

Thurstonland Community Plan





Foreword

It gives us great pleasure to endorse the publishing of this Village Plan for Thurstonland.

This excellent document is the result of many hours of hard work by a committed team who passionately believe in a vibrant future for the village and is an invaluable aid to further the improvement of the village in many areas.

The rigorous process required by the funders should have ensured that the concerns and aspirations of Thurstonland residents have been accurately mapped and that a solid framework has been developed to help the village prosper.

Thurstonland and the other villages in the area are great places to live and this Plan will enable residents to continue to care for and improve their environment. It also guides and informs your local councillors so that they can work more efficiently for your best interests.

We would like to acknowledge all the hard work that has gone into the production of the Plan and especially the work of Thurstonland Village Association in initiating the idea.

We hope that you will continue to allow us to work alongside you to help deliver this Plan and wish you every success for the future

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A V Cooper'.

Andrew Cooper, Kirkburton Parish Councillor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Barraclough'.

Robert Barraclough, Kirkburton Parish Councillor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Hardcastle'.

Derek Hardcastle, Kirklees Councillor



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Introduction

Background

A number of villagers met together in 2007 to discuss setting up a village association for Thurstonland, with the aim of representing the community and promoting its interests and well-being. As a result, Thurstonland Village Association (TVA) was established, and formally constituted in April 2008.

In those early days, TVA was occupied with immediate concerns, such as investigating local public transport, improving the drainage of the Rec, reducing traffic-speeds, resurfacing roads and the general tidying of the village ('grubbing-out') – many of these initiatives leading to significant improvements for the community. In due course, this initial work led to the suggestion that, as a next step, it might be helpful to develop a Village Plan, and this was formally approved at a meeting in November 2009, when a Steering Group was set up. In the 20 months since then, this Group has met over 40 times to produce the document you are now reading.

One early decision was to come up with a name for the Plan, to give it a stronger identity. 'Thurstonland 2020 Vision' was chosen, as it seemed to encapsulate both a focus on the future and the clear-sightedness which would be needed.

Community-led Plans (formerly known as Parish Plans)

In 2000, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) issued a Rural White Paper 'Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England'. Among the issues raised was the objective that rural communities should have the opportunity to formulate their future needs through the development of Parish Plans. The White Paper described such a Plan as 'an opportunity to develop community agreement on local priorities, and options for addressing them'. A Parish Plan should: 'aim to preserve valued and local features,

and to map out the facilities and services which the community needs to safeguard for the future'.

A Plan is a successful way for a rural community to make its voice heard and encourages local people to participate in, and influence, future direction, including the policies, discussions and actions of other bodies. All the information in the Plan stems from consultation with everyone in the community.

Many villages now have Plans, often (though not in our case) having been prompted by their Local Authorities. In many cases, these communities have found that their Plan has proved invaluable in their interaction with local decision-makers.

Funding

A successful bid for funding to develop our Plan resulted in grants from Awards for All (part of The Big Lottery fund) and Rural Action Yorkshire (RAY). Budgeted expenditure included the cost of consultation events, administration, a questionnaire and the Plan itself. Some of the necessary items acquired in the process will no doubt also be of on-going use to TVA in the future. The Awards for All funding carries with it a strict condition that the whole project must be completed within a year of receipt of the money – which certainly concentrates the mind wonderfully!

The Process

Once the funding had been secured, the task really divided itself into three stages:

- A social event to encourage the interest and involvement of residents, explain the purpose of the Plan and begin a process of **consultation** to lay the foundation for a questionnaire;
- **The questionnaire**, using the issues raised, to be compiled and distributed to all villagers;
- The compilation, printing and publication of **the Plan** itself, based on the questionnaire responses.



Consultation

A social event was held at the School in June 2010 and proved to be most enjoyable and successful. The schoolchildren entertained everybody with their drumming, dancing and a playlet, and the village model they had made formed a useful focal-point, encouraging residents to say which issues were important to them. We were incredibly lucky with the fine weather, which enabled everyone to relax in the adjoining garden and enjoy a barbecue, while listening to our village folk-singers. The whole event was very well supported and gave villagers an opportunity to chat to each other in pleasant social surroundings.

After this main event, there was a 2020 Vision display at the Gala, which was then taken to the Church Room, Cricket Club and Rose & Crown for about a week each. This all helped to publicise the project and encourage further input from villagers.

The Questionnaire

Having gained an insight, from the consultation process, into what issues are important to Thurstonland residents, the Steering Group set about compiling the Questionnaire, which proved to be a much more difficult process than they perhaps originally anticipated!

Nevertheless, it was finally completed on schedule and, three weeks before Christmas 2010, in extreme weather conditions, a loyal band of a dozen or so volunteers made immense efforts to get to every household in the village to deliver, and then collect, the Questionnaires. To achieve a really good response-rate and ensure everyone understood what was required, it was considered essential that, wherever possible, our volunteers should actually see householders (rather than just pushing Questionnaires through letter-boxes), and this sometimes meant returning many times. For this purpose, the village was divided into zones, each with one or more

volunteers, and it is hoped this will serve as a template for future communication with residents.

In the event, the response was really excellent, with 191 Questionnaires delivered and 260 individual responses returned (each Questionnaire having space for three responses). A separate Young People's Questionnaire, for those aged 17 and under, was also included, to which there were 46 responses.

All the responses were entered into a specialist computer programme by the Steering Group and analysed and tabulated by RAY.

The Plan

The Steering Group's next task was to use this analysis as the basis for compiling the Plan, to be delivered to every household in Thurstonland. Other interested parties, including local MPs, Councillors, relevant Kirklees officers and others, will also receive a copy.

The Next Step

Publication of the Plan is, of course, not the end of the process – there would have been little point in all this hard work if it were! As you will see from Section 1: 'Your Village', which follows, nearly all Questionnaire respondents said that 'the village of Thurstonland matters to me', rather than it being 'just a place to live'. With that firmly in mind, it is now very much up to residents to ensure that objectives in the Plan are implemented, to maintain everything that is good about Thurstonland and make it an even better place in which to live.

This will be led and co-ordinated by your village association, but it would be entirely misleading to think that the current very small group of dedicated helpers will be able to move things forward without significant extra input from others in the village – this will need the willing support of us all.



Section I: Your Village

Background and History

Thurstonland was first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Tostenland' or 'Thorstein's land'. The Viking hill village is now mainly built on the lee side of a gentle slope on a hilly escarpment in the South Pennines. This elevated position enables villagers and walkers to enjoy superb views across local countryside and into the distance to Holme Moss, in the west, and Emley Moor in the east. Exposure to the elements has tended to characterise Thurstonland's inhabitants as a hardy lot! Farming and weaving used to be the main occupations for what was quite a remote village, which may have been rather slow to adapt to the latest trends in industry.

The 1851 census tells us that there were fewer houses than today but, with the larger families of the time, probably as many inhabitants. The main occupations were as farmers or clothiers. Farms were small, with farmers keeping a few cattle and sheep and usually employing one or more labourers. Farmers often had other roles too, such as butchers, carters or innkeepers.



Clothiers (note: The Clothiers Arms in Stocksmoor) were engaged in the cottage industry of handloom weaving, evidence of which is still seen in the "weavers' cottages" with their banks of mullioned windows, which are so noticeable locally. As well as playing a big part in the weaving process, the clothier would make long journeys with his donkey, taking the raw wool to mills in the Colne Valley and others, to be prepared for weaving at home, and returning later to have the cloth finished. He would then take the finished cloth to sell in Almondbury, or later to



Dedication of War Memorial 1948



Deep Snow 1953

the Cloth Hall in Huddersfield, where more wool would be bought and carried home. From about ten years of age, his children would work as bobbin-winders and warpers, before taking on the job of weavers as teenagers. Otherwise, the village was fairly self-sufficient, having four boot- and clog- makers, three dress-makers, two tailors, a bonnet-maker, a coal proprietor and three miners, a road labourer, a rail labourer, a grocer, a delver (quarryman) and a bookseller/stationer. At this time, most of the residents were Thurstonland-born and, apart from three, all the rest were born in neighbouring villages.

As industrialisation began to take effect, home weavers gradually took employment in the new mills opening in Sudehill (now New Mill), Brockholes and other local villages where there were plentiful supplies of water. Farming continued to be the main occupation, but mining, quarrying, brick-making and factory-scale weaving also contributed to the economy of the village.

Changes gathered pace from the 19th century. St Thomas' Church was built and consecrated in 1870 and the Chapel of Ease, which had for a time accommodated Church of England, Wesleyan and Independent members, was demolished. The Cricket Club, dating from 1874, acquired its permanent home on Marsh Hall Lane in 1900 and thrives today as a members' club, with a lively cricket season and a healthy following of young people at its junior practices.

Still remembered by some older residents are a number of institutions which have come and gone. The Wesleyan Chapel was closed in 1976 and converted to living accommodation, and the Old Co-op is now a Bed & Breakfast. No. 40 the Village, which served as the Council Offices for Thurstonland and Farnley Tyas Urban District Council, the village Bath House, the Library, a Village Hall,

a meeting-place for the United Ancient Order of Druids and, most recently, the Village Playgroup, is also now a domestic residence. Of the three pubs, only the Rose and Crown remains; the other two were the New Inn at No. 60 The Village and The Druid's Arms at Moor Bottom. A club for men occupied No. 72 The Village, and the Joiner and Undertaker's workshop (with petrol pump), situated below East View, is a thing of the past too. Of the 18 farms working in 1940, only two (of which one has a milking herd) and two small-holdings remain.

Today, the old part of the village is designated a Conservation Area and about sixty buildings are listed as of historical value, with one of the oldest being Marsh Hall, bearing the date 1596. There have been roughly forty new dwellings and house-conversions since 1960, which have brought in many new people to contribute to, and enhance, the village community. Nowadays, there is very little employment actually in the village, but increased car-ownership and the introduction of public transport facilitate journeys far and wide, for education, work and for leisure. Community bonds are maintained by the lively company at the Pub, the School, the Church and the Cricket Club.



Marsh Hall Farm

Questionnaire responses

I.a Please consider the following and say which statement most applies to you:

- The village of Thurstonland matters to me.
- Thurstonland is just a place to live.

It was quite gratifying that almost all residents who answered the Questionnaire stated that the village of Thurstonland mattered to them, with only three saying that it was just a place to live.

I.b What makes the village of Thurstonland special for you? (Please tick any that apply)

'The surrounding countryside' and 'the peace and quiet' were the most popular village assets, but there was a fairly wide spread of 'votes' for the attributes mentioned (graph below):

'Other' included:

Good access to towns / cities & their amenities
Family roots & ties
Sense of home & community
Safety & security

A few comments:

'Easy access to many towns & cities for theatre, cinema, shops'

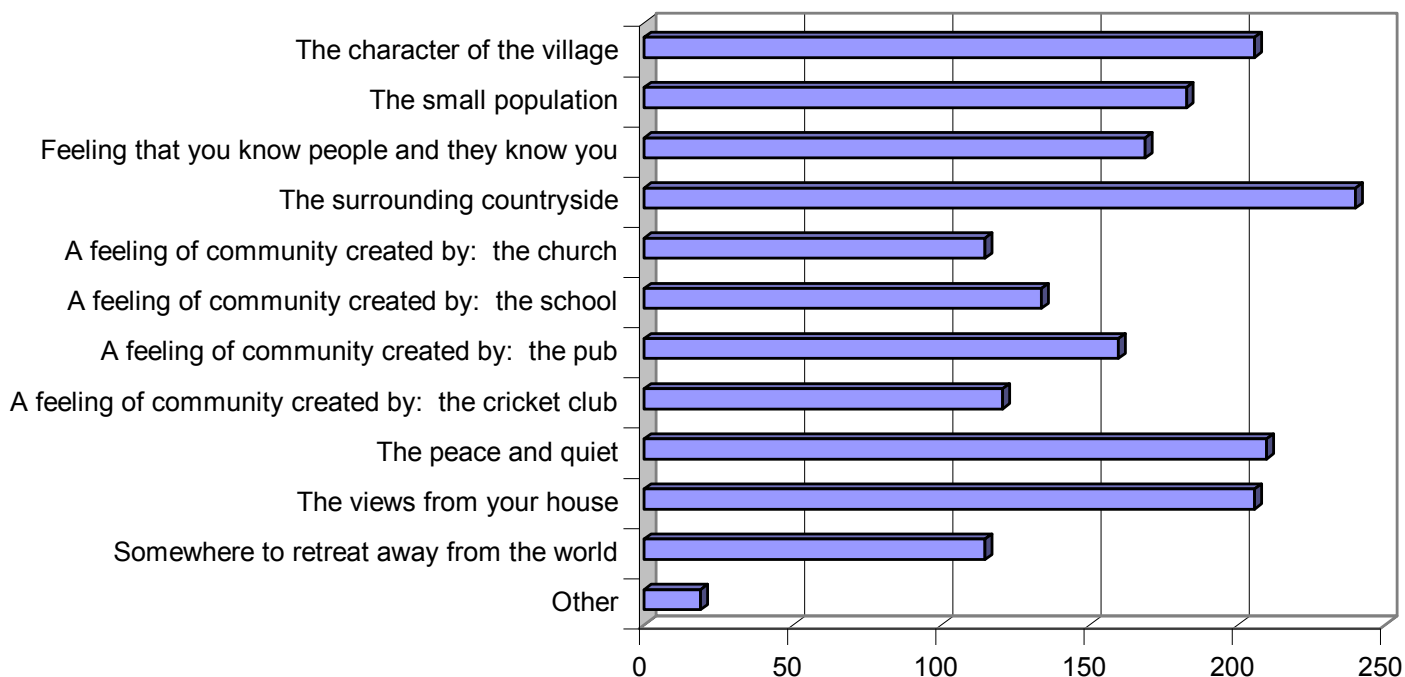
'Strong family ties'

'Family History and connections'

'The feeling of community created by living in Thurstonland'

'There is a nice balanced mix of people/families due to the various types of housing'

'It always felt like somewhere where we could be part of a small community, however people are not as friendly as they could be'



ACTION

For fairly obvious reasons, there is no Action Plan stemming from this first, introductory, section, but its Questionnaire responses have very much informed our overall view of residents' attitude to Thurstonland.



1854

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Section 2: Community Sites

Community Centre

As Thurstonland does not currently have a purpose-built community centre, any activities, such as meetings and social events, tend to take place in the Church, Cricket Club, Pub or School. In addition, Thurstonland shares Stocksmoor Village Hall (about a mile down the road and built to serve the two villages) and this is also used by some village groups and for social gatherings. These venues meet some, but not all, of the community's needs.

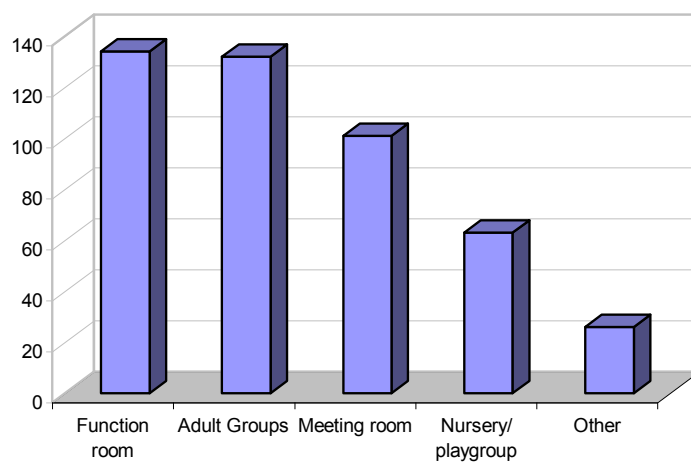
Questionnaire responses

2.a Do you think Thurstonland would benefit from a **Community Centre** if such a facility were available in the Village?

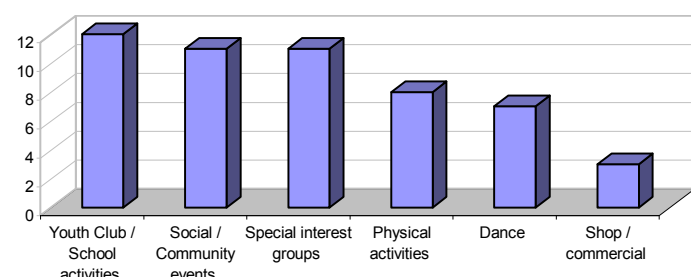
More than half those responding to this question answered 'Yes' and less than a quarter ticked 'No' – although, interestingly, more than a quarter of the latter then went on to give uses to which they would put a community centre if one were available.

Perhaps surprisingly, the percentage of people ticking the 'Yes' box increased in the older age-groups, with more than 60% of the over-60s saying they thought Thurstonland would benefit from a Community Centre – possibly because they have more time to use one!

2.b If a Community Centre were available, what might you use it for? (Please tick any that apply)



Included among 'Other' uses were:



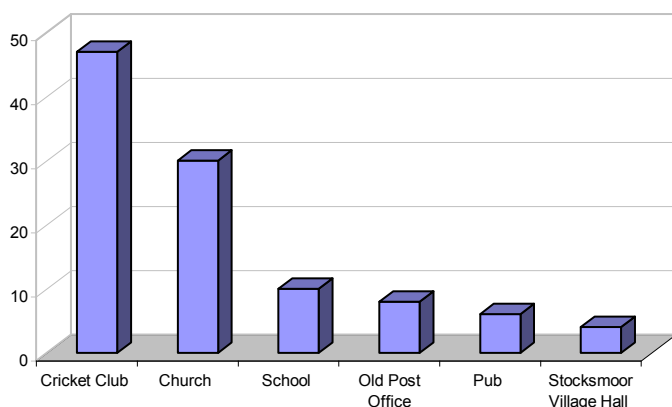
In addition, 8 people used the space to say why they feel Thurstonland does not need a Centre, with 3 saying Stocksmoor Village Hall was available and adequate, 4 saying that existing venues in Thurstonland were sufficient for our needs and one asking whether Thurstonland is big enough to merit a community centre.

'Arts/craft skills/classes, meeting other members of the community.'

'It would be nice to have a place, but isn't really needed as they have a village hall at Stocksmoor which is big enough for both villages.'

'At present the church, pub, cricket club and school host a variety of events. Do we really need something else?'

2.c If you think there is an existing building which might be adapted for such a purpose, please give suggestions:

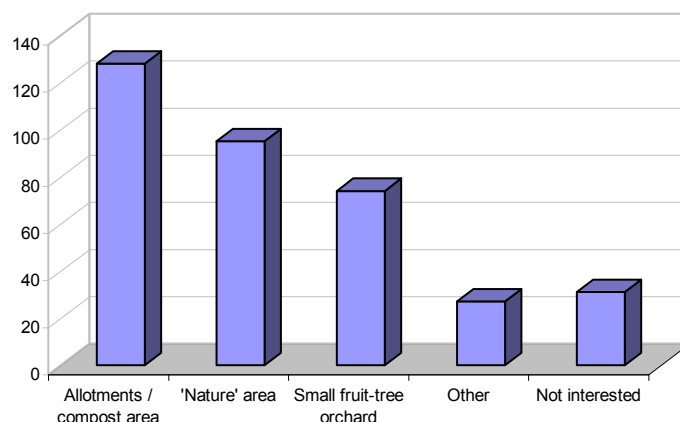


2.d Please suggest any possible sites for a new building:

On the Rec, or a Cricket Club extension	28
'No' to a new building	9
Extend, or next to, Church	5
Centre of village	2
Next to school	1

Community Land

3.a If additional **land** could be found for residents' use, how would you like to see it used?
(Please tick any that apply)



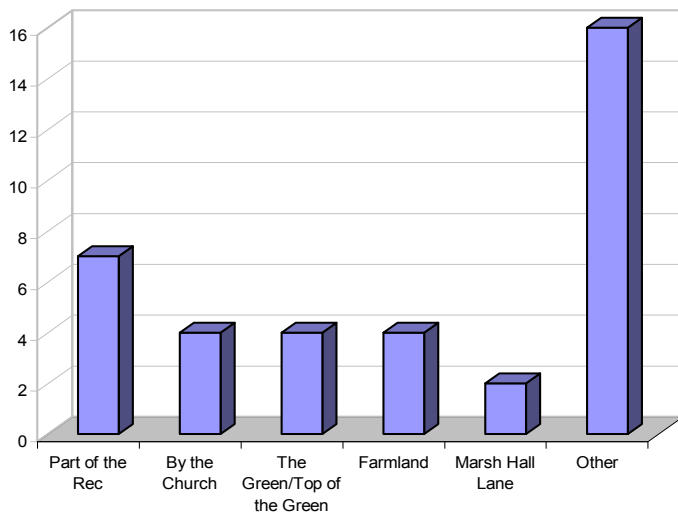
Under 'please give details', people responded as follows:

Car parking	17
Community food production / allotments	7
General community space	3
Sports facility	2
Community Centre	2
Other	3

Although car parking is undoubtedly of considerable importance to Thurstonland residents, this is not really the type of use for this particular community land that the writers of the Questionnaire had envisaged – which is their fault for not making the question clearer in the first place!



3.b Please suggest any sites which you think may be used as in 3.a:



'Other' covered a wide variety of suggestions, including:

'The land going down hill on same side of road as pub would make an excellent village green if wall knocked down. views would be lovely & it would give the village a more clearly identified focal point.'

'Opposite the residential properties'

'Land behind Low Fold or on Town Moor'

'A good spot would be somewhere between Thurstonland and Farnley Tyas on the back road'

'On 'Berntly' overlooking the valley'

'Surrounding woodland'



ACTION

Overall, while there was a generally positive response to the idea of a dedicated Community Centre for Thurstonland, it was apparent that some people are content with current arrangements. There is certainly sufficient interest to merit taking the matter forward.

- A working-group to be set up to investigate all aspects of the subject in more depth.
- The same group could also examine the feasibility of acquiring, and looking after, some Community Land.





Section 3: Roads & Traffic

Roads

Thurstonland has 3 main roads entering the village: Thurstonland Bank Road, Marsh Hall Lane and Town Moor, which all meet at the War Memorial in the centre of the village.

- 4. Road surfaces.** Following pressure from Thurstonland Village Association and others, The Village, Hollowgate and Thurstonland Bank Road are about to be resurfaced. Are there other roads in the village which you feel need resurfacing?

Of those who answered this question, 143 people felt the roads in the village were fit for purpose. However, of those who felt certain roads needed resurfacing, 84 mentioned the following:

Haw Cliff Lane	42
Moor Top Ave	22
The Village	8
Thurstonland Bank Road (lower half)	3
Town Moor	2
Browns Knoll	2
Other	5

One person commented however that

'the danger with resurfacing any roads can lead to increased speeds on the new smooth surface'

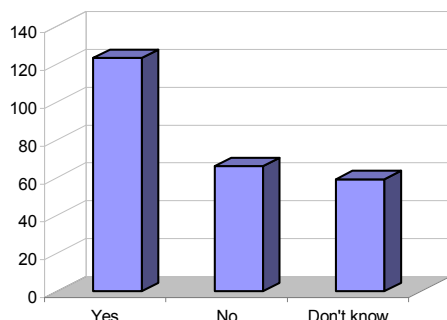
Since the Questionnaire was completed, The Village, Hollowgate, Haw Cliff Lane, Moor Top Avenue and the upper part of Thurstonland Bank Road have been resurfaced.

Speeding

Over recent years, traffic levels have steadily risen. This is due, in part, to increased housing in the surrounding area and to drivers avoiding congested roads by using Thurstonland as an alternative route, especially at peak times.

There are 30mph speed limits on all the main roads entering the village and recently speed plateaux have been constructed on Town Moor and Marsh Hall Lane.

5.a Traffic-calming measures consisting of 'plateaux' (wide, flat speed-humps) and some road-markings are to be implemented in the village. Do you believe **speeding** will still be a problem?



5.b Kirklees has stated that, at the present time, it is not their policy to do anything else to reduce speeding. Please give any further measures you would like to see taken if their policy were to change:

The following is a summary of the suggestions put forward by people who responded:

Impose speed limit	17
Chicanes	14
Flashing speed signs	13
More humps / plateaux	12
Suggestions re humps / plateaux (for & against)	14
Speed cameras, static & mobile	3

Several people commented that Thurstonland Bank Road should be included in the provision of speed plateaux. Other examples of comments both for and against traffic-calming measures were:

'20 mph limit during school arrival and leaving in conjunction with school flashing signs'

'Give way traffic calming islands i.e. protruding kerbs and bollards'

'Speed cameras on the road near the village green'

'Speed humps are a total waste of public money and do not address the speeders'

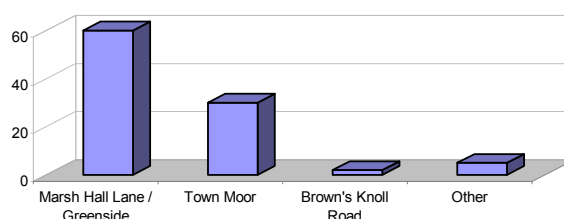
Footways and Pavements

There are footways or pavements along The Village, Hollowgate and parts of Marsh Hall Lane, Thurstonland Bank Road and Town Moor



6.a Are **footways/pavements** required on any roads which currently have none?

245 responded to this question and the majority (148) felt that no new footways/pavements were required. However a significant number (97) felt that new footways/pavements were needed and mentioned the following roads:



'Other' included Haw Cliff Lane.



The majority who highlighted Marsh Hall Lane as needing new footways/pavements specifically cited the area between the Recreation Ground and Blakehouse Farm.

Comments for and against new footways/pavements:

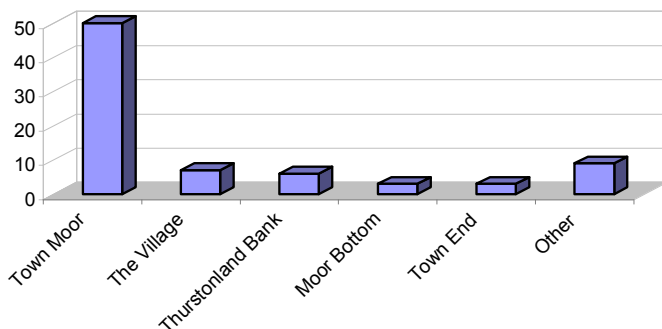
'The road between Thurstonland and Stockmoor would benefit from a pavement because many people walk this route, including parents with young children going to and from school. The school and church serve both villages and should be accessible on foot, not having to walk in the road.'

'Stockmoor to Thurstonland, may encourage parents/children to walk to school.'

'Town Moor to Stockmoor is a valuable green space and concrete would be awful. This would suburbanise the village. Country roads need to retain their character. It would mean that drivers were justified in speeding and feel it was acceptable.'

6.b Do existing **footways/pavements** need improving?

The majority (58.8%) of those who responded to this question did not think the footways/pavements needed improving. Those who felt improvements were needed overwhelmingly named Town Moor.



Comments regarding Town Moor:

'Overgrown with many tripping hazards'

'Weeds need cutting back regularly & possibly resurfacing'

Other examples of comments on footways / pavements were:

'The hedges require cutting back to the walls or fences along both sides of Marsh Hall Lane. Saplings become a problem when unchecked.'

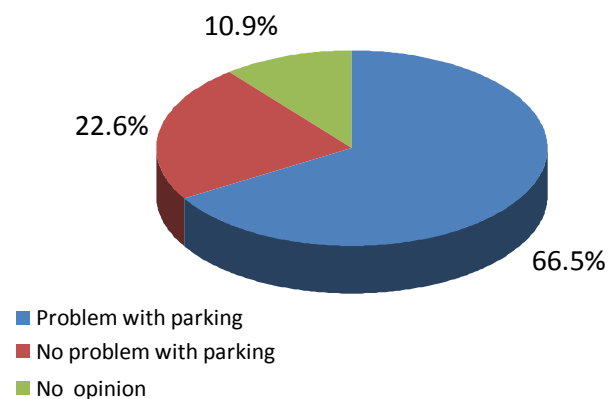
'The pavements on The Village are uneven and hazardous'

Parking

As with all villages, car ownership has grown significantly and is by far the preferred method of transportation. With many residents not owning a garage, where to park can be a problem. As a result, cars have to be parked on the street, creating problems of road-narrowing and sight-line restriction. Parking facilities vary considerably in different parts of the village. Many of the newer properties have off-street parking, but numerous older houses, particularly in The Village, do not have these facilities and have to park on the street. This is most marked around the junction of Haw Cliff Lane and The Village.

7. In your opinion, does the **parking** situation cause problems in Thurstonland?

Percentage of responses out of a total of 257



Summary of suggested solutions to the parking problem:

Acquisition of land for car park	23
Car park / off-street parking	21
Create pub car park	16
Double yellows / road marking	15
Residents' permit parking	11
Specific parking locations suggested	9
Mark up parking bays	6
More considerate parking	5
Ban parking	3

However 44 people, whilst acknowledging there was a big parking problem, were unable to suggest a solution.

Those who felt that acquisition of land would ease the problem were almost unanimous in suggesting that land needed to be purchased or leased from local landowners.

Comments about ways of solving the parking problem:

'If more space could be found for pub parking, this would alleviate the problem in the village.'

'Purchase or lease a plot of land from a local farmer to create a small village car park.'

'Yellow lines around the pub.'

'Possibly explore permit parking.'

Other comments:

'Don't want yellow lines or parking permits.'

'It causes problems but at least drivers have to slow down going through the village.'

'Park off the highway onto drives where possible.'

'Sorry no idea.'

8. Are there any other road/traffic problems or suggestions you would like to mention?

46 people answered this question. Below is a summary of the responses.

Speeding	12
Parking	12
Winter weather	6
School run	3
Signage / road-marking	3
Road-widening	3
Other	7

The majority of those concerned with speeding issues highlighted the use of local roads as a race track:

'Vehicles tearing around the village on summer nights.'

Although The Village is considered by most people to be the main problem-area for parking, some focused on different points:

'Parking on footpaths causes concern where old/ young have to walk on the road.'

'Parking by the school and church often creates 'incidents' through lack of vision.'



Other comments relating to the question:

'Gritting to start earlier in the morning as I have difficulty getting to work on winter mornings.'

'Road lighting/light pollution- to save energy and money, could some lights be dimmed/ switched off say after midnight.'

ACTION

- All the roads mentioned in the questionnaire, apart from Browns Knoll Road and the lower half of Thurstonland Bank Road, have now been resurfaced. Monitor the state of roads which have not been resurfaced.
- Continue to monitor speeding in and around the village.
- Review the maintenance and if possible improve the access to village footways / pavements which become overgrown.
- Investigate the possible provision of footways / pavements in areas of the village where currently none exist.
- Investigate parking issues on The Village.



Section 4: Facilities & Services

Transport services

The following table illustrates where Thurstonland is in relation to the distance between it and neighbouring villages and urban centres, and also the means of transport available to reach them.

Places	Miles	Bus	Comment
Huddersfield	4-5	341	Further bus for HRI etc
Holmfirth	3-4		Access by taxi, cycle or on foot
Kirkburton	3		
Shepley	2		
New Mill	1		
Waterloo	4		
Honley	2		
Meltham	4-5	911	
Brockholes	1		
Shorehead	4	341	
Stocksmoor-train (Sheffield-Leeds)	1	341	Connection with 341 bus

The village is currently on two public bus routes: the 341 and 911 services. Brockholes for the H4 bus and Stocksmoor for its railway station are reached by car, foot or bicycle.

341 bus (Thurstonland – Almondbury – Huddersfield). This runs 1½ hourly Monday to Saturday (from about 7am to 10pm) and 2 hourly on Sundays (from roughly 1pm to 7pm).

911 bus (Thurstonland – Farnley Tyas/Brockholes – Honley – Meltham, for Morrisons etc). This runs hourly Monday to Saturday (approx. 7.30 am – 6.30pm). There is no service on Sundays.

Train (Stocksmoor to Huddersfield or Sheffield). There is no synchronisation with buses. This service runs hourly from 6.30 am to 11 pm

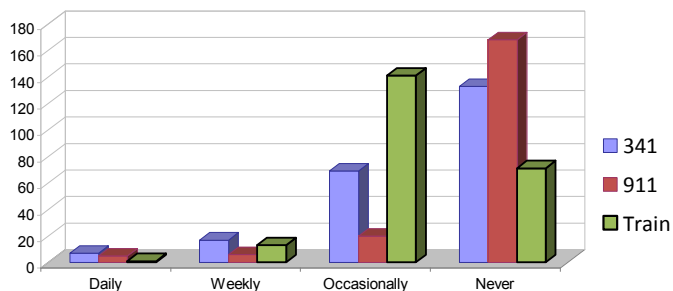
H4 bus (Brockholes – Holmfirth). The service runs hourly (7.30 am – 6 pm)



9.a Do you currently rely on the following local public transport?

341 bus (Huddersfield)
911 bus (Meltham)
Train (Stocksmoor to Huddersfield/Sheffield)

(People were asked to state 'Daily, Weekly, Occasionally, Never', as appropriate)



The 341 bus is used by 7 people daily, 16 weekly, 38 occasionally and 133 never. In contrast, 140 occasionally use the train.



9.b Please suggest any improvements to local public transport you would like to see (e.g. extending the route of the H4 Holmfirth bus to include Thurstonland)

Responses were as follows:

Link with Holmfirth	38
Synchronise with trains	16
Increase frequency	15
New / changed routes	6
Improve timetabling	5
Cheaper/smarter fares	4
Improve train reliability	3
Improved information	2
Suggested innovations	2

...H4 to include Thurstonland.'

'Great - for library, shopping at Co-op'

'A most useful service'

'Fantastic... ..parking is not always great'

'doctor in Holmfirth'

'H4 to tie in with trains'

'911 link up with trains'

'Taxi vouchers for over 65 car-less'

'Community taxi, Thurstonland - Stocksmoor station.'

'Considering our location I believe we have excellent public transport, especially as this is used by so few people.'

Medical centres

Kirkburton, Shepley, Holmfirth and Honley Health Centres are all used by Thurstonland residents, and a minority go elsewhere; of these only Honley is on a bus route. Local hospitals most often used are Huddersfield Royal Infirmary at Lindley, and Calderdale Royal Hospital in Halifax. Both of these require taking two buses from Thurstonland.

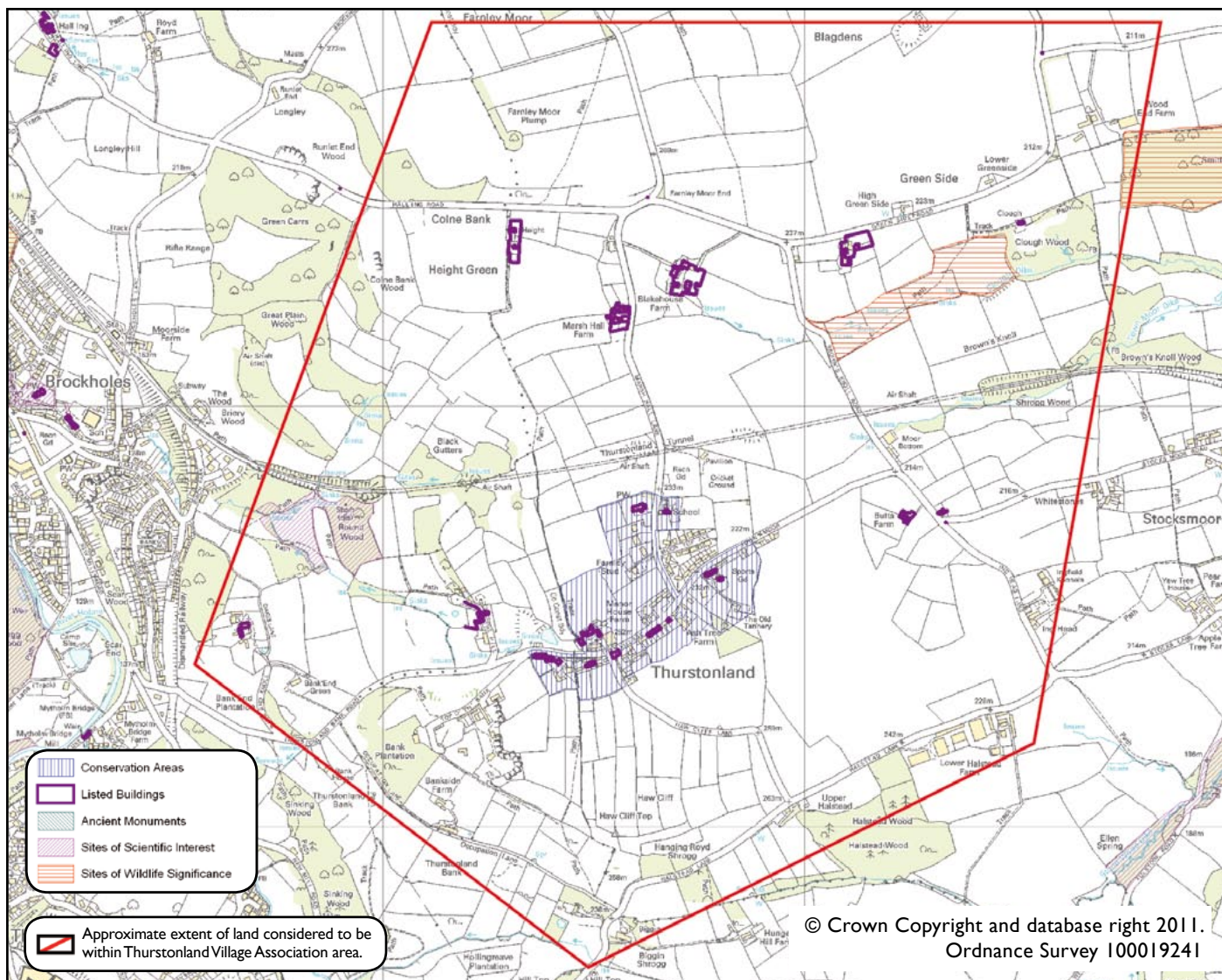
10.a Do you currently have difficulty getting to any of the following? (Please tick any that apply)

There were 167 respondents to this question. The majority of those having difficulty were in the 40 – 59 age group.

It is probable that most of those who said the question was 'not applicable' have access to a car.

Doctor	12
Hospital	7
Dentist	9
Other similar	3
Not applicable	154

Those locations of health provision stated as proving difficult to reach include: Holmfirth, Holme Valley Hospital, Shepley, Kirkburton, Almondbury, Lindley, Calderdale Hospital, Thongsbridge.



'No personal transport'

'If my partner is ill....we have to rely on the doctor coming to us.'

'No bus to Kirkburton'

One respondent's astute comment highlights a difficulty many of us may face:

'Currently have car – might be difficult in future....'

Volunteer car service

10.d If a volunteer car service were available (eg. to get to doctor/hospital etc), might you use it?

Of the 207 responding to this question, 26 people, across the age-groups from 22 to 79, said they would use it, 36 didn't know and the remaining 145 answered 'No'.

Education

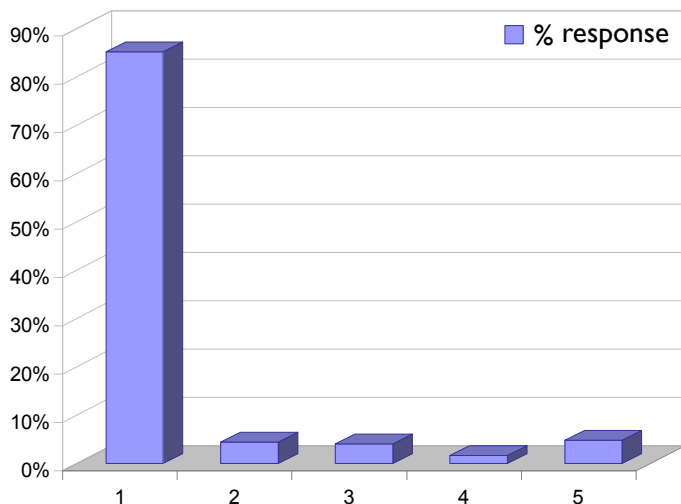
Thurstonland Endowed (C) First School is part of the Shelley three-tier system, taking an average of 65 local children from 4+ to 10. Those moving to Kirkburton Middle School and then Shelley College at age 13 are provided with school transport.

The children of some Holme Valley North parents have used the two-tier system in the Holme Valley.



11. School. Please say how much you agree or disagree with the following statement, on a scale of 1-5, where 1 = strongly agree and 5 = strongly disagree:

'It is important to retain a First School in the Village'



Out of a total response from 248 people, 212, across all age groups, strongly agreed with the importance of retaining a First School in the village.

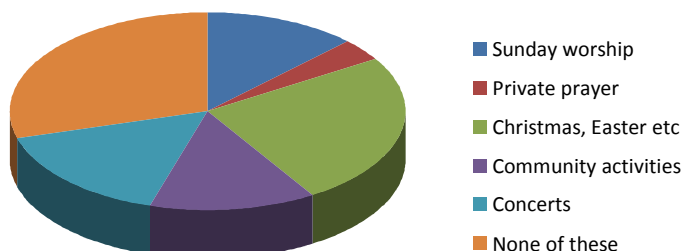
St Thomas' Church

The one remaining place of worship in the village serves the requirements of the whole community, offering a small meeting-room as well as the body of the church itself. It is part of the Holme Valley Team Ministry and is served from New Mill Church. The services held are Church of England, with those villagers of other persuasions travelling further afield. (The Methodist Chapel and its schoolroom were closed and were converted for residential use in about 1970.)



The present church was built in 1869 to replace the Chapel of Ease sited in the corner of the graveyard. The money for the construction of the spire, which may be seen from miles around, was donated by Joseph Hirst J.P., with the request that it should be tall enough for him to see from his house in Wilshaw.

12.a Church. Have you used the church building for any of the following in the past 12 months? (Please tick any that apply)



There were 240 replies to this question. 45 had attended Sunday worship at some time during the year, 93 for one or other of the festivals, while 113 do not use the church for any purpose.

12.b Do you value the church building for the following? (Please tick any that apply)

242 replied to this question, as follows:

As a landmark building	221
Christenings/Confirmations/Weddings/Funerals	177
Visiting family graves	40
Other	22

The following were given as other reasons to value the church:

As a community focus	9
As a place of worship	4
As a resource for the school	3
Voting	2
The building	2
Other	5

Other comments:

Community focus

'Integral part of the whole village community'

'Essential core of village life'

'The building ... a symbol of the village as a community'

'A piece of cultural heritage and a focal point for the village'

'Potential to become social focus of village....'

'Part of the history and heritage'

Place of worship

'I worship elsewhere but am always happy to support Christian life in the village'

'Christmas/Easter especially'

'Any church is beneficial as a place to worship God – it is after all God's house'

A resource for the school

'A function room for the school'

'Events held by the school'

'Extra space for school concerts'

The church building

'Beautiful building'

Other

'It feels right for there to be a church even though I don't use it myself'

'Not appropriate in a religiously diverse society'

'For organ practice'

'Graveyard, wildlife habitat if properly maintained'

ACTION

Transport

- Wait to see what cut-backs to our services are proposed.
- Approach involved parties to discuss.
- Endeavour to maintain/establish transport to Huddersfield.
- Endeavour to establish better link with Stockmoor for train.
- Investigate doctor and Holmfirth links.

Volunteer car service

- Talk with all those willing to participate.
- Set up working-group to investigate the legalities and feasibility.

Church

- Contact the Parochial Church Council to see if they have any suggestions to make, following the responses to the Questionnaire.





Section 5: Housing Development

Background

General farming, and specifically sheep-farming, has had a significant influence on the character of Thurstonland. Cottage industries developed using the upper floor of houses as work-spaces for the weaving process, with the smallholder living on the ground floor. These former 'mini factories' are identified today by their banks of mullioned windows at first and second floor level, which sought to maximise available daylight and extend the working day.



The character of the village today follows a road network which links these original farming folds.

Although much of Thurstonland's housing stock was built in the 18th and 19th centuries, there has been a healthy growth in the number of houses, with most of the more modern buildings being constructed in the 1950's and 60's, with further construction in the 90's. This increase in housing has ensured that the community continues to thrive.

One of the greatest threats to the character of villages and communities is the existence of adjacent, available, suitably-zoned (i.e. residential) building land. The explosive growth



The industrial revolution ended these cottage industries and the size of farms increased, creating 'folds' (farmyard enclosures) of accommodation for tenant farmers and farm-hands. These folds remain today and, with other farm / livestock buildings, have mainly been converted into dwellings.

of certain local villages in recent years is evident, but it is difficult to see how a similar rapid rate of development could happen in Thurstonland, owing to the lack of available, suitably-zoned land.

There are government restrictions in place which control development in the Green Belt and preserve the open countryside as a priority. In 1981, much of the village became a Conservation Area, as shown on the accompanying map. Recently, the Localism Bill has sought to give more rights to residents in rural areas and may well have a significant impact in the future.



13.a If further housing development were suggested for the village, with which of the following statements would you agree? (Please tick any that apply)

* It is worth noting that the term 'affordable housing' may have been interpreted in two different ways, as either:

1. relatively inexpensive dwellings, or
2. housing available to all, either for rent or in shared ownership at subsidised rates, determined by Government.

Villagers were generally happy with the character and size of the village, but most were accepting that some limited form of expansion was inevitable. Further concerns were that traffic and services had to be able to support any expansion. The results are shown below:

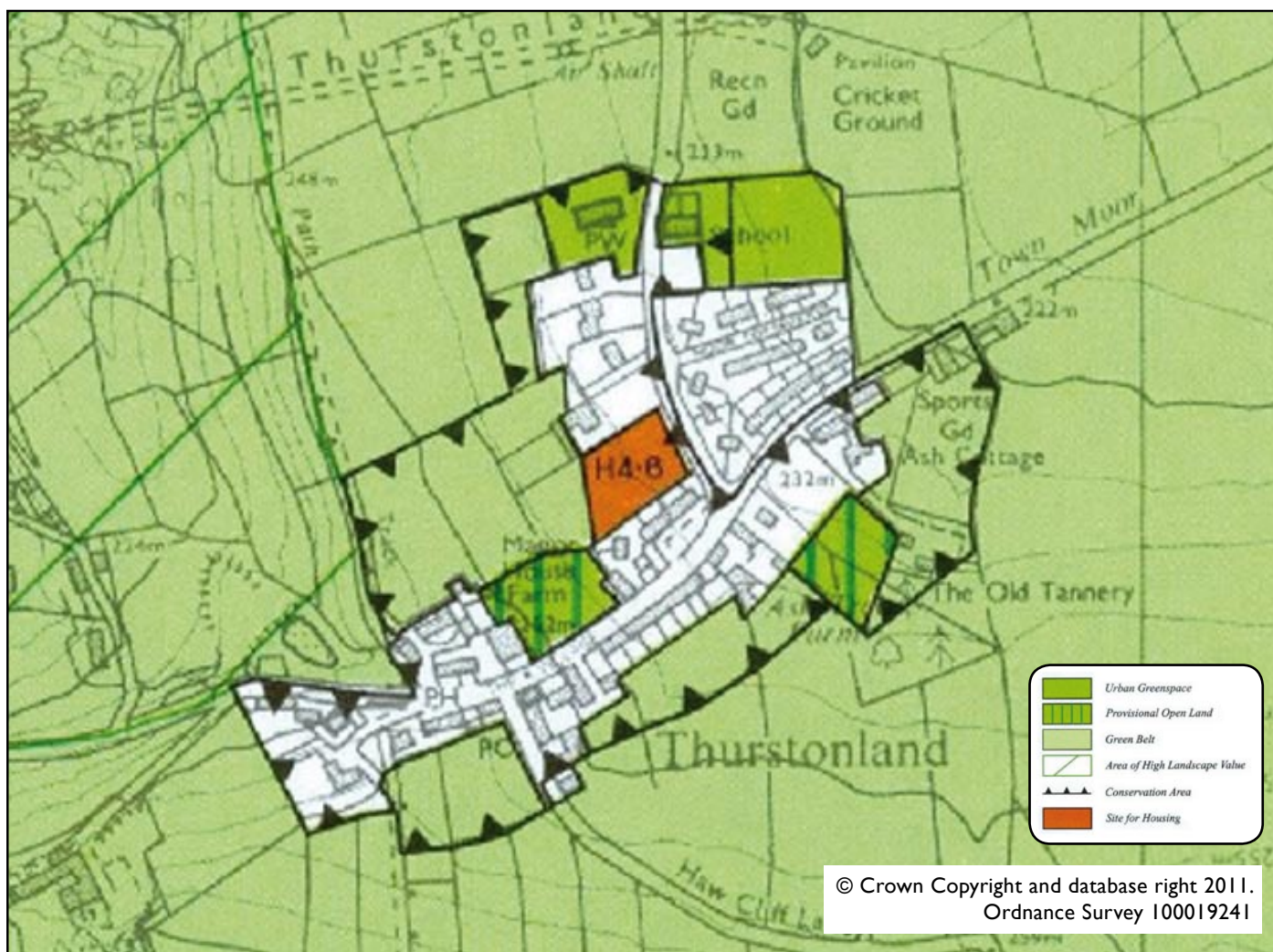
Additional comments were:

'Use local materials'

'The village should decide what they want then fight for it'

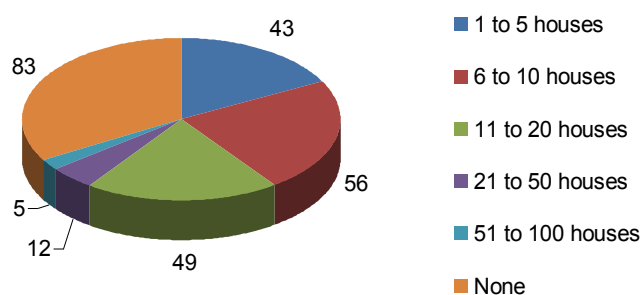
Statement	No. responses
The village is big enough already	147
Thurstonland needs more rented housing	12
*Any expansion should be of affordable housing for first-time buyers	52
Expansion would lose the character of the village	109
The village would benefit from limited, carefully controlled development	77
The only development should be of small-scale infill plots	100
New houses must fit in with the character of the village	176
Services should be able to support expansion	141
Consideration should be given to existing traffic problems	151
Any new houses should be in different price-ranges	54





Map showing Kirklees Unitary Development Plan for the area

13.b How many houses would you be happy to see built over the next 10 years?



Perhaps unsurprisingly, no-one wanted to see more than 100 houses built.

Additional comments included:

'Impossible to quantify, not more than 50'

'Get a good architect'

'Don't destroy village'

13.c If you are prepared to accept some housing development, what type of property would you like to see? (Please tick any that apply)

Type of housing	No. responses
Flats	11
First-time-buy houses (1-2 bed)	99
Accessible for elderly / disabled	71
Family houses (3 bed)	115
Larger houses (4-5 bed)	49

The conclusion can be drawn that the majority of villagers would accept between 1 and 20 dwellings consisting of first-time-buy and family houses.

ACTION

- Monitor planning applications and liaise with Kirklees MC.
- Monitor the progress of the Localism Bill.



Section 6: Environment

Background

Thurstonland is a hilltop village surrounded by working farm-land interspersed with woodland.

There are many public footpaths in the locality, which probably follow historical routes linking nearby villages and hamlets. They are now largely maintained by walkers, being used by villagers and also by the wider community.



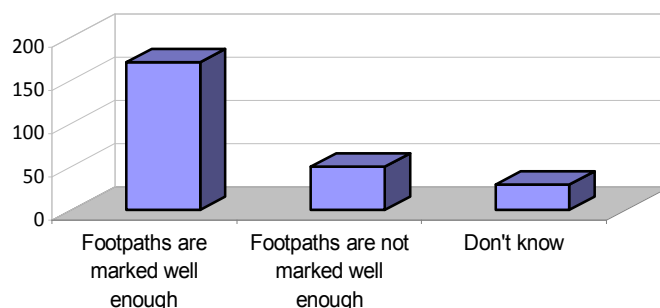
Public awareness of renewable energy has increased in recent years. A range of more cost-effective means of domestic micro-generation is now available to individuals, as are feed-in tariffs (a scheme paying people for creating their own 'green electricity'), which provide Government reimbursement to householders. There is also an increasing interest in community power-generation projects.

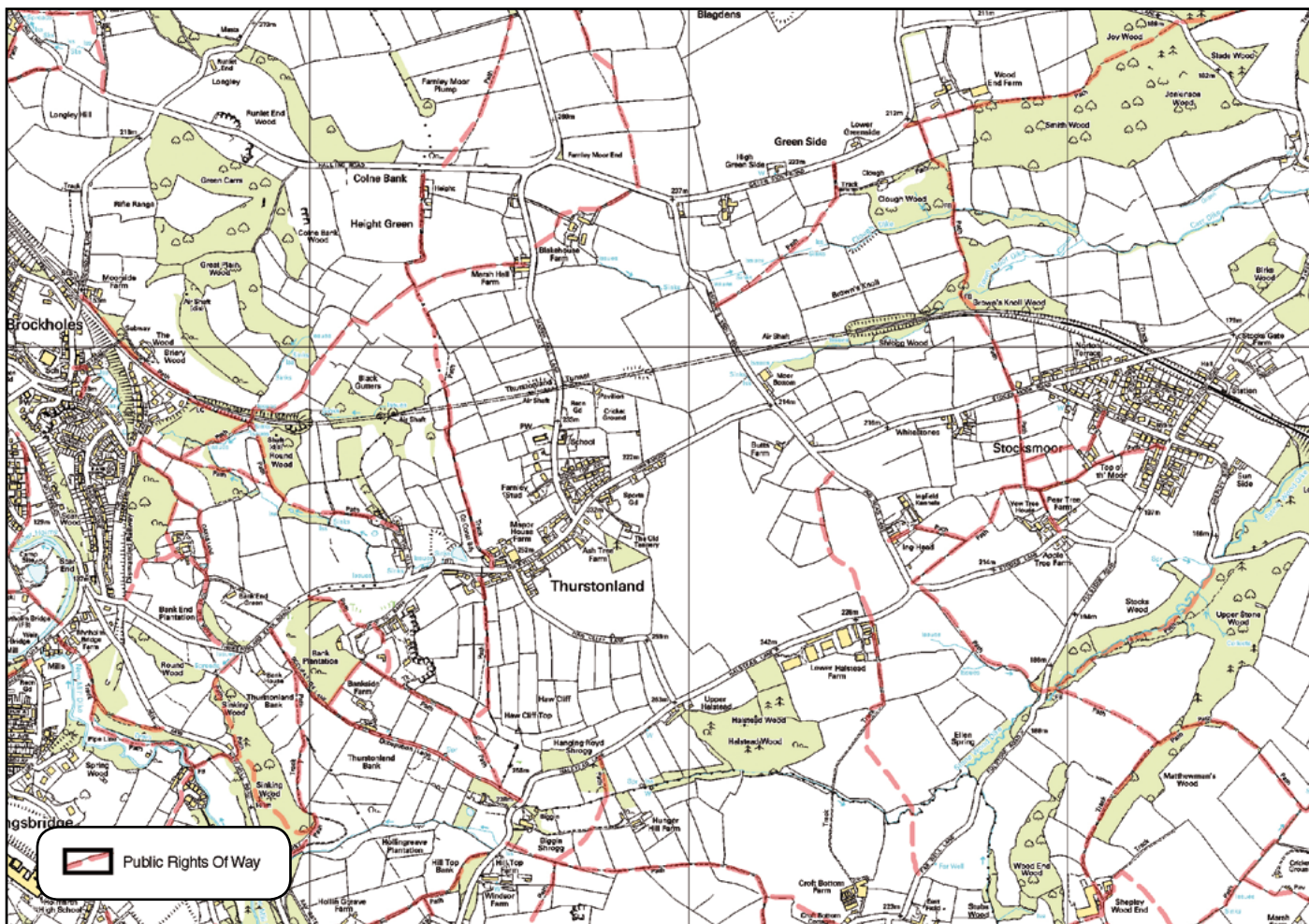
14. Green Issues. Would you be interested in participating in a group to examine possible green initiatives (solar and wind energy, recycling, etc) in Thurstonland?

73 respondents out of 241 expressed an interest in participating in a group to examine green issues.

15.a Public Footpaths. Do you think local public footpaths are, in general, marked well enough?

The majority of respondents thought that the local footpaths were marked well enough, as shown in the chart below.





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15.b You may provide further information here:

People provided other comments on the state of public footpaths, as summarised below (number of respondents):

Improved signage required	11
Improved accessibility/Maintenance required	4
Promotion/Awareness raising	3

Examples of some comments:

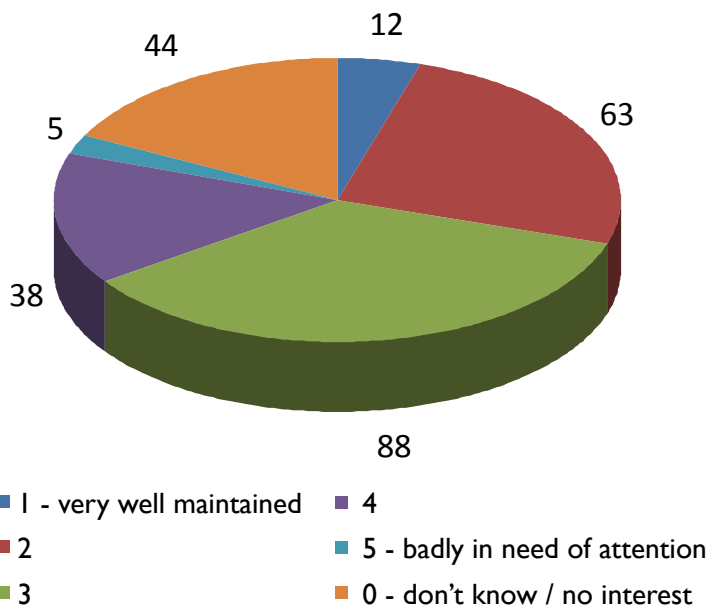
'There is a Footpath sign on Top o'the Bank pointing over a wall which is impossible to climb.'

'Quite poor - important in area as people come to walk'

'Walking around Thurstonland is one of its greatest assets. Are there any unknown? Could TVA produce a map?'

15.c Please state how well you think local public footpaths (including stiles) are maintained on a scale of 1-5, where 1 = very well maintained and 5 = badly in need of attention (put 0 for 'don't know/no interest'):

It was felt that public footpaths and stiles were generally maintained to a good standard, as shown by these responses:





15.d You may provide further information here:

Some other comments regarding footpaths and stiles:

'Barncliffe - some of stiles difficult to use / loose'

'The stone stile on Barn Cliff is always very unstable.'

'The stile from Rose & Crown towards Heights Farm is always dangerous. It is made from some odd stones put on top of one another.'

'Some stiles unsafe for children and people of all ages'

15.e Would a Thurstonland footpath map be useful to you?

71% of respondents (174 people) thought that a Thurstonland footpath map would be useful to them.

16. Dog Fouling. Kirklees do not supply dog-waste bins or bags and suggest people use the ordinary litter-bins. Any supply of bags is dependent on the goodwill of residents. Have you any other suggestions for combating this menace?

Some of your comments with regards to dog fouling were:

'Dog owners should clean up after their dogs'

'Provide dog waste-bins'

'A few fines - well publicised - would help.'

'Responsible dog owners always carry waste

bags. Therefore, any that don't could be fined by locally empowered residents.'

'More signs saying when dogs should be on lead & penalties for fouling'

'Dog wardens to speak to relevant dog owners.'

'Name and shame people.'

'Provide more dog walking areas.'

'More village people to put bags in 'Dog Poo Pots''

'Not a menace compared with slurry on road from farm'



ACTION

- Liaise with the Kirklees MC Footpath Officer to investigate the footpath network, condition of stiles and signage, with a view to initiating appropriate improvements.
- Investigate the provision of a footpath map to include information on local walks.
- Investigate the provision of dog-fouling bins.
- Set up a working-party to investigate green issues and initiatives.



Section 7: Local Economy

Background

As mentioned elsewhere in the Plan, Thurstonland has historically supported a Co-op general store, post office / shop, numerous occupations including weaving, mining, quarrying and brick-making, as well as four pubs and several farms.

Today, even though the village continues to be small, it has one thriving pub, two bed and breakfasts and two working farms. This also does not take into account people who run their businesses from home.



These were the suggestions for helping the success of the pub (number of responses):

17.a Rose and Crown. How often do you visit the village pub?

Over 90% of respondents use the pub, with almost 25% of these using it more than once a week.

17.b If you do visit the pub, is it for: Casual drink and meeting friends, Food, Music. (Please tick any that apply)

In the main, these visits are for a drink and food, rather than for music.

17.c Please make any suggestions which you think may help the success of the pub:

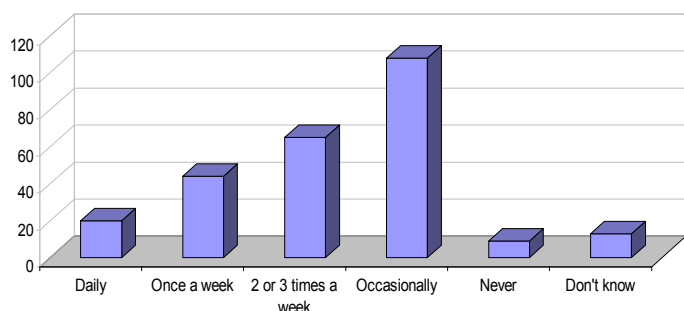
Many people want to improve the parking situation. Other suggestions included improving the quality and choice of food.

Improve parking	13
Improve food / drink	11
Promote and publicise locally	9
Foster and strengthen community links	8
Improve décor	7
Less live music	6
Quieter music	4
Menu choices & price ranges	4
Provide games / facilities	3
Look at community ownership	2
Pub already run well	7
Other	1

Most of the comments were encouraging and positive. However, one unfortunate respondent did have his tea eaten by a dog!

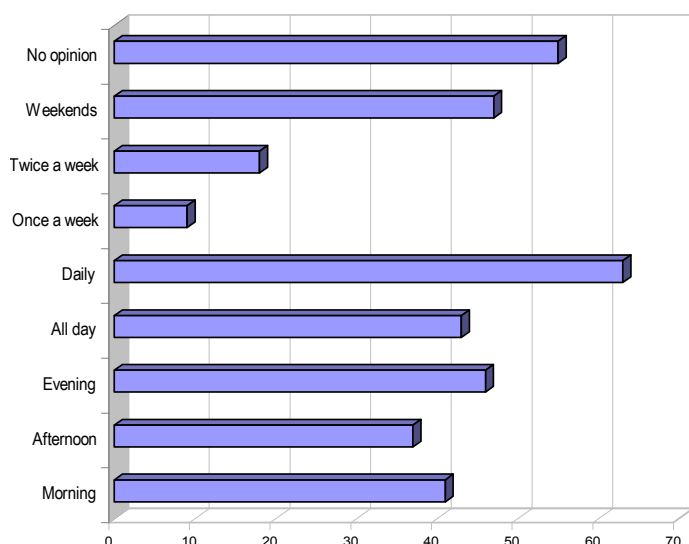
18.a Shop. How often might you use a shop if one were opened in the village?

Out of the 259 respondents, only 9 said they would never use a shop in the village.



18.b When would you like a shop to be open? (Please tick any that apply)

Opinion on opening days / times was very mixed:



18.c What would you hope to buy from the shop? (Please tick any that apply)

People would hope to buy general groceries, local produce and newspapers.

18.d Would you use any tea-room facilities within the shop?

The majority of respondents did not want tea-room facilities.

18.e Would you be able to supply any goods for the shop?

The majority of respondents did not want, or were not able, to supply goods for the shop.

19.a Post Office. Might you use a post office service for any of the following (if open e.g. a couple of hours a week)?

Services that would be used the most were posting, buying stamps and cash withdrawal, but also for buying foreign currency (which suggests that a lot of people like to get away from the village on a regular basis!).

19.b Please give suggestions for ways of re-introducing post office facilities in Thurstonland and/or locations where they might be sited:

You gave suggestions on how to re-introduce post office facilities to the village. The results are summarised below (number of responses):

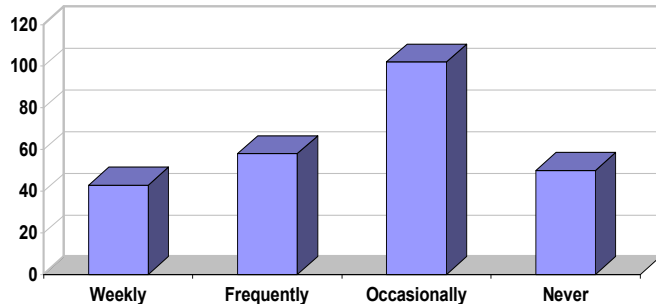
In the pub	40
In old PO building	20
In old PO, with a shop	4
Church	15
Combine with a shop	9
School	6
Mobile PO	6
In new Community Centre	5
Cricket Club	3
In someone's house	2
Other	3
Other comments	3

20. Might you participate in a **community 'bulk-buy' scheme** for food or other items, if one were established in Thurstonland? (ie. a co-operative scheme where items are bought in bulk to obtain lower prices which are passed on to participating villagers).

Most respondents said they were unlikely to use a bulk-buy scheme.

21. How often would you use a **cash-point** if one were available in the village?

There was a very positive response to the suggestion of a cash-point. Most respondents would use a cash machine, even if only occasionally, as shown below (number of responses):

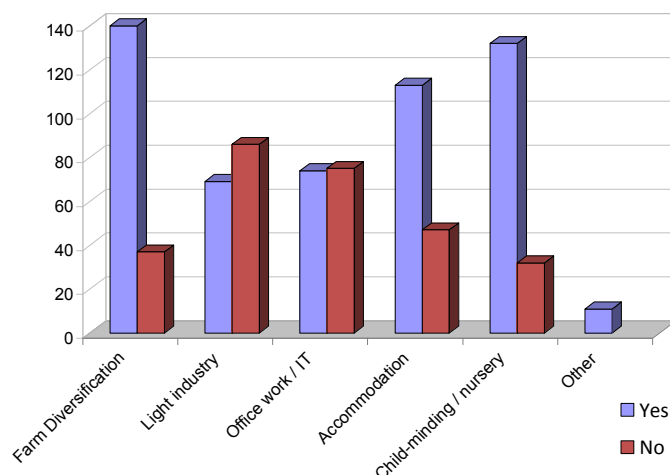


22.a Would you be happy to see any of the following introduced into the village as a boost to the local economy / employment?



Local dry-stone waller celebrating the completion of a wall

People were generally happy to see development in existing buildings, for example of self-catering accommodation and farm diversification. A high percentage of respondents were interested in local child-minding or nursery provision.



22.b Please suggest any ways TVA might assist existing local businesses:

Twenty-two suggestions were received, summarised as follows (number of responses):

Support promotion / advertising	9
Create local business directory	7
TVA as champion of local business	4
Other	2

23. Would you like to see faster Broadband in Thurstonland?

Unsurprisingly, an overwhelming majority of respondents would like to see faster broadband in the village.



ACTION

Pub

- Speak to the Landlord regarding issues raised by the Questionnaire.

Shop, Post Office, Cash-point

- Set up a working-party to investigate (as separate issues) the feasibility of a shop, post office services (perhaps 'mobile') and a cash-point (with any possible revenue used to help fund these facilities).
- Investigate the availability of the Huddersfield Examiner in Thurstonland.

Local Business

- Start a register containing details of local businesses.

Broadband

- Look into ways of achieving faster broadband for Thurstonland.



Section 8: Young People's Questionnaire

Background

Thurstonland has a recreation-ground with play facilities, a hard-court area for all-weather activities and a large grassed playing-field. Adjacent to the Rec is the Cricket Club, where, from April to September, the young people of the village have access to cricket training. This is run by Cricket Club members giving up their time on a voluntary basis, supported by parents of the juniors.



The Village School is an Endowed First School which offers education from the age of 4 to 10 years, which also has an out-of-school club operating before and after school.

St Thomas' Church has a family service on the first Sunday of each month and Children's Church is held on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month for children aged 4 years and over. Rainbows (part of the Guide movement) is run from the Church Room for girls aged 5 to 7 years by the Rainbows Leader with the help of local young adults, and Rainbows are

invited to join the family service. Occasionally, there is a free crafts afternoon in the church for families of the parish to get together. The surrounding countryside offers open spaces for young people to play and explore.

In the households that completed the questionnaire, there are around 64 children under the age of 18. 19 of these are girls and 45 are boys – a rather large gender disparity, for some reason! However, not all these children completed the Young People's questionnaire, probably because some were too young. The total number of young people's responses was 46.

3. What do you like about living in Thurstonland?

The young people were encouraged to write their views on as many topics as they wished and the following is a summary of their replies (number of responses):

Choice of things to do	22
Peace and quiet	15
Size and character	13
Countryside and open spaces	12
People and community	11
Safety	7
School	6
The views	5
The church	3
Other	1

Examples of their comments:

'The Park is really cool'

'Great recreational facilities'

'Living next to a field with sheep and chickens in it'

'Everyone knows everyone so there's a strong community feel'

'It has great views'

'Everything - it's one of the best villages in the country'

4. What don't you like about living in Thurstonland?

This is a summary of what is not liked about the village (number of responses):

Nothing	12
Too far from our friends	7
No shop	6
Traffic and speeding	6
Lack of activities	8
Lack of public transport	3
Other	6

Examples of their comments:

'No shop'

'People driving too fast'

'The Rec could be better'

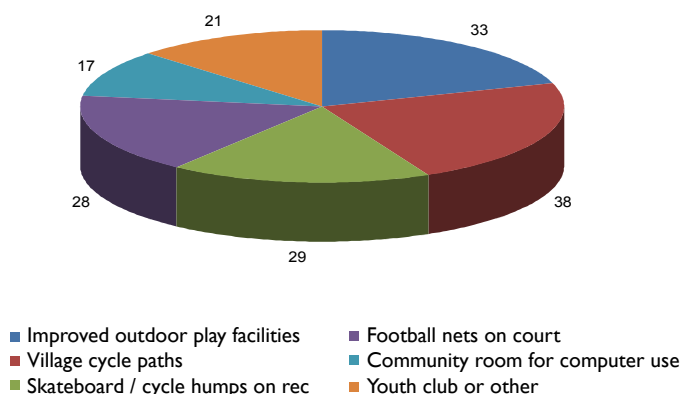
'School is too small and we need more space'

'Lack of transport into town centre (v difficult to get to my college and back)'

5. At the 2020 Vision Launch Event lots of ideas were put forward for ways to change / improve the village.

The following are just a selection of these ideas. Please tick any which you think sound like a good idea and which would make Thurstonland a better place for you.

This chart gives a summary of ideas put forward (number of responses):



They were also asked for other ideas on how to improve the village for young people, and these were the responses:

Shop	8
Improved play facilities	5
Skate park	4
Nothing	4
More bridle paths / footpaths	3
More buses	2
Community activity	2
Other	4

One respondent wanted

'more snow so school's closed'

6. Are there any clubs or activities you'd like to attend that are not currently available locally?

The activities not available locally suggested by the young people were (number of responses):

Football	5
Tennis and squash	4
Arts	3
Netball	2
Combat sports	2
Rugby	2
Other sports	6
Other	5
None	8

ACTION

- Investigate the feasibility of creating village cycle-paths.
- Review facilities on the Rec., including additional play equipment – possibly for older children. Perhaps ask young people for ideas and research other popular play areas (Magna, Wentworth Castle and good smaller facilities).
- Look into the possibility of having a football club for younger children (most older ones are already members at Kirkburton or elsewhere).
- Investigate the feasibility of a shop (see Local Economy section).



Action Plan

Issue		Primary Actions	Action by	Partners	When	Cost
Your Village	No specific action from this section, but questionnaire response helps inform all issues					
Community Sites	Community Centre	- Investigate options & support - Investigate funding - Consult partners - Research multi-use churches	Working Party	- Cricket Club - Church - Other community centres	Long	High
	Community Land	- Investigate availability of suitable land - Establish preferred use of land		- Kirklees MC - Local landowners	Medium	Low / Medium
Roads and Traffic	Road surfaces	- Continue to monitor condition of roads - Liaise with Highways re work required & priorities	TVA	- Kirklees Highways - Kirkburton PC - West Yorks Police	On-going	Low
	Traffic speed	Contact Neighbourhood Policing re support available and possible solutions			Short / On-going	Low
	Footways / pavements	Investigate problems for pedestrians, particularly Town Moor & Marsh Hall Lane			Short	Medium
		Liaise with Kirklees Highways Dept to establish solutions			Medium	
	Parking	- Encourage co-operation between neighbours – use newsletter & website - Investigate parking permits - Investigate possibility of land for parking	TVA	- Kirklees Highways - Kirkburton PC - Rose & Crown - Local landowners	Short Medium Long	Low Low High
Facilities and Services	Bus service	- Ensure service to Huddersfield maintained - Investigate service to Holmfirth - Press for synchronisation with Stockmoor trains	TVA	- West Yorkshire Metro - Access Bus - Hub – Denby Dale	Short / On-going	Low
	Volunteer car service	- Research insurance aspects of scheme - If scheme feasible, establish group of volunteers	Working party	- Kirkburton PC - Other groups with schemes - Voluntary Action Kirklees	Short / On-going	Low
	St Thomas' Church	Contact PCC for suggestions following questionnaire responses	TVA	St Thomas' PCC	Medium	Low

KEY					
MC	Metropolitan Council	Short term	under 6 months	 Low cost	less than £500
PC	Parish Council	Medium term	6 – 24 months	 Medium cost	£500 - £5000
PCC	Parochial Church Council	Long term	more than 24 months	 High cost	more than £5000

<i>Issue</i>		<i>Primary Actions</i>	<i>Action by</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Housing Development	Planning applications	• Monitor planning applications for the village • Liaise with Kirklees Planning Dept • Monitor progress of the Localism Bill	TVA	• Kirklees Planning	On-going	Low
Environment	Public footpaths and stiles	• Review footpaths, stiles and signs with Footpath Officer • Make footpath / walk maps available	TVA	• Kirklees Footpath Officer	Short	Low
	Dog-fouling	• Investigate the provision of dog-fouling bags and bins for the village	TVA	• Kirkburton PC • Kirklees Dog Warden	Short / On-going	Low
	Green Issues	• Investigate green issues – solar, ground source, wind	Working Party	• Kirklees MC • Kirkburton PC • Local landowners • 'Green energy' groups	Short / Medium / Long	Unknown
Local Economy	Pub	• Speak to landlord on issues raised by questionnaire	TVA	• Enterprise Inns • Rose & Crown	Short and on-going	Low
	Shop	• Investigate feasibility of a local shop / post office / cash machine (as separate issues) • Investigate availability of Huddersfield Examiner in Thurstonland	Working Party	• Plunkett Foundation • Post Office • Banks • Rose and Crown • Local farms and suppliers • Local newsagents	Long	High
	Post office					
	Cash machine					
	Local businesses	• Set up register of local businesses	TVA	• Local businesses	Short	Low
	Broadband	• Investigate introduction of faster broadband to the village	Working Party	• BT	Medium	Low
Young People	Cycle paths	• Investigate possible provision of village cycle paths	Working Party with other	• Kirklees MC • Local landowners	Medium	Medium
	The Rec	• Review facilities for young people, including play equipment for older children • Look at other play areas for ideas	TVA	• Kirklees MC • Kirkburton PC	Medium	Medium
	Football Club	• Investigate feasibility of a football club for younger children	TVA	• Kirklees MC • Kirkburton PC • Local sports associations	Medium	Medium



Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to all those who, in numerous ways, have made valuable contributions to the production of this Plan by generously donating their time, support and creative thought, whether with input of professional knowledge or of amateur talent. People giving such assistance included those who:

- Helped with the 2020 Vision launch event at school;
- Participated in the trialling of the Questionnaire;
- Delivered and collected the Questionnaire in difficult weather conditions.

Finally, very grateful thanks to everyone in Thurstonland who played an essential role by completing the Questionnaire, thus enabling the TVA

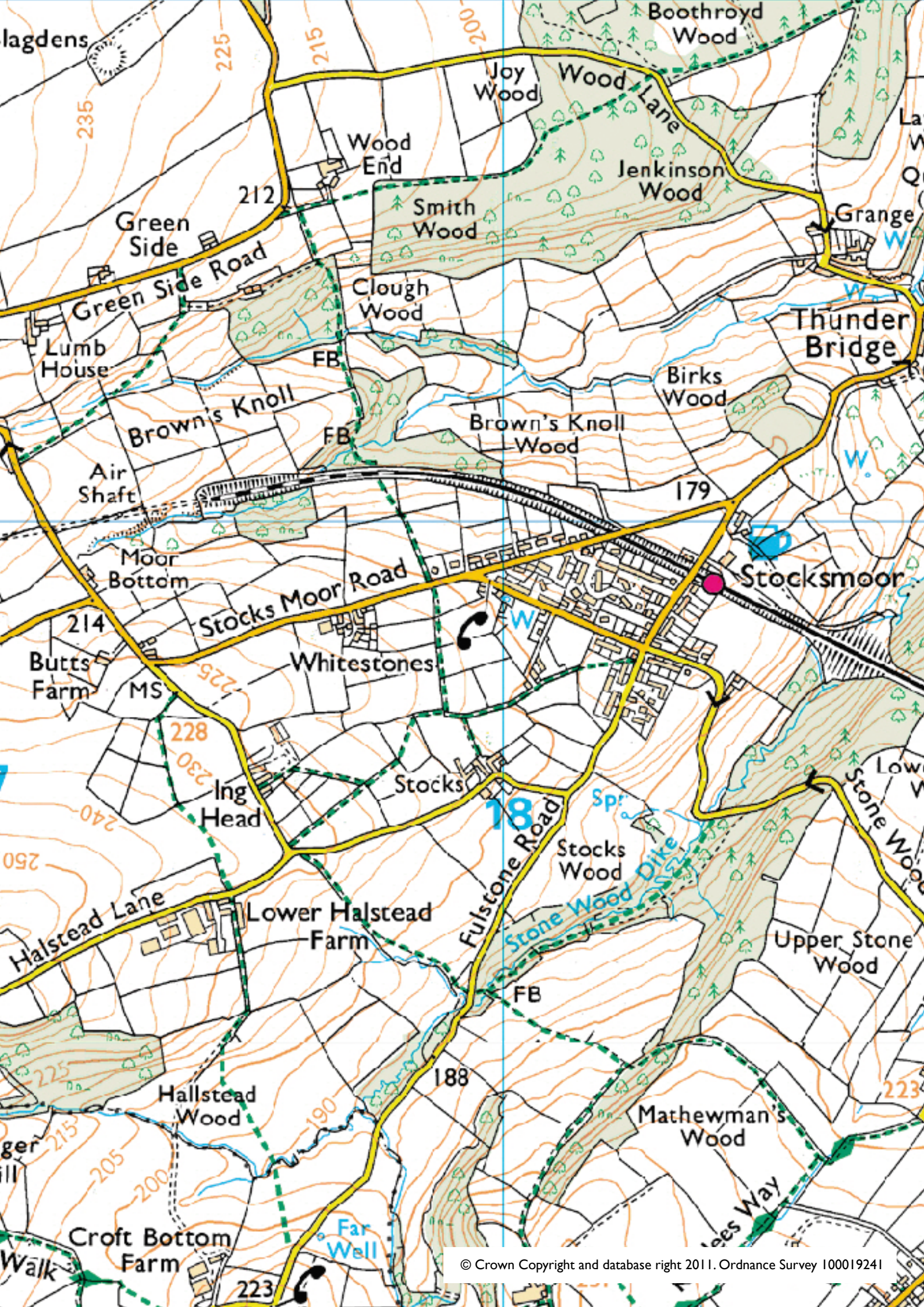
Steering Group, on behalf of the community, to formulate this Plan reflecting the aspirations of the Village.

Steering group members:

Keith Barnes – Steering Group Chair
Penny Lunn – TVA Chair
Rachel Billington
Lisa Corley
Valda Dawson
Sally Rhodes
David Stubbs
Richard Wood

Notes







Thurstonland Community Plan

July 2011

