HINDRANCE AND ARE HAPPY TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THOSE COMING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. AS THE LIBRARY VAN MOVES OFF TOWARDS ITS NEXT PORT OF CALL AT THE TOP OF STANBURY HILL AND STARTS TO NEGOTIATE THE CORNER OPPOSITE HAMBLE HOUSE, TWO PAIRS OF RED BRAKE LIGHTS FLASH ON, EACH PAIR BELONGING TO EQUAL-SIZED VEHICLES APPROACHING

FROM EITHER DIRECTION. THERE IS AN IMPASSE! ONE DRIVER IS GESTICULATING WILDLY: THE LIBRARY DRIVER HAS SEEN IT ALL BEFORE AND STARTS TO MANOEUVRE HIS VEHICLE AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE ROADSIDE HEDGE. IMPERCEPTIBLY THE TWO VEHICLES PASS AND ONCE AGAIN THE CORNER IS EMPTY.

FROM STANBURY CLOSE AN ELDERLY MAN, STICK IN HAND, SET SLOWLY OFF WITH HIS BLACK AND WHITE DOG ALONG THE FOOTPATH LEADING TO FYFIELD CHURCH. THE AIR IS STILL AND THE SUN BRIGHT - AN IDEAL MORNING FOR A SHORT WALK. WALKING SOME WAY ALONG THE A303 IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, AN UNUSUAL FIGURE SHUFFLES ALONG, SEEMINGLY ENCLOSED IN TWO WOODEN BOARDS! AS WE FOCUS MORE CLOSELY WE SEE THAT IT IS A 'SANDWICH MAN', PERHAPS A RELIC OF FORMER TIMES, DISPLAYING HIS MESSAGE TO ENTICE US TO SAVOUR THE LUNCH-TIME DELIGHTS OF THE 'GEORGE', ONE OF OUR TWO VILLAGE PUBS. A PASSING MOTORIST GIVES HIM A CHEERY WAVE, BUT THE MAJORITY SPEED ALONG, IMPERVIOUS TO BOTH HIM AND HIS MESSAGE.

GRANDMA AND HER TWO SMALL CHARGES ARE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN, ENJOYING THE SUNSHINE, RELIEVING MOTHER OF HER CONTINUAL CARES FOR A FEW, BRIEF MINUTES. A BRIGHTLY COLOURED BALL IS KICKED THIS WAY AND THAT UNTIL, ALL TOO SOON, HER GRANDCHILDREN TIRE OF THEIR GAME AND DEMAND INSTANT ATTENTION. THE PARTY LEAVES, POST OFFICE BOUND FOR SOME DRINK OR BRIBE, BUT ARE SOON ACCOSTED BY THE DRIVER OF A LARGE DELIVERY VAN WHO SEEKS THE WAY TO THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE. WHY DO WE ALLOW SUCH JUGGERNAUTS ALONG OUR QUIET, NARROW VILLAGE STREET?

OUR WALKER, WITH HIS DOG NOW SAFELY ON A LEAD, HAS LEFT FYFIELD CHURCH BEHIND HIM AND IS CROSSING TOWARDS MULLENSPOND THROUGH A FIELD ALIVE WITH SCAMPERING EWES AND THEIR YOUNG FRISKY LAMBS. NEITHER SHEEP NOR DOG SEEMS CONCERNED ABOUT THE OTHER'S PRESENCE, EACH SAVOURING ITS PARTICULAR COUNTRY SMELLS. THEIR TRANQUILLITY IS DISTURBED BY THE 'WHIRLYBIRD' FAST APPROACHING FROM THE EAST FLYING DIRECTLY TOWARDS THRUXTON AIRFIELD, ITS PILOT NO DOUBT REVELLING IN THE GLORIOUS FLYING WEATHER THE DAY HAS BROUGHT. A SHALLOW TURN TO THE LEFT TAKES HIM OUT OF THE WAY OF A LIGHT SINGLE-ENGINE AIRCRAFT NOW COMPLETING THE FINAL PART OF ITS LANDING PROCEDURE TO THE SAME AIRFIELD. BOTH SOON PASS OVERHEAD, THE SOUNDS OF THEIR ENGINES FADING INTO THE

DISTANCE. WHAT A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON.

TERM IS ALSO ENDING AT KIMPTON SCHOOL AND THE ROAD OUTSIDE HARBOURS A LENGTHY LINE OF CARS. MOTHERS STAND AND GOSSIP OR PLAN THEIR HOLIDAY STRATEGIES, WHILE FROM THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE THE FIRST OF A LONG LINE OF CHILDREN EMERGES. SOON THE AIR IS FULL OF EXCITED CHATTER; GREETINGS TO MUMS AND GOODBYES TO CLASSMATES. SOME CARRY FOLDED POSTERS, AN END-OF-TERM ASSIGNMENT, TO BE PARADED GLEEFULLY TO THE ASSEMBLED GATHERING OF DRIVERS. THE CARS MOVE OFF LEAVING A FEW STRAGGLERS TO WEND THEIR WAY BACK TO THEIR HOMES ON FOOT.

THE SOUND OF THE CHURCH BELLS HERALDS THE EVENING - IT IS PRACTICE DAY AND TODAY THE RINGERS ARE PREPARING FOR A VILLAGE WEDDING HERE IN THE CHURCH THE FOLLOWING WEEK-END. THE PEALS MAY NOT BE A STRICT "TREBLE BOB MAJOR" OR "GRANDSIRE TRIPLE", BUT THEIR HARMONIC SOUND DRIFTS LEISURELY ACROSS THE VILLAGE TO THE HALL. THIS EVENING THERE IS ACTIVITY IN THE VILLAGE HALL - YES, THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IS UNDERWAY. TO THE SMALL GATHERING OF VILLAGERS, A COUNCILLOR IS EXPLAINING WHY THE COUNCIL BELIEVES THERE HAS BEEN MALADMINISTRATION BY THE COUNTY OVER THE PLANNING PROCEDURES FOR THE WASTE TRANSFER PLANT AT THE AIRFIELD. ANOTHER ITEM FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE THE SITING OF A PLAY AREA FOR SMALL CHILDREN. WE'LL LEAVE THEM TO DELIBERATE.

GROUPS OF PEOPLE, SMARTLY DRESSED, SEEM TO BE WANDERING HITHER AND THITHER CLUTCHING PIECES OF PAPER AND HALF FULL BOTTLES OF WINE. SOME POINT TO HIDDEN TARGETS AND SOME GESTICULATE, BUT WITHIN MINUTES ALL APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN SWALLOWED UP IN VARIOUS HOUSES, ONLY FOR THE SAME THING TO HAPPEN ABOUT AN HOUR LATER. WHAT IS A 'PROGRESSIVE DINNER'?

IT IS NOW LATE. THE STREET LIGHTS CAST PUDDLES OF ILLUMINATION HERE AND THERE ALONG THE MAIN ROADWAYS, LEAVING LENGTHY SHADOWY AREAS BETWEEN THESE POOLS. THE 'GEORGE' IS CLOSING, EMPTYING REVELLERS INTO THE COOL NIGHT SOME TO DRIVE AND SOME TO WALK BACK TO THEIR HOMES. THE VILLAGE BECOMES QUIET AND PEACEFUL. TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY.

This is what makes Thruxton so special.

- I happened upon the attached article whilst mulling over the Consultants requests for more detail and thought it appropriate for not just my response but more generally from our Parishioners at large:

Nostalgia of special places plays an important part to well being

An innovative new study from the University of Surrey and the National Trust has demonstrated for the first time how meaningful places play a huge part in our emotional and physical wellbeing.

- Press Releases Psychology



Using in-depth fMRI (Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging), researchers examined how the brain reacts when presented with places of personal significance. They discovered that an area of our brain associated with positive emotion displayed a significantly larger response to such meaningful places than to common/everyday places – which indicates that meaningful places can generate feelings of

wellbeing and joy.

Researchers also found that the brain's emotional response to special places was much higher than towards meaningful objects, such as a wedding ring or photograph suggesting that this response goes beyond general personal relevance..

The importance of a special place plays a pivotal role in wellbeing, with two thirds of people surveyed (64%) saying their special place makes them feel calm and provides an escape from everyday life (53%). Almost half (43%) said it helps them re-evaluate their stresses and worries, with a further 41% saying it makes them feel emotionally secure.

Professor Bertram Opitz, Professor in Neuroimaging and Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Surrey, said: "Visualizing special places, be it a garden or an area of outstanding beauty, can trigger an emotional response in individuals, helping to improve their overall physical wellbeing and alleviate anxiety and depression.

"This study demonstrates the complexity of the brain and how it is not only key to ensuring our bodily systems work but can also impact our emotional state."

My response:

What makes Thruxton Village special for me? In the thirty years I have lived in the Village I have never experienced, directly expressed or implied that I was or am an "incomer". Quite the contrary the Village has a reputation of being a friendly, inclusive and welcoming place and I have experienced nothing to contradict that. The Village isn't big, which was part of its initial appeal, and any dramatic increase in size is likely to destroy this feeling of welcoming inclusivity. At its heart the Village has a historic section with narrow intriguing views and a mix of architectural styles. The green

spaces in the Village (the Green, the "Snowdrop Field", the allotments, the Churchyard, the Manorial earthworks, the field opposite Lovell Close) even such small ones as the Post Box space by the electricity substation in Lambourne Way, contribute to the uncluttered, all in proportion feel of the Village. The mixture of thatch and tile topped cob walls, hedges, fences and open gardens have a part in creating an enviable sense of place. Leaving the Village in any direction on foot takes one into countryside within five minutes. It's a great regret to me that one of the two footpaths leaving the Village is made virtually impassable by the traffic on the A303 (Government measured flow in 2015 of 7.8 million vehicles per year passing Thruxton). A bridge is needed here particularly with the Government forecast minimum 17% increase in traffic on the A303 after the Stonehenge tunnel work is complete in 2023. Our Village doesn't have the "chocolate box" crescent of thatched cottages like Amport or the quaint "Hovis (Golden) Hill of Shaftsbury but it gives me the feeling of "calm and provides an escape from everyday life" felt by over 50% of the respondents to the attached article's survey.

- Firstly, I would like to add one important factor about Thruxton village and parish – it's about people, not houses or green space.

When we were house hunting in 1983 when we were moving to the area from Liverpool, one very important factor for us was 'how are we 'Northerners' going to get on in the darkest depths of the 'South'. For me it was very important that Elaine and our two year old daughter lived in a community (as I would be working long days) and not just a house stuck in the country where no one talked to each other. We as Liverpudlians were always being warned by fellow scousers that 'them people in the South never talk to you and they are notoriously unfriendly'. Well, we did encounter some of that whilst viewing properties in nearby villages but our visit to view two houses in Thruxton changed this perception completely.

We found the village had a great heart and community spirit talking to house owners and locals engendered a great feeling of community and wellbeing – just what we were looking for. This was further enhanced by the fact that the village was alive and not just a group of houses utilised by London commuters, it was a village of real people, some with young children like ourselves. How refreshing to visit a place that had personality and vibrancy.

One of the real attractions of the place was, and still is, the people. Thruxton attracted us because it has/had a very diverse population, think of how many 'real' villages have such a diverse population in respect to occupation? It hasn't changed in over 30 years. We have plumbers, gardeners, civil servants, army of all ranks, doctors, antique dealers, builders, nurses, IT specialists, tree surgeons, carers, carpenters, engineers, pilots, sculptures, artists, lawyers, teachers and many more occupations that go to make up a diverse and interesting community – not a 'dormitory' at all but an interesting place with interesting people – with only a very small population.

We chose Thruxton based on this and we have not been disappointed in our 34 years residency. I suppose you could say we have found our very own mini Liverpool in Hampshire – and yes, that's a compliment!!

It's unquantifiable and immeasurable, but its community and thankfully it makes it special and we should do everything to keep it so.

- My family have lived in the village for almost 20 years. We moved here when our older child was less than one year old, to get out of Andover and into a small and self-contained village that had a mix of people and a good community spirit. As someone who grew up in a village the spirit of the community was the key factor. We know our neighbours and participate in village events. The community looks out for the elderly and values what it has - something shown by the high turnout at meetings when anything that may impact on the village is to be discussed.

In Andover we lived in a new development that was theoretically in Charlton - a village that has now merged with Andover. We moved to Thruxton to get away from sprawl where people do not invest in the community, and where the developments are really just commuter settlements without any sense of identity or community.

The village is populated by a wide range of people from all backgrounds. The A303 (both a blessing and a curse) means that whilst Thruxton is very pretty in the old part, is often overlooked by people moving out of London and those looking for second homes; some of the more secluded villages in the area are now largely occupied by people whose lives are really elsewherewhen they talk of 'town', they mean London rather than Andover! The mix of people in Thruxton Village, and their commitment to the area, is a huge attraction to us.

- Item 1 what makes the centre of Thruxton special is that essentially it's the same as it was 100 years ago, any changes being sympathetic to the existing buildings (houses, hall & pub)

Daunstey Lane resident responses:

- Following on from the piece in the latest Thruxton Times, I thought that I would take the opportunity to respond on what I feel makes this area so special.

I am a resident of Dauntsey Lane and have lived on the Lane for 19 years.

My wife is from Kimpton (born in the village) and lived there for 20+ years.

The key attributes and features that make this area so special are as follows:

First and foremost the countryside. Test Valley is a stunning area, with beautiful rolling fields, quiet lanes, woodland and attractive villages.

The villages still generally have a traditional feel to them and thankfully we do not have, in the local villages of Kimpton, Thruxton and Fyfield, large new developments of housing.

Quiet, unlit roads are another pleasure of our surrounding area.

Footpaths are well looked after, well signed and within a short distance of most people's houses and we are able to be in stunning countryside, with large swathes of land, with no development, within a short distance of where we all live.

I moved to this area to be in the countryside and whilst it's easy to accept that there has to be some development and changes to the local area, we must be extremely careful how this is progressed and most importantly, take into account the impact on current residents.

It's a stunning area and so let's try and keep it that way.

- I live in Dauntsey Lane which I like very much for its quietness and good neighbours and because it feels like part of the village. I appreciate that we get the Thruxton Times as it is reassuring to hear the news and to feel included. We get nothing from Amport, (who cares), so without the local newsletter we would be marooned in a kind of no-man's land.

2. We would like your views on the “gaps” between each settlement and between the settlements and the surrounding Villages. Are these green space “gaps” important to you too, and, if so, why?

Dauntsey Lane resident responses:

- As to gaps, my biggest regret is that we live 'on the wrong side of the road', so technically we are in Amport rather than Thruxton. Personally, I feel part of Thruxton, it's my church and where both my sons got married. I think it is ridiculous to have the parish boundary right down the middle of the road thus dividing us. I went online to engage with the government boundary plan but to no avail, we remain adrift.
- The natural gaps between Andover and Weyhill and then between each of the aforementioned villages are, I feel an important part that we need to preserve and ensure that villages do not start merging into one.

Travelling between the villages at the moment, it does feel like they are separate and have their own identities.

New houses, be it small or larger developments, should not just fill gaps, whether between villages or otherwise, as this will result in villages losing their identity and individuality.

Gaps within the villages are also of equal importance and the horse paddocks and small fields that are within villages and lanes should be preserved. One of the pleasures of our area is that not every square foot of a road is built upon, but instead we have gaps of fields and paddocks, which add to the local community, through horse riding and small holdings and are an attractive feature throughout the area.

Thruxton Village resident responses:

- The open areas such as the field by Mullens Pond and the land leading to Thruxton Down enhance the rural feel of the village and its separation from other settlements even though they are technically within the Parish boundaries. The field between the end of Stanbury

Road and the road between Kimpton and Fyfield is another open area that must be maintained, not built upon.

- I hope there will be gaps in any development that goes ahead, or Thruxton will become the outskirts of Andover.
- In my view, whilst some new blood is always needed for the community to continue to thrive, I would not support any development that could threaten the integrity of Thruxton Village as a community with a defined boundary and separated from neighbouring settlements that are very different to us. Thruxton's sense of community is recognised locally and friends in Weyhill openly acknowledge that they have no such sense of community or local identity. Fyfield, although only separated by a field, is very different in character to Thruxton. I think we would say that it is a 'funny old place' and is known to have little community spirit or cohesion.

Maintaining separation from Fyfield, Weyhill and Dauntsey Lane is essential in my opinion if we are to keep the community that defines us. I know that many of the landowners are looking to develop their land and it would be disastrous if the lure of money was allowed to destroy something that is so precious - once it is lost it is gone forever.

- The green spaces providing separation of the settlement areas within the Parish have the same or even greater importance than the green spaces within the Village in creating and maintaining the sense of the space in which we live. In the same way that a dramatic increase in the size of the Village would destroy the friendly inclusivity I have described above closing or diminishing these green spaces or gaps would create an urban sprawl with little distinction between Weyhill and the Village or Thruxton Down and the Village. Whilst the Airfield and the A303 bound and limit the Parish and Village and have their attached noise and exhaust pollution issues they do focus the need for "clean, green" space around the other sides of the Village and Parish. Our only safe and viable footpath loop crosses these gaps and spaces. Without the "Gaps" there would be no "in the countryside" footpaths available in the Parish. An essential part of the glory of the Village/Fyfield Church/Amesbury Road/Village loop are the views across the open land of the "Gaps", the views down to the Pillhill Brook flowing down from Fyfield, the view up to the site of the Roman Villa and the views of the Mullen's Pond SINC.

- With regard to your letter and being a resident of Thruxton, I feel it is most important to have gaps of green space between the various villages within our Parish, as this gives a certain amount of individuality to each one.
This is a quiet rural area appreciated by all who live here.
- With reference to your letter and as a resident of Thruxton, it is most important to have definite gaps of green space between the various villages, which gives a certain amount of individuality to each one.

This is a quiet rural area appreciated by all who live here.

- Item 2 “Gaps” are an integral part of this ‘parish’ (please see below re this word), enabling us to retain our sense of individuality whilst part of the whole. If the gaps are built upon, then there’ll be a risk of more development on the edges of this ‘Parish’, & the local villages would become a suburb of Andover. :-{

I’m sure you’re fully aware that church and civil parishes are not co-terminous here (e.g. Thruxton Down is in the ecclesiastical parish of Quarley). I appreciate that it’s hard to find a word that conveys the area in question)

- The gaps between surrounding villages are very important otherwise we end up part of Andover!!
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- 3. **“We would like your views on any special features of the Parish that are not formally recognised but are of particular importance to you, and make this place special for you. Nothing is too small to get a mention e.g. The Milestone at the bottom of Church Lane in the Village, but please let us know of any undesignated walls, buildings or features that are important for the heritage value and contribution to the historic character of this Parish.”**

Thruxton Village Resident Responses

- Item 3
 - a) The view of Mullenspond from the Village Street & from Amesbury Road is a distinct asset.
 - b) The area around the church is timeless, tranquil and beautiful.
 - c) The piece of land behind “The George” (now George House) & fronting on to Beech Close is of enormous worth: apart from being an attractive outlook for the Beech Close houses opposite, it prevents development on the site of The George. I understand that it was purchased by local people for that very reason, and it needs to remain in private ownership (i.e. not bought by a potential developer).
- We have the best village hall in Hampshire, which is used by one group or another, every night of the week. This means we have things for villagers to do on our doorstep. We also have a beautiful church with great history, which is loved by all.
- There is a variety of building styles and ages in the village which adds to its individuality. Any further development must take account of this variety and not impose stereotypical styles such as those used by major housebuilding companies. This is not to say that further

development must be ruled out but that if approved it must add to the overall appearance of the village not detract from it.

The present conservation area is rather limited. Although it ensures the maintenance of an important part of the centre of the village it does not extend to cover the church, the Manor, the Old Rectory or Manor Cottage. Some of these buildings may have listed status, e.g. the church is Grade 1 but, together they form a unity of important buildings and a second focal point in the village.

While the various cob-walls are an attractive feature of the village they are both difficult and expensive to maintain. At some point, as craftsmen capable of restoring these edifices retire, an alternative may have to be found to their preservation.

- The small wooded area at the bottom of Amesbury Road between the Village Street, the A303 and its Eastbound carriageway slip roads provides an essential screen for this elevated section of the A303 and some noise/exhaust pollution blocking. Although not listed as a "Local Green Space" (why not?) together with the allotments and Mullen's Pond is part of the Village's eastern green gap. Losing this woodland would seriously detract from the separation of the Village from the A303. Keeping the field opposite the end of Lovell Close as open space is vital as it provides the only publicly accessible open view to the West of the Village, the Airfield "Bunds" block any other western views. Views are of critical importance to a Village that is situated by a large dip in the countryside. The only open views enjoyed by Village residences are those to the North from some of the houses on Stanbury Road and Close and Lambourne Close which again emphasises the importance of our only footpath through the open countryside to the north of the Village.

- Milestone and tree island at bottom of Church Lane

Stream is an important local and wildlife feature

Roman Thruxton villa/mosaic area - although buried site of regional archaeological importance

- The milestone is important and taken off the old A303 I believe. Important bit of history.

The trees make a great statement to the village (even with the problems they bring)!

The Church is beautiful and visited by many. A very important part of the village scene.