

THURTON PARISH PLAN



2006

CONTENTS

Foreword from Jan Whitehouse - Chair of Thurton Parish Plan Committee	1
Introduction.....	2
About the Village	3
Creating Thurton's Parish Plan - methodology	11
Creating Thurton's Parish Plan - responses	12
Thurton Parish Plan Findings/Action Plan	13
• Environment	14
• Traffic and Transport	16
• Housing	19
• Health and Social Care.....	20
• Crime and Community Safety.....	21
• Employment	22
• Local Services	23
• Community/Social Organisations/Education.....	25
• Views of Young People	29
Acknowledgements	31
Appendices 1 The Planning Framework.....	32
2 Village Groups in Thurton	33

Information available on request

- 1 Thurton Parish Plan Questionnaire
- 2 Results from questionnaire

FOREWORD

'We need a plan so that we know what parishioners want. We can then set goals and use the information within the plan to work with other authorities to give you what you need.'

From the Parish Council Newsletter – December 2005

This in a nutshell explains what the Parish Plan Committee have been working towards since it was formed in November 2003. It has been an interesting journey exploring with yourselves how Thurton as a village is regarded- 'A good place to live – but we can make it better'

All the specific acknowledgements are at the end of the Parish Plan but I wish to record my heartfelt thanks for all their hard work to the committee and to everyone who took the time and trouble to complete the questionnaires. Without that we would have no plan!

Jan Whitehouse

Chair

Thurton Parish Plan Committee

April 2006

INTRODUCTION

Thurton Parish Plan was developed on behalf of Thurton Parish Council by a group of Thurton residents and Parish Councillors, following widespread consultation of villagers in 2005.

Parish Councils have been asked by the Government to create Parish Plans as a way of engaging local people in decisions, which affect where they live. The findings in Thurton's Parish Plan will be used by South Norfolk Council, Norfolk County Council and other agencies to help them to understand the priorities and needs of people living in Thurton.

Thurton's Parish Plan may be used, for example, to demonstrate what villagers feel about future housing development or priorities for traffic improvements. It may also be used to support bids to fund local projects.

Perhaps most importantly the comments and ideas, which villagers made, have provided Thurton with a rich agenda of actions. Thurton Parish Council, and we hope lots of other local volunteers, can take these forward to improve the quality of life in Thurton for all of us.

Thurton Parish Council

Thurton Parish Council meets every other month at Ashby and Thurton Village Hall. The Parish Council also organises the Annual Parish meeting. The press and villagers are welcome at all meetings. Dates of meetings, agendas and minutes are displayed on the village noticeboard and on www.eastspace.net/Thurton. A short newsletter is produced periodically and delivered to all households.

The Parish Council has 7 members and is serviced by a part time clerk. It deals with a wide range of local issues, including consulting neighbours and advising South Norfolk Council on the merits of planning applications in Thurton. Our District and County Councillors attend most Parish Council meetings to ensure effective two way communication between the various tiers of local government. On occasions a police officer will attend the meeting to report on police issues and discuss any local concerns.

Thurton Parish Council is currently working towards achieving Quality Parish Council Status.

ABOUT THE VILLAGE

History of Thurton

Thurton is written 'Tortuna' in the Domesday Book. The prefix is probably an Anglo-Saxon name and the suffix is the Anglo-Saxon 'tun', meaning an enclosed space. Local people refer to the original name as meaning 'the place of the thorn bush.' The Domesday Book records Roger Bigot as being granted the rights of the land. In the reign of Richard I, Robert de Gryps was lord. In 1347 the Abbot of Langley retained interests in



Thurton Village Sign
- David Buxton

Thurton and at the Dissolution, manorial right was passed to Thomas Godsolve. This was subsequently passed down to the Beauchamp family of Langley.

In 1707 a tumuli barrow, north of The Street, was opened and several Roman coins of Gallienus, Victorinus, Tetricus and Quintillus were discovered. It is thought the village was on the Roman route from Burgh Castle (Gariannonum) to Caistor St Edmund (Venta Icenorum). A Romano-Iceni battle allegedly took place nearby at Whiteheath. Other finds in Thurton include a prehistoric polished flint axe, a Neolithic stone axehead and a prehistoric copper alloy axe. These are held in the Castle Museum in Norwich. In 1848 a proof goat of Edward I, mounted as a brooch, was found. A 17th Century stoneware jar was discovered in 1966. This is also retained at the Castle Museum.

When the commons were enclosed in 1801 the income from Fuel Allotment of approximately 6 acres of land was awarded for the relief of the poor in Thurton. Thomas Spooner also left 20 shillings a year for the poor in 1630. These two charities are still active and benefit the community and are administered by a panel of trustees. In 1801 the population of Thurton was shown as 164, by 1901 the population had grown to 209 inhabitants and by the 2001 census this had grown to 568.

Thurton Today

Location

The village of Thurton is situated in South Norfolk eight and a half miles south east of Norwich, on the main A146 Norwich to Lowestoft Road. The A146 cuts through the village and effectively divides it in two.

Thurton has close community links with the adjoining parishes of Ashby St Mary and Bergh Apton and is approximately three miles from the small market town of Loddon and nine miles from the Suffolk town of

Beccles, both of which offer a range of shopping outlets, leisure facilities and services. Norwich offers the largest cultural, shopping, leisure and employment opportunities in Norfolk.



Approaching "Thurton Dip"
- Angie Broadberry



Countryside around Thurton
- Angie Broadberry

The parish of Thurton covers an area of 318 hectares. Thurton is surrounded by fertile agricultural farmland mainly growing cereal crops and sugar beet. In Thurton there is some mixed farming with beef cattle and pigs being reared, but no dairy farming. There is also some small-scale horticulture and market gardening.

Thurton Residents

The latest census figures (2001) provide the most recent breakdown of villager numbers. The population was 568, inhabiting 221 households. Of these 127 residents were over the age of 60 years (64 males and 63 females). 118 residents were 19 years and under (68 males and 50 females) 286 adults were economically active (218 employed, 49 self-employed, 12 unemployed and 7 full time students).143 residents were economically inactive, (72 retired, 29 caring for home and family, 18 permanently sick and disabled, 9 students and 15 in other categories).

Businesses and Services

Present day Thurton enjoys a mixture of domestic, work-based, agricultural and leisure activities. In the centre of Thurton there is an industrial area, which houses Thurton Foundries and ironcraft showroom. There are agricultural engineering workshops and small business/warehouse units, a car sales outlet and vehicle servicing units. Since the closure (in the last 15 years) of the village shop, post office, garage and filling station residents now have to travel to Bergh Apton or Loddon for these services. The nearest doctors surgery, dentist, optician, chemist, veterinary service and library are also situated in Loddon. The mobile library and mobile police unit visit once a month and a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is in operation.

Pub



Business in the centre of Thurton
- Angie Broadberry

The George and Dragon Public House, situated near to the centre of the village, is one of Thurton's oldest buildings, with some parts reputed to be over 400 years old. The pub serves speciality ales, morning coffee, lunchtime and evening meals. Teams for pool, darts and table tennis meet and compete at the George and Dragon on a regular basis and the pub sponsors the newly re-formed village football team. The pub also hosts the village's annual St George's Day celebrations,

when members of the local community come together for a day of fund raising and social activities. One of the pub's two car parks has planning permission to build two dwellings.

School

In the centre of Thurton, adjacent to the main road, is the thriving Thurton Primary School. It has 90 pupils (boys and girls), between 4-11 years of age, and attracts children from Thurton, Ashby St Mary, Chedgrave, Heckingham and Loddon. The original Victorian building erected in 1868, mainly financed by Sir T W B Proctor-Beauchamp, is made of flint and brick. New buildings were added in 1970 to accommodate a rise in numbers due to village growth but, in the 1980s, when the number of pupils dropped by 42, the school was threatened with



Thurton Primary School
- Angie Broadberry

closure. However, village residents successfully lobbied to keep the school open. Two mobile classrooms were installed in 1998 and 2001 to accommodate further increases in the number of pupils attending this popular and successful school. Plans to build a new school on the present site are now being discussed.

The nearest middle and high schools are situated in Loddon. There is no nursery provision at Thurton Primary School but Thurton Pre-School Group provides learning and play for 2-4 year olds at the Village Hall on a daily basis.

Ashby and Thurton Village Hall & Playing Field

The Village Hall is located within a large playing field, which has a children's playground area and a football pitch. An elected Committee of Trustees, under the auspices of the Charity Commissioners, maintains and manages the Village Hall and Playing Field facilities.



Ashby and Thurton Village Hall play area
- Angie Broadberry

These are held in trust on behalf of the residents

of Thurton and Ashby St Mary. Local community groups use the Village Hall and Playing Field on a regular basis and consequently the premises are in use virtually every day and evening. In addition private functions are also held at the Village Hall and these average 15 per year.



Ashby and Thurton Village Hall
- Angie Broadberry

Community activities and clubs

There is a high level of community activity in Thurton. Appendix 2 lists current clubs and societies. Sporting activities include 4 darts teams, pool, short mat bowling, table tennis, football and dance.

The local church runs several clubs and activities for children and young people throughout the year. There is no independent Youth Club provision for older teenagers. However there are Mother and Toddler and Preschool groups. Thurton Ashby & District WI is very active, as is the All Welcome Group which organises a wide range of arts and cultural events at Ashby and Thurton Village Hall.

St Ethelberts Church

There are Sunday services in Thurton Church and youth and children's groups are held in the village hall. In 2004 the equivalent of half the population of Thurton attended at Christmas and along with baptisms, weddings and funerals the church building is still serving the community as a focus for worship as it has done for over 800 years.



St Ethelberts Church
- Angie Broadberry

The churchyard is well tended and regularly managed to conserve and promote a diversity of flora and wildlife throughout the seasons of the year. The dedicated effort and enthusiasm of a small band of volunteers has resulted in the winning of several awards for churchyard conservation and wildlife preservation.

Thurton Parish Church stands on a gently sloping hillside, which overlooks the centre of the village, and is dedicated to St Ethelbert. The Thurton Benefice is one of the Bramerton Group of churches within the Loddon Deanery in the Diocese of Norwich. The Church, which was built in the 12th Century on a Saxon site and is a Grade 1 listed building, is mentioned in the Domesday Book with records dating back to 1586. Some restoration took place in 1899 when a pavement was found about three feet below the level of the nave, this may have been part of a much older building, possibly Saxon.

The square embattled tower is hung with three bells. The treble bell is thought to have been cast by Edward Tooke of Norwich (circa 1680-1700). The second bell is medieval and was cast by Brasyer of Norwich. It is inscribed and is of excellent quality. There is reference to this bell in 1514 when a bequest was made to the 'steeple and bell'. The tenor bell is also by Brasyer and probably recast by William Brend of Norwich. It is inscribed Anno Domini 1630. Fund raising to restore and re-hang the bells, which have been silent for some time, is almost complete.

St Ethelbert's Church has a fine Norman carved arched doorway, 14th-16th century medieval wall paintings and an abundance of stained glass windows, some reputed to have originated from Rouen Cathedral at the time of the French Revolution and donated by the Beauchamp family of Langley Hall. Some fine 15th century roundel glass is probably from the refectory of Langley Abbey and the more recent west window glass painting is attributed to Robert Allen (1745-1835), renowned for the manufacture and decoration of Lowestoft Porcelain. Some of

the church silver is Pre-Reformation and is considered to be very fine.

Thurton's flint and brickwork church boasts a thatched roof, which has recently been repaired and re-thatched at a cost of about £59,000. Some of the recently exposed roof timbers show the original pegging and are believed to be centuries old. The roof repairs and re-thatching costs have been met by grant aid and local funds. Grants were obtained from English Heritage, Norfolk Churches Trust, The Listed Places of Worship Trust and The Historic Churches Preservation Trust. Fundraising activities led by The Friends of Thurton Church produced £19,000. The Thurton Parochial Church Council provided £3,345 and a £5,000 legacy was received from the estate of Mr G.G. Cannell.

Natural environment

There are several well-established hedges and large old trees in Thurton but, according to South Norfolk Council, there are no active Tree Preservation Orders at present. The Parish Council and Tree Wardens over the years have planted a large number of trees and hedging. Hydrology is important in Thurton. The upkeep of the watercourses and natural springs in Thurton is essential as they support a rich wildlife and feed into Ducan's Marsh (a Site of Special Scientific Interest) downstream of Carlton Beck. The meadow adjacent to the Street and Cookes Road has been designated as a Great Crested Newt habitat.



The Duck Pond
- Angie Broadberry

Transport and Communications

The nearest national rail and bus links are in Norwich and Lowestoft. The closest national and international air links are from Norwich International Airport. The Thurton community is served by a regular bus service (half hourly on weekdays and every two hours on Sundays), which operates between Norwich and Lowestoft, via Loddon and Beccles. Travelling or commuting into Norwich is relatively easy from Thurton. Park and Ride facilities are available via the A47 at Harford and Postwick. The Thurton telephone exchange is enabled for Broadband.

A146

In the early 1960s the main A146 Norwich to Lowestoft road was widened and re-aligned which exacerbated the division of Thurton by the highway. Today the primary school, the

village hall and playing field are located on the north side of the main road and the pub, church, foundry and industrial units are located on the south side. The Parish Council successfully

lobbied for and secured a reduction in the speed limit and the installation of a speed camera, as well as the implementation of other traffic calming initiatives. However the road continues to cause considerable concern for pedestrians, especially for school children and the elderly, when attempting to cross this busy road. The division of the village, by the road and capacity of the junctions, has resulted in the majority of all recent housing developments within Thurton being concentrated north of the A146.



Ashby Road junction onto A146
- Angie Broadberry

Housing

In recent years additional housing has been successfully incorporated into the village by way of one small-scale estate development and infilling. The housing stock is predominantly private sector owner-occupied, comprising of houses and bungalows, most of which are post war and are situated on the North side of the A146. There are also some ex local authority houses and elderly people's bungalows. The properties on the South side of the A146 include older dwellings some of which are terraces.

Notable Buildings

Listed buildings in Thurton include St Ethelbert's Church (12th Century), Thurton Hall (17th Century), The Old Vicarage (18th Century), High House (17th Century), the two Thurton/Langley Gate Lodges by Sir John Soane (circa 1785). Other buildings of importance

include The George and

Dragon Public House, the former Red Lion Public House, Thurton Primary School and School House, Manor Farm Cottage, Garden House, High Houses, Foundry Cottages, Vale Farm buildings, Valley Cottages and the award winning St Ethelbert's Close by Tayler and Green (1949).

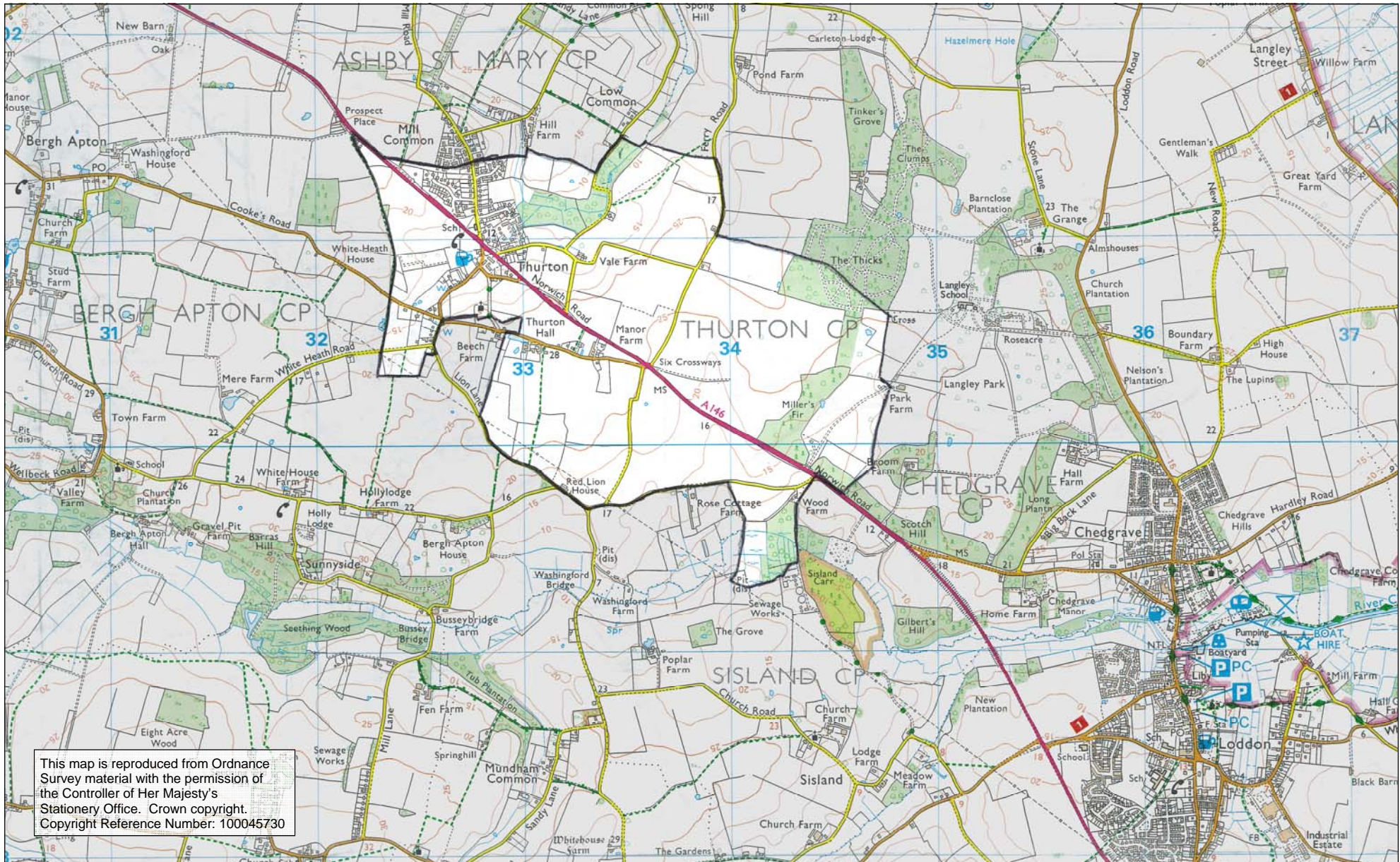


Thurton Hall
- Angie Broadberry



Langley Gates, Thurton
- Angie Broadberry

A Good Place to Live — The Thurton Parish Plan Questionnaire responses confirm that Thurton is a good place to live. Access to both the countryside and towns/city is considered important and the community spirit, tranquillity and a sense of belonging are highly valued.



CREATING THURTON'S PARISH PLAN-METHODOLOGY

Stage 1

Thurton Parish Council obtained funding from the Countryside Agency and a small grant and advice from South Norfolk Council.

Stage 2

A group of volunteers and Parish Councillors set up the Parish Plan Committee. and organised an Open day on 13 November 2004 in Ashby and Thurton Village Hall. This enabled Thurton villagers to:

- find out why a Parish Plan was considered necessary
- discover what creating a plan would entail
- volunteer to help develop the Parish Plan
- voice their opinions on what the plan should contain

Thurton Parish Plan Questionnaire was created using examples of other Parish Plans and questionnaires and 'Village Appraisal' software. This was delivered to all households in February 2005. A separate questionnaire was designed and circulated for young people (11-18 years) to complete.



Parish Plan Open Day
- Chris Popplewell

Stage 3

The Parish Plan Committee collated and analysed the results of the questionnaire and organised a public meeting on the evening of 8 July 2005 to present the findings and to consult villagers on the actions we would like to include in Thurton's Parish Plan. South Norfolk Council's Community Worker organised the consultation and villagers worked in groups to identify actions around the themes of:

- *Environment
- *Housing/other developments
- *Local amenities/facilities
- *Transport and traffic.

Stage 4

The Parish Plan Committee wrote Thurton's Parish Plan and organised its publication and distribution in Spring 2006.

CREATING THURTON'S PARISH PLAN - RESPONSES

176 questionnaires were completed representing a very good response rate of 72%. In most cases one questionnaire was completed per household. Not all respondents completed all sections of the questionnaire, therefore the Findings/Action Plan shows the number of respondents to individual questions rather than percentages.

The ages and numbers of people living in the households of respondents were:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>
0-4	25
5-10	34
11-15	30
16-17	16
18-24	17
25-44	88
45-59	101
60-64	45
65-74	53
75-84	20
85+	1
Not disclosed	2

Respondents thought that the most important things about living in Thurton were access to towns /city and to the countryside and tranquillity.

In addition there were 28 responses to the Young People's Questionnaire of which 14 were male and 14 were female.

Their ages were:	11-13 years	9
	14-16	13
	17-18	6

The main issues for young people were transport and access to leisure.

THURTON PARISH PLAN FINDINGS AND ACTIONS

The findings from the questionnaire and consultation events have been listed under the headings:

- Environment
- Traffic and Transport
- Housing
- Health and Social Care
- Crime and Community Safety
- Employment
- Local Services
- Community/Social Organisations/Education
- Views of young people.

Suggested actions are drawn from the ideas and recommendations made by the villagers and the Parish Plan Committee.

In some instances an organisation is identified to take forward an action plan. In other cases we are looking for 'self help' – volunteers to come forward to tackle these issues. The Parish Plan Committee will be actively seeking more volunteers to help take forward many of these actions.

This action plan can and will be added to as Thurton changes and the Parish Council will ensure that further consultations take place. Copies of the questionnaire and full analysis of responses are available from the clerk to Thurton Parish Council.

ENVIRONMENT

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Protecting the local environment.	<p>Priorities for the 153 respondents were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurton Recycling amenity (139 respondents). • Reduce traffic (125 respondents) • Provide more litter and dog bins (121 and 120 respondents respectively) • Use renewable energy (113 respondents). <p>Free garden refuse collection service. This was not referred to in questionnaire but has since been requested.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household recycling collection has been introduced. Bottle bank to be retained until glass can be included in collections. • Promote use of public transport (see Traffic and Transport) • Investigate possibility of providing more bins and signs in suitable locations. • Get further info about renewable energy and energy efficiency and publicise e.g. grants. • Explore options for garden refuse collections or community composting. 	<p>Thurton Parish Council</p> <p>Thurton Parish Council</p> <p>Thurton Parish Council</p> <p>Parish Plan Committee</p> <p>Parish Plan Committee South Norfolk Council and other possible funders.</p>

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Improving the local environment and protecting natural habitats.	<p>Out of 147 respondents, 140 thought that clearing litter and rubbish would improve the environment. 127 favoured planting hedges and trees.</p> <p>112 favoured keeping hedges and verges short but concerns expressed over the effects of mowing on wildlife.</p> <p>42 people would be willing to help protect wildlife habitats. Others would be willing to help survey/maintain and plant trees and hedges; collect litter; clear ponds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach District Council to ask for better services. • Organise volunteers to undertake “litter picks” including on playing field. • Seek advice from Norfolk County Council re mowing times. • If verges are left uncut for wildlife habitats then use signage to explain. • Seek advice from wildlife protection. • Draw up a list of potential volunteers and form project group (as above). 	<p>Thurton Parish Council Parish Plan Committee</p> <p>Thurton Parish Council, Norfolk County Council</p> <p>Parish Plan Committee, Tree Warden</p>
Air Pollution	Out of 138 people who responded to this question, 56 respondents had concerns about air pollution. This included traffic, bonfires and Thurton Foundry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby the electricity suppliers and seek grants to upgrade the electricity supply to support Thurton Foundry in its desire to modernise its processes. • Publicise/educate residents re when to light bonfires. 	<p>Thurton Foundry and Thurton Parish Council.</p> <p>Thurton Parish Council</p>
Mobile Phone Mast	76 respondents had concerns about the location of the mobile phone mast.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current action proposed because group, which had protested against the mast, concluded that there was no scope for further opposition. Vigilance to be maintained to ensure mobilisation against any future applications to site masts in the area. 	Thurton Parish Council
Obstructions on Public footpaths and bridleways.	Out of 90 respondents 48 had experienced difficulties with natural obstructions (such as crops) across paths and 17 people had encountered man-made obstructions, such as barbed wire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage villagers to report obstructions on footpaths to Parish Council, who will make representations to Landowners. 	Thurton Parish Council
Improving minor roads, lanes and paths.	Out of 158 respondents 92 were in favour of non-light polluting streetlights, north of the A146	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish whether funding might be available to install non-light polluting streetlights, if so consult with Ashby Road residents. 	Thurton Parish Council

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
<p>Use of public transport/ improvements to the transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Travel to work.</p>	<p>Many people use scheduled bus, train, taxi, Norwich Park and Ride and long distance coach travel on a monthly basis. 60 people use the local bus service often or occasionally for social or leisure visits and 81 for shopping. 18 Students use the school bus on a daily basis.</p> <p>91 out of 110 respondents drive to work.</p> <p>Respondents would like to see improvements to the current bus service, such as reduced fares, a more reliable service, easy access buses for young/old/disabled, provision of timetables and additional routes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage better use of public bus service, including journeys to work. Put bus timetable information on the Thurton Parish Council website and on local notice boards, to encourage people to use public transport • Continue to deliver bus timetable updates to all households. • Publicise Norwich and Norfolk's Lift Sharing Service Tel: 08700 111199 or www.carshare.to). • Pursue improvements needed to the bus service. 	<p>Thurton Parish Council</p> <p>Thurton Parish Council</p> <p>Thurton Parish Council</p> <p>Thurton Parish Council</p>

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Pedestrian safety	<p>There were 139 respondents to the question asking what measures Thurton needed to make it a safer place for pedestrians. The most popular measures were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install a pedestrian crossing on the A146 (86 respondents) • Improve footpath safety on the A146 (67 respondents) • Greater police presence (67 respondents) • Lighting of roads and paths (52 respondents). • Safer routes to school (41 respondents) • Better consultation between police and locals (40 respondents). 	<p>Investigate options for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School drop off/pick up e.g. in/out pull in, in new school proposals. • Pedestrian crossing opposite the school gates on Ashby Road • Pedestrian crossing on A146 and possibility of lollipop person at key times (e.g. start and end of school). • Creating a safer route to school/ village hall – perhaps pathway from Vale Road, around the back of The Meadows to village hall and playing field. • Erection of barriers to protect pedestrians on A146 (as in City Centre) 	Norfolk County Council, Thurton Parish Council
Safety at traffic junctions.	<p>There is considerable concern about vehicle access onto the A146, and access from the A146 onto minor roads, especially regarding junctions at Ashby Road (84 respondents out of 128) and Vale Road (49 respondents).</p>	<p>Investigate feasibility of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini roundabout • Junction improvements 	Norfolk County Council, Thurton Parish Council.

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Safety concerns with speeding traffic on A146.	<p>Speeding on the A146 was considered a problem by 60 out of 149 respondents.</p> <p>A number of speed control measures were suggested. Including a flashing speed sign, traffic calming, lower speed limits and more warning signs. The most popular were: a flashing speed sign and lower speed limits. Regarding the flashing speed sign, it has since been explained by Norfolk County Council that it would be expensive to buy and if such a sign were installed this might result in losing the speed camera.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced speed limit to 30mph. • Press for the speed camera to operate more frequently (i.e. to have a film in it and for offenders to be prosecuted). Explore potential for coverage of both sides of A146. • Examine the safety of the junction of Hall Road and A146, consider a ban on right turn onto the A146 due to concerns about speed and limited visibility. 	Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Constabulary, Thurton Parish Council.
Safety concerns with speeding traffic on minor roads in Thurton.	83 out of 157 respondents thought that speeding on all minor roads was a problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install traffic calming • Reduce speed limit to 20 mph 	Norfolk County Council, Thurton Parish Council.

HOUSING (The Planning guidelines for development in Thurton are explained in Appendix 1)

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Housing development	<p>New housing - 106 people said that Thurton did not need new housing and that it would spoil the environment. 26 people wanted new housing. Only 6 people thought it would improve the environment.</p> <p>If new housing were to be built the greatest support (45 people) was for affordable housing, mainly in small family homes.</p> <p>The preferred types of new housing were; conversion of redundant buildings (49 people); single dwellings (38 people) and small groups of less than 10 dwellings (25 people)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Villagers views to be voiced when considering planning applications and revising the planning framework. • Further investigation to see if there is an unmet demand for affordable housing. 	Thurton Parish Council, South Norfolk Council.

CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Crime and anti-social behaviour	<p>The main areas of concern (out of 101 respondents) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft from gardens and outbuildings (74 respondents) • Burglary (70 respondents) • Vandalism (50 respondents) <p>The areas of least concern were drunkenness and drug abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascertain actual numbers of crimes reported and compare with concern expressed, to see if perceptions of crime are accurate. Publicise results. 	<p>Thurton Parish Council Norfolk Constabulary</p>
Police coverage in Thurton	<p>Out of 147 respondents most thought that police coverage in Thurton was reasonable or poor (71 respondents in each category). Only three people thought that it was good.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss these views with the Police and publicise what actual coverage is provided. 	<p>Thurton Parish Council Norfolk Constabulary</p>
Awareness of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Thurton	<p>93 out of 156 respondents were aware of the scheme. 37 people were unaware of the scheme. 26 people said that they would like further information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Police and Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. Agree actions to make people more aware of the scheme. 	<p>Norfolk Constabulary Thurton Parish Council</p>

EMPLOYMENT

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Finding employment.	Most respondents found out about jobs from the local press, the Job Centre and word of mouth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at possibilities to advertise job vacancies in Thurton eg. Thurton Parish website links. 	Thurton Parish Council
Barriers to taking up employment	Only 18 people answered this question and of those 13 did not specify what the barriers were.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further investigation required. 	Thurton Parish Council, South Norfolk Council
Development of the Thurton economy	<p>This was not referred to in the questionnaire but is considered an important issue for the long-term future of the village. (Thurton can urge various bodies to encourage local employment and learning).</p> <p>South Norfolk's Alliance Programme of Action 2005/06 objectives include: developing the economy in rural villages, improving the availability of good jobs and the ability of local people to get them, and promoting learning to enhance the skills of the workforce.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify small businesses based in Thurton and find out what would help them grow. • Promote existing businesses in Thurton. • Advertise learning opportunities on village notice board, Thurton website and proposed newsletter. • Support the improvement of business opportunities and facilities locally and encourage sharing of existing business premises. 	South Norfolk Council, Norfolk County Council. Thurton Parish Council

LOCAL SERVICES

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Need for a Shop, Petrol Station/ Garage, Post Office and Cash machine in Thurton	<p>If a shop opened in Thurton 158 out of 161 respondents would use it, 42 would use it on a daily basis and 86 would use it on a weekly basis. Similarly if a Post Office opened in Thurton 158 respondents would use it and 102 would use it on a weekly basis and 9 would use it on a daily basis.</p> <p>If a petrol station/garage were to re-open in Thurton almost half of the 143 respondents would use it weekly and only 8 respondents would never use it.</p> <p>If a cash machine was available in Thurton most respondents would use it – only 31 out of 147 respondents would never use it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate feasibility of shop etc including availability of sites/premises, grants and possibility of a cooperative community venture. Bring opportunity to the attention of local businesses. 	<p>Parish Plan Committee</p> <p>Parish Plan Committee</p>
George & Dragon Public House	This was not referred to in the questionnaire, but comments were received, it is considered to be a valuable community asset and a focus for the social life of the village. It is the only remaining pub in Thurton and surrounding villages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The village has successfully campaigned once to save the pub from de licensing and sale as a private dwelling. Villagers should be encouraged to use it and to help secure its future. 	Thurton Parish Council
Standard of environmental services in Thurton.	Most thought that water and electricity supplies and refuse collection services were good. However 46 out of 159 respondents thought that snow clearance and gritting was poor and 36 respondents thought that the disposal of hedgerow cuttings was poor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify standards for snow clearing/gritting and disposal of hedge trimmings. 	Norfolk County Council Highways Department Thurton Parish Council

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Connection to mains gas supply.	27 out of 48 respondents said that they would like to be connected to mains gas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate possibility of extending the supply south of A146. 	Thurton Parish Council.
Postal service	Areas of concern were the number of collections, the collection of undelivered parcels, the size of post boxes – too small to take large/ bulky envelopes and post deliveries left sticking out of letter boxes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss with the Post Office about the possibility of replacing the post box in Ashby Road for one with a larger opening. Discuss with Post office post person leaving letterboxes open to elements; post getting wet in rain/loss of heating/ security implications and leaving gates open. 	Thurton Parish Council.

COMMUNITY/SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS/EDUCATION

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Additional facilities at Thurton School	<p>53 respondents suggested a wide range of additional facilities, the most popular were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall for sports/meetings/general use (8 respondents). • Improved parking (6 respondents) • Sports for children (6 respondents) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support proposals for replacements of Thurton School incorporating improvements where possible. 	<p>Norfolk County Council Thurton Primary School Governors.</p>
Non-participation in after school activities by children under 16 years.	<p>Only 12 respondents replied to this question. Reasons given for why children were unable to participate were: lack of transport, expense, distance between home and school and special needs not catered for.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise issues with Norfolk County Council Education Service. 	<p>Thurton Parish Council.</p>
Additional facilities required.	<p>Respondents would like to see: more activities for young people (28 out of 40 respondents), activities for seniors (14 respondents), provision of after school clubs (12 respondents) and holiday play schemes (12 respondents).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise needs with Norfolk County Council Education/Children's Service. • Investigate opportunities for voluntary activity to meet needs. 	<p>Thurton Parish Council. Parish Plan Committee,</p>
Village Hall usage	<p>126 respondents use the hall; 30 use it at least weekly, 18 monthly and 78 occasionally. 32 respondents never use it. In addition to regular lettings to "user groups", the village hall is hired for private functions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicise activities at the village hall more effectively in proposed newsletter and Eleven Says. 	<p>Ashby & Thurton Village Hall Committee.</p>

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Provision of additional facilities at the Village Hall/ playing field.	38 respondents would like to see additional facilities at the Village Hall/ playing field. Of these 12 would like to see improvements made to the play area i.e. provide new play equipment such as a roundabout and see-saw, install benches, and cordon the area off from dogs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashby and Thurton Village Hall Management Committee currently consulting user groups • Action Plan for improvements to be implemented. 	Ashby and Thurton Village Hall Management Committee.
Classes in the Village Hall	People were asked what classes they would be interested in attending at the village hall, if available. The response was good – 59 out of 105 people would like to gain IT/PC skills, 44 arts and crafts, and 33 local history. Other subjects favoured were: flower arranging, photography, languages, and woodwork.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile a list of interested participants and investigate viability of setting up classes. • Publicise availability of classes in Loddon and neighbouring villages. 	Parish Plan Committee.
Sports provision.	People were asked what sports they would be interested in attending if available in Thurton. The most popular choices, out of 97 respondents, were: swimming (56), fitness training (41) and badminton (32). Other favoured activities were: football, bowls, tennis, badminton, snooker, and netball.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact volunteers (20) who said they would be prepared to help organise and run sports activities and explore viability. • Publicise sports facilities and clubs in the area e.g. in a newsletter. 	Parish Plan Committee
Special interest clubs	Respondents were asked what clubs they would support if available. There was a good response and demand (in theory) for a wide range of special interest clubs/ groups - such as gardening, cooking, book group, rambling, bingo and art. 37 respondents also said that they would support village social functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact volunteers (20) who said they would be prepared to help organise and run clubs/groups and explore viability • Publicise existing clubs and groups in the area e.g. newsletter. • Support and publicise confirmed programme of cultural events. 	Parish Plan Committee. Parish Plan Committee. All Welcome Group.

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Participation in existing leisure activities.	<p>People were asked to specify why they didn't participate in leisure activities that are currently provided. Reasons given were inconvenient times, lack of awareness, lack of interest. 21 people thought that the amount of information available about what's going on in Thurton was poor.</p> <p>Most people find out about village events from the <i>Eleven Says</i> publication, word of mouth and, to a lesser extent, councillors updates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate possibility of producing a newsletter. A range of suggested actions throughout this plan require better communication about Local Services. 26 people said that they would be prepared to help, in some way, with compiling or distributing a newsletter. 	Thurton Parish Council. Parish Plan Committee.
Wider use of Thurton Church for Social/Cultural activities.	Poor toilet facilities were seen as a restriction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities for improving facilities at the church. 	Thurton Parochial Church Council. Friends of Thurton Church.
Local government awareness of village concerns.	<p>35 out of 139 respondents thought that the County Council was not aware of village concerns. 23 thought that the District Council was unaware and 7 thought that the Parish Council was not aware of local concerns.</p> <p>83 out of 160 respondents said that they had never attended a Parish Council meeting and 32 people said that they thought the Parish Council did not publicise its decisions and activities adequately.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure relevant County and District Council Councillors and Officers receive copies of Thurtons Parish Plan. See previous actions: Investigate possibility of producing a more comprehensive newsletter. 	Parish Plan Committee. Thurton Parish Council. Parish Plan Committee.

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Thurton Parish Plan Questionnaire – notifying people of the results.	98 out of 157 respondents said that they would like the results of the survey to be presented in an information sheet. 65 wanted the findings to be presented in the Parish Council Newsletter, 24 – public meeting, 19 – public report, 15 – Thurton Parish Council Website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meeting to communicate the results of survey. • Hold a Parish Plan Launch event. • Copies of Parish Plan to all households. • Parish Plan to be placed on village website. • Updates on action plan to be a feature of newsletter. 	Parish Plan Committee. Thurton Parish Council.
Funding improvements/developments in Thurton	Respondents were asked to indicate how they wanted any future changes in Thurton to be funded. Out of 146 respondents most favoured lottery funding (108 respondents) or grants (97), though a significant number were keen on fund-raising (68 respondents) and sponsorship (39 respondents).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All relevant local organisations to be made aware of villager's views. 	Parish Plan Committee Thurton Parish Council

IEWS OF YOUNG PEOPLE (11-18 year olds)

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
<p>Use of public bus service</p>	<p>Young people in Thurton rely on the public bus service and use it more than any other age group in the village. Out of 28 respondents to this question, 21 of the young people used the bus daily, weekly or monthly and only 5 never used it.</p> <p>Out of 23 respondents to this question, 19 of the young people used the bus to access leisure, 14 for shopping, 8 for school or college (this is in addition to those using school buses) and 3 for work.</p> <p>Out of 24 respondents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 would like more regular buses • 19 would like a student fare at weekends and holidays • 18 would like a better evening service to and from Norwich 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue pressing for improvements to the bus service. • Contact First Bus to discuss the possibility of student fares. • Publicise evening services, which are not well used. 	<p>Thurton Parish Council, Norfolk County Council, First Bus Company.</p>

Issue	Response	Suggested Action	Potential Partners
Village Hall improvements	<p>Young people were asked for their views on possible improvements to the village hall, out of 25 respondents;</p> <p>16 requested basketball hoops 15 requested a climbing wall 13 wanted a youth venue for events and groups. 10 wanted a comfy room 10 wanted a skate park. (Cricket facilities were far less popular, but this may have changed following the success of the England team in winning the Ashes!)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report findings to Village Hall Management Committee. • Involve young people in any developments. 	<p>Ashby and Thurton Village Hall Management Committee.</p>
Extra facilities for young people in Thurton.	<p>Young people were asked whether they would use extra facilities within the village if they were provided. Out of 27 respondents;</p> <p>23 said they would use a swimming pool. 16 would use a café. 14 would use cycle routes 14 would use a cash machine.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicise availability of swimming at Loddon and Beccles. • Improve access to facilities at Loddon by investigating/publicising safe cycle routes to Loddon and availability of Community transport. 	<p>Norfolk County Council Thurton Parish Council</p>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thurton Parish Council commissioned the Parish Plan and takes this opportunity to thank the Parish Plan Committee for their hard work and commitment in producing the Parish Plan.

Parish Plan Committee Members:

Chris Dring
Peter Martin
Jane Miller
Chris Popplewell
Janet Rackham
Amanda Soanes
Chris Stratton
Jan Whitehouse

Funding from:

The Countryside Agency, Rural Action East, South Norfolk Council,
Thurton Parish Council.

Advice and support from:

Jan Allen - Norfolk Landscape Archaeology
Derek Blake - South Norfolk Councillor
Georgina Cole - Community Development Officer (SNC)
Adrian Gunson - Norfolk County Councillor
Thalia Liokatis - Assistant Countryside Advisor (Countryside Agency)
Sam Mason } Youth and Citizenship co-ordinators
Fran Ronan } (SNC/ Norfolk Youth and Community Service)
Janet Peachy - Norfolk Rural Community Council
Dr Tim Pestell - Curator of Archaeology, Norwich Castle Museum.
Anjali Stringer - Active Citizenship co-ordinator (Youth Involvement)
Richard Taylor - Clerk Thurton Parish Council.
David Willis - Senior Planning Officer (SNC)

Thurton Parish Council:- John Capps (Chair), Chris Popplewell (Vice-chair), Paul Byrne,
Peter Martin, Alan Osbourne, Chris Stratton, Jan Whitehouse and previous Parish
Councillors, Alan Hawthorne, Jane Miller, Keith Wells.

Support/Advice from the following individuals:

Tricia Black
Angie Broadberry
Sarah Cook
Anna Frost
Revd Peter Knight
James Rackham
Robin Rackham
David Wilkinson

Editorial Advice and input from:

Wendy White.

APPENDIX 1

The Planning Framework

South Norfolk District Council's Local Plan, published in March 2003, provides the framework governing development in Thurton. The Plan groups Thurton with Ashby and designates the villages as "villages with Development Limits" (Policy ENV 7). This means they are among those settlements where it is appropriate to indicate that new development e.g. Housing, employment, shopping and tourist related proposals, under normal circumstances, may be permitted.

Thurton and Ashby are categorised as being in a rural area and have been designated for some development because they are well related to the transport network and have local facilities. Development is restricted to within the "development limit", which in Thurton and Ashby is a smaller area than the village boundaries :-

- all the built up area to the north of the A146 as far as Meadow Vista on Vale Rd, Alden on Mill Common and Torcan on Ashby Rd.
- south of the A146: The north side of The Street (up to the last terraced cottage) and the area between The Street and Loddon Rd. including the right side of Loddon Rd.

For further details refer to www.south-norfolk.gov.uk and follow the links to Planning, Local Development Framework consultation.

South Norfolk Council's Housing policy (HOU 6) covers Thurton and Ashby. This defines the type of residential development allowable within our "development limit" as "limited to small scale developments of not more than 10 dwellings, and singly or cumulatively the development would be in keeping with the form and character of the village and its setting". Development has been focused on the north side of the A146, in part because of the capacity of junctions onto the A146.

South Norfolk Council's Employment policy (EMP2) covers Thurton and Ashby within the "development limits" and allows for the development of small businesses, modern growth industries or development which would specifically address local unemployment problems, providing the nature and scale of the proposed development would be in keeping with the "character, scale and function of the settlement". In residential areas, proposals would be limited to office and light industrial uses.

A new Local Plan will be adopted by South Norfolk Council in 2007. Consultation, including reviewing where development should take place, has started. The Thurton Parish Plan will provide Thurton Parish Council with a record of the views of villagers and will inform the Parish Council's response to the consultation.

APPENDIX 2

VILLAGE GROUPS IN THURTON

Ashby & Thurton Village Hall &
Playing Field Management Committee

Friends of Thurton Church

Friends of Thurton School

George & Dragon Darts Teams

George & Dragon Pool Team

George & Dragon Table Tennis Team

The All Welcome Group

Thurton, Ashby & District Womens Institute

Thurton Church Explorers

Thurton Church Holiday Club

Thurton Church Little Fish Group

Thurton Dance Club

Thurton Football Club

Thurton Mother Toddler and Baby Group

Thurton Parish Council

Thurton Parish Planners

Thurton Parochial Church Council

Thurton Pre School Group

Thurton Short Mat Bowls Club

NOTES

THIS PLAN WAS SUPPORTED BY

**THURTON
PARISH COUNCIL**

