

Thrupton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Survey – Summary of Responses

The Survey was distributed to the 273 households in Thrupton Parish. A small number of households chose to return more than one Survey in order to express the different attitudes of their occupants and cover all adult age ranges. The data from the 170 (62%) returned Surveys has been collated and analysed. As the rate of response was an excellent 62% the results are considered to represent the views of the whole Parish. The information will be used in the preparation of the NP.

About us

The large majority of residents are Owner Occupiers (86%). A small (4%) section rent from Housing Associations and the remainder are spread evenly in 1% or 2% groups either in shared ownership, living with relatives or renting in one form or another. 11% of Parishioners work in the Parish with the remainder either commuting (54%) or not working/retired (35%). Commuting is not only to the closest centres of employment but to London and elsewhere.

Most valued, disliked and aspired to parish characteristics

Strong themes were clear in the answers to the questions that probed the likes, dislikes and aspirations of Parishioners. Safety, in a rural environment, with a friendly community spirit are the strongest desires of the community. These are closely followed by maintaining an attractive, tranquil and traditional setting that remains affordable. Speeding traffic and traffic noise are the overwhelming features that cause distress. Many would like a village shop/post office.

A shared vision for Thrupton parish in respect of possible future development

97% want to retain a rural feel to the Parish. There was strong support for the four residential areas retaining their physical separation and that the NP should support each of them equally. Strong themes again emerged in relation to what single thing would improve the quality of life/what is lacking at present. These included better traffic management/ speed restrictions, resolving parking issues, a shop, better bus service and noise reducing measures for the A303.

Housing/Development

The thoughts on how many houses could be sustainably built in the Parish ranged from 13% who said "None" to 33% who thought less than 10, 29% less than 25, 16% up to 50 and the remaining 9% thought more than that. Individual plots were seen by 40% as the most appropriate for development with 38% inclined towards small developments of less than 10 houses. There are 18% who believe medium developments of up to 25 houses would be appropriate for meeting the needs of the Parish and a small remainder who think more than that would be appropriate. There is an overwhelming opinion that any development should be spread over the next 15 years.

If development were to occur there is no clear opinion of which area it should be in. There is a clear view that infilling and the re-use of brownfield sites was preferred for any development, rather than extending the existing development boundaries. A sizeable number of Parishioners wanted no housing development (41%). If there were to be any housing development 2-3 bed roomed houses, bungalows and 1-2 bed roomed houses were identified as most needed. Larger houses and flats were seen as being the least required development.

Parishioners think that any future building should be Eco Friendly on a Village Plot. Priorities should be Affordable/Low Cost to rent, Built to Lifetime Homes Standards, Smaller Retirement Housing, Affordable/Shared Ownership and finally Warden Assisted. There was little support for Social Housing and Self Build properties.

Within the next 10 years 47 people currently living in existing households were identified as likely to need alternative accommodation and wishing to remain in the Parish. Small Houses, Flats and Small Family Homes were identified as the requirement targeted at Low Cost/ Affordable/ Shared Ownership.

Those who currently rent properties were evenly split in their wish to own their own property, with the barrier to ownership being the high cost of purchase.

Infrastructure

A large proportion of Parishioners are happy with the electricity and water supplies to their properties and see little/no need for further investment. Conversely roads, pavements and the sewerage/drainage systems are seen as very poor and a priority for investment. Broadband and mobile phone coverage were viewed as being reasonable but the majority consider that further investment is required. Parishioners' views on the need to invest in street lighting were very evenly split across all the options available in the Survey question. 50% of Parishioners support investment for the provision of a gas supply. 73% of the Parish do not wish the NP to support the provision of land for energy production.

Air Quality is of no concern to 69% of the Parish, though those living close to the A303 or other roads may account for the 29% who are concerned.

Business and Local Economy

Businesses are owned or run by 17% of Parishioners and of those 41% have their business in the Parish. Of these 76% recruit staff locally and 89% had difficulty in doing so. Finding premises in the Parish was difficult for 91% of these businesses.

Transport

Cars are the most used transport for 91% of the Parish, 15% walk and 5% use buses. Other modes of transport are used by less than 5% of the population. 41% of Parishioners would like to use buses more, 30% would like to walk more, 21% cycle more and 13% use the trains more. Buses are never used by 65% of Parishioners, 17% hardly ever, 13% occasionally and 6% use them a few times a week or month. A very large proportion of the Parish, 96%, think the NP should support better footpaths (not pavements) to make it safer and easier to get around the Parish on foot.

The Parish's opinion on whether there is a parking problem is split 55% think there is, 45% don't. The speed of traffic and the consequent risk to pedestrians, cyclists and mobility vehicle users are seen as a major problem across the Parish.

Thruxton Parish's Green Spaces, Treasurers and Assets

A large number of green spaces were identified as being important including the green spaces between the settlements, the Mullen's Pond area and the Church and adjacent fields.

Further Information

We will have a stall at the village fete on the 18th June where you can come and view the results in more detail if you would like to. Please come and discuss them with us.

Produced on behalf of Thruxton Parish Council by the Neighbour Hood Plan Sub Committee.