

SURVEY AND APPRAISAL COMPARISONS FOR THRUXTON VILLAGE.

A Thruxton Village Appraisal has been undertaken and published in 1981, 1997 and 2009. Members of Thruxton Village devised a social survey for each of the above years and asked questions of Villagers. Some of the questions were repeated in each Appraisal, but reflecting hot topics of the time, each Appraisal contained answers to new questions as well. Please note that these surveys were distributed to residents of Thruxton Village only and other members of the Parish were not consulted at these times. There is no comparative data available for the rest of the Parish over this period. Appraisal questions were different to those of the Neighbourhood Plan Survey of 2016, so direct comparison of answers is difficult. Any comparison below will be with figures from the Village answers to the Neighbourhood Plan Survey alone, and in most cases the general view from previous Appraisals can only be viewed as a general rather than specific comparison.

YEAR	FORMS SENT OUT	FORMS RETURNED	% returned
1981	237	132	56
1997	295	121	41
2009	261	107	41
2016	273	149	60

Previous appraisal comparisons were based on percentages of those that replied. Comparisons with the 2016 NP survey will follow the same pattern, where possible.

POPULATION of Thruxton Village from Census data over the years:

1801	203	1881	321	1961	417
1811	210	1891	332	1971	513
1821	240	1901	311	1981	639
1831	269	1911	288	1991	670
1841	246	1921	334	2001	638
1851	267	1931	297	2008	613 TVBC figure
1861	246	1941	no census	2011	650
1871	303	1951	490		

This data shows that, over time, residency figures in Thruxton Village have showed a general steady increase. Peak population occurred in 1991 at 670, but after a slight decline in 2001, numbers increased again in the 2011 census to 650.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN THRUXTON	1981 Survey %	1997 Survey %	2009 Survey %	2016 NPQ %
Up to 5 years	43	28	24	25
6-16 years	33	36	25	32 –note lived 6-20 years
Over 16 years	24	36	52	31

In 2009 Survey, questions about likes and dislikes about living in Thruxton were asked.

What do you most like about living in Thruxton?	% response	What do you most dislike about living in Thruxton?	% response
Location	38	Community	1
Appearance	30	Appearance	3
Community	17	Proximity to A303	44
Convenience for work including proximity to A303	15	Other	24
		Not answered	28

Questions in the 2016 Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire asked about how Villagers would like to see their Village in 15 years' time. Strong, positive responses were scored in having the aspiration of a safe, traditional, tranquil, friendly and attractive Parish. These sentiments would correlate well with the above positive responses in the 2009 appraisal.

Transport questions from the previous Appraisals asked how far Villagers travelled to work, how long it took to get to work and how many cars in each household. The 2016 Neighbourhood Plan survey asked how many Villagers used the bus –only 0.04% used the bus regularly, but 41% said they would like to use the bus more often.

Do you use the bus service?	1997 - %	2009 - %	2016 - %
Regularly	6	17	0.04
Occasionally	19	1	20
Never	74	80	63
Not answered	1	2	16.96

The Thruxton Times and Village Hall

Previous Appraisals asked “Do you find the Thruxton Times Interesting?” with a substantial majority indicating enduring interest in the publication. In the 2016 Neighbourhood Plan survey 95% continued to read the publication, once more indicating a significant proportion of Villagers being readers and therefore a continuing excellent way of promulgating local news and information. Although no specific questions were asked about the Village Hall facility in the 2016 Neighbourhood Plan Survey, written comments about it were received and was certainly seen as a very positive asset but there were a few repeated comments that it needed to be more affordable and user friendly, reflecting in many ways the comments from the 2009 Appraisal; “improving the heating in winter, reducing rental charges for Villagers, a youth club and an external notice board.”

Is the Village Hall adequate for village activities?	1981 % response	1997 % response	2009 % response
Yes	79	49	72
No (or barely)	9	26	4
Don't know	9	3	22
Not answered	3	22	2

Additional Housing

In 1997 and 2009 the following question was asked: Would you like to see limited additional housing in the village? (See table of results below). In 1997, 28% of those who answered would be happy to see more houses but with a ratio of 2:1 against, 57% thought "enough was enough". However in 2009, 46% of Villagers would be happy to see limited additional housing with reservations (but not clear what these reservations were from the paperwork examined by the author). Questions regarding development were asked in the Neighbourhood Plan Survey 2016 but in different formats, so it is difficult to compare current views with those of past Appraisals.

"Would you like to see additional housing in the Village?"	1997 % response	2009 % response
Yes (with reservations)	28	46
No	57	44
Not answered	15	1

The Village Green

No specific questions were framed about the Village Green in the 2016 Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire. Previous appraisals have asked about The Green's use, partly due to the expiry of the 20 year period in August 1998 when the Church no longer had the absolute right to repurchase the Green should any of the covenant conditions be broken, and partly because of then strong feelings about the Green status quo being altered by the proposal to site a children's playground on it.

Do you use the Village Green?	1981 % response	1997 % response	2009 % response
Regularly	16	9	22
Occasionally	48	31	0
Never	29	52	56
Not answered	7	8	22

Footpaths

Previous appraisals have indicated an increasing use of local footpaths over time, with the paths from Stanbury Close to Fyfield and Mullensponds to Fyfield being the most popularly used. In the 2016 Neighbourhood Plan survey the question was asked regarding the creation of better footpaths and 91% were in favour of such an idea, demonstrating a continued positive interest in local footpaths over time.

Do you use the Parish footpaths?	1981 % response	1997 % response	2009 % response
Regularly	28	17	43
Occasionally	46	40	43
Never	20	26	12
Not answered	6	17	2

Internet access

Internet access was asked about for the first time in 2009, but no specific questions about broadband coverage were asked. Direct comparison with the broadband infrastructure question asked in the NP survey is not applicable.

Traffic

Traffic has been, and continues to be, an enduring emotive subject amongst the residents of Thruxton Village. The 1981 appraisal focused on the imminent rerouting of the A303, but this notwithstanding, volume and speed of traffic through the Village was of serious concern then too. Some 1981 comments included, “ Three facts emerged as being the most significant – these were: Road too narrow for the amount and speed of traffic through the winding village, car parking at critical points along the village street and areas of obscured vision for motorists.”

Speed of vehicles and HGVs driving through the village were the greatest causes of concern in 2009. Although the questions phrased in the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire were phrased differently, the overwhelming concerns remained those of inappropriate speed, size and volume of traffic in the Village, with inconsiderate parking and road layout being a cause of concern for pedestrian and road user safety.

Do you have a problem with traffic in the Village?	1997 % response	2009 % response
Yes	70	51
No	12	40
Don't know	0	3
Not answered	18	6

Conclusions

Direct comparison between previous Thruxton Village Appraisals and the 2016 Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire (NPQ) are not possible due to different questions being asked. However, responses to similar styled questions to indicate there are enduring themes within the community. The 2016 NPQ had a better response rate in the Village to previous appraisals, with a Village population today greater than the 1981 and 2009 population, and only slightly smaller than the 1997 population. Similar proportions of the population living up to 5 years in the Village seem to remain stable, but more appear to have lived in the Village from 6-20 years, and less living in the Village for over 16 years.

The rural, small and tight knit community feel of the Village make recurring positive themes in why people wish to live here over time. The readership of the Thruxton Times appears to remain healthy and well the publication well received. There is a continuing, generally positive view of the local amenity that is the Village Hall, and although no specific question regarding the Village Green was phrased in the 2016 NPQ, verbal comments would support the view that this open space remains enjoyed by many. Use of local bus services have declined.

Footpaths continue to be favoured by locals and traffic speed, volume and parking appear to be problems that remain undiminished over time by locals in Thruxton Village.