

Thruxton Parish Neighbourhood Plan - Initial Analysis

Introduction

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Household Survey was distributed in March 2016 to the 273 households in Thruxton Parish extending from the Parkhouse Cross area in the west to Daunstey Lane in the east. Some 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 (60%) returned Surveys has been collated and analysed. The results are presented both graphically and in an accompanying narrative below. The narrative reports the information that does not lend itself to graphical presentation, expands on some graphical presentation and takes into account the written comments collated from the Survey. All reported numerical values and percentages are extracted from the Survey results without alteration and, as the rate of response (60%) was excellent, are considered to represent the views of the whole Parish.

A Business Survey has also been issued and the results will be used and presented with the results of the Household Survey in the NP.

Executive Summary

About Us

Most of our Parishioners families have lived here for over 10 years (59%) although there is a significant body (25%) that have lived here for less than 5 years. 89% of Parishioners are over 40 and 45% are over 65. 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.

Only 11% of Parishioners work in the Parish the remainder either commuting (54%) or not working/retired (35%). Commuting is not only to the closest centres of employment but also to London and other distant destinations.

Keeping You Informed

The Thruxton Times is read by 96% of Parishioners, 58% look at the Parish website and 20% at the Facebook group. Nearly two thirds (64%)

of those responding would welcome a presentation on the NP in the Memorial Hall and only 3% didn't want to know.

Most Valued, Disliked and Aspired to Parish Characteristics

Strong themes were clear in the answers to the questions posed in this section and were reflected in other areas of the survey 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, noise and parking are the overwhelming features that cause distress.

A Shared Vision for Thruxton Parish

The community's answers to how they see any possible development in the Parish shaping its future can be seen in the diagrams below. The potential benefits and worries have been set in the order the majority of respondents determined. An overwhelming 97% want to retain a rural feel to the Parish, similarly that the four residential areas should retain 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 and what services or amenities are lacking. Additionally other popular desires were.

Housing/Development

If development were to occur there is no clear cut opinion of which area it should be in, as can be seen from the pie chart below. There is a clear view that infilling and the re-use of brownfield sites was preferred if any development was sanctioned. A sizeable number of Parishioners wanted no housing development (41%). If there was to be any housing development 2-3 bedroomed houses, bungalows and 1-2 bedroomed houses were identified as most needed. Larger houses and flats were seen as being the least required development.

The priorities expressed about the nature of houses need ranged from the most popular being Eco Friendly on a Village Plot followed by Affordable/low Cost to rent, Built to Lifetime Homes Standards, Smaller Retirement Housing, Affordable/Shared Ownership and finally Warden Assisted. The nature of those not seen as being needed were Social Housing and Self Build properties.

Others in Your Household

Within the next 10 years 47 people were identified as likely to need alternative accommodation and they would like to remain in the Parish. Small Houses , Flats and Small Family Homes were identified as the requirement at a Low Cost/Affordable/Shared Ownership level. 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.

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.

Infrastructure

A large proportion of Parishioners are happy with the electricity and water supplies to their properties and see little/no need to spend further money improving these supplies. Conversely roads, pavements and the sewerage/drainage systems are seen as very poor and are perceived as the top candidates for investment.

Broadband and mobile phone coverage were viewed as being reasonable but are still candidates for investment as far as the majority are concerned.

Parishioners’ views on the need to invest in street lightening were very evenly split across all the options available in the Survey question. Gas is not available in large areas of the Parish. Those residents who have a supply believe it to be good but a majority think it worthy of investment after the clear favourites mentioned above.

There is a clear majority view (69%) that no support should be given by the NP to making land available for energy production. A small majority (58%) would support solar energy production. [Opinion: It is possible that there is confusion in the responses between domestic and industrial scale solar energy production.]

Air quality is of no concern to 69% of the Parish. [Opinion: 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 by 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 or not is split, 55% believing there is and 45% that there isn't. Author's note: This may reflect the difference between the residential areas and is worth closer scrutiny to discriminate between them.

The speed of traffic and risk to pedestrians, cyclists and mobility scooter users are seen as the major problems across the Parish. It can be seen from the consideration of each area in the graphical presentation where the detail of concern changes in accordance with the nature of each area.

Other Comments

The above analysis is of the numerical evidence. Written comment was collated on a spreadsheet from Parishioners and other consultees. Every comment from both sources was considered by the Steering Group and appropriate action determined.