

Thornhill Community Council

Thornhill Community Plan



THORNHILL COMMUNITY PLAN

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This community plan was commissioned by Nith Valley LEAF Trust with funding from Local Energy Scotland. After a competitive tender process the project was assigned to Community Links Scotland who have significant experience in producing community plans working with Trusts, Community Development Trusts, and community groups. Originally the brief was to develop a community plan for Thornhill and Closeburn together however as work progressed it became clear that there was a need and demand to produce two separate plans, one for each village. Thornhill, by virtue of its larger population and status as a regional service centre, could have overshadowed Closeburn in a joint plan and that is why the decision was made to produce two community plans, with common themes between the two. This duplication is particularly evident on issues relating to services and amenities which are used by residents of both communities. As a result of the need to redress the balance in favour of Closeburn the two communities have been provided with plans which not only address shared issues affecting them both, but also unique issues specific to each village as well. The two plans therefore have significant opportunity for joined up working between the two community council areas.

In total 13 action points and 11 project outlines have been developed designed to address the needs and demands identified by the residents of Thornhill throughout the consultation process. These 24 ideas for the future enhancement of Thornhill have been specifically designed to meet the needs identified through the research undertaken and to tie into the various regional and national policies and strategies for the area which aim to develop, support and build communities. The 13 action points which have been identified for the community plan are:

- Retain care home
- Extended GP opening hours
- Expanding cottage hospital
- Promote befriending service
- Resurfacing and Repainting
- More housing to rent
- More frequent local bus service
- Traffic slowing
- Improved parking layout
- Better maintenance of hedges, trees and paths
- Admin facilities for small businesses
- More activities and clubs in Thornhill
- Better access to sports facilities

These action points are recommendations, not fully fledged project outlines, and they are designed to act as a first step in some of the potential work that could be undertaken by the community council and the wider community in the months and years going forward.

The project outlines came from the community's ideas which have the potential to be developed into more workable, longer- terms projects. The project outlines have aims, a brief proposal, and detail potential partners and funders. The 11 project outlines are:

- Installation of Emergency Medical Equipment: To equip the local community with a portable defibrillator especially designed for people with little or no medical background.

- More sheltered housing: To ensure that there is sufficient long- term provision of sheltered housing in Thornhill to enable residents to remain in their community.
- Development of Unused Local Buildings: To develop well- equipped and dynamic assets in Thornhill, providing a range of key services and amenities.
- Availability of Broadband in Rural Areas: To ensure residents within the Thornhill and Closeburn Community Council Areas can access broadband in their homes
- Reintroduction of Thornhill Railway Station: To reintroduce Thornhill Railway Station.
- Walking/ Cycling Path to Closeburn: To create a safe walking and cycling route between Thornhill and Closeburn
- Upgrade Outdoor Space: To improve the aesthetic appeal of Thornhill and make it a more visually attractive place to live, work, and visit with multi-use outdoor community spaces.
- Gardening Service for Elderly Residents: To ensure that all residents in Thornhill, Closeburn and the surrounding area have the means to maintain their gardens
- Thornhill Community Centre Upgrade: To provide an accessible, well- equipped community space in Thornhill for the provision of a range of services and activities.
- Improved Play Park in Thornhill: To offer the community a better equipped, and maintained, play park in Thornhill, for use by young people of all ages.
- Thornhill Tourist Information Point (Inc. Walkers' map): To provide visitors and tourists to the area with a well-equipped, informative first point of contact offering information on local attractions and activities.

The extensive consultation work which has been carried out as part of the development of this community plan has ensured that this finished product is comprehensive and useful and can be put straight into use. A great number of residents were spoken to during the consultation who shared their aspirations and hopes for the future of Thornhill, not only did this enable community aspirations to be identified, it also facilitated a better understand of the underlying issues and development of realistic solutions. The work carried out enabled engagement with a wide range of community members and stakeholders and gleaned from them a great depth of valuable knowledge which has been analysed and synthesised to produce this community plan. This community plan contains within it a range of workable ideas and project outlines which could be taken forward by community groups and bodies, or by residents themselves, to ultimately enhance the quality of local life or address specific issues identified by community members. This document will support the development of Thornhill's community vision and provide the community council and the wider community with a tool to assist future planning and development in the short, medium and longer term.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

As part of the consultation process for this community plan a range of engagement methods were used. The first action was to undertake a survey of all households in the community council area; this amounted to just under 1000 surveys being delivered in Thornhill Community Council area. Of these, 377 surveys were returned giving a response rate of 39%. In addition to the survey being delivered, an online version was also compiled which was circulated by community members allowing 36 more community members to submit their responses. Consultation work was also carried out with 90 S5 and S6 pupils at Wallace Hall Academy, asking them to complete the same household survey, as a means of redressing the age bias evident in the returned household surveys. In total 503 surveys were returned from school pupils, online completions and those that were delivered; assuming there is no duplication 28% of the total population of Thornhill Community Council area completed a survey.

Supplementing the survey work undertaken, additional primary consultation work was carried out with community groups, local businesses and primary school pupils. Face to face meetings and discussions were had with 15 local businesses and had 33 tailored local business surveys returned (some businesses had both a face to face meeting and returned a survey). From local community groups 16 tailored surveys were returned, and in addition to this a number of face to face discussions were had with members of some groups including Rotary Club, arts groups, and the Thornhill Community Centre Committee. Two sessions were also held at Wallace Hall Primary School, one with P6 pupils and one with P7 pupils, in total reaching 41 primary school pupils.

The final piece of consultation work carried out was two drop- in events in Thornhill. At these events community members were asked a series of in- depth questions about their aspirations and hopes for the future of their community, building on residents' responses to the previous stage of the consultation. Between both of these consultation events held in December 2016 over 200 community members in total were spoken to, given the drop-in nature of the events it is difficult to determine the exact number of respondents. Analysis was carried out on the responses to all elements of the consultation at each stage and, along with the needs analysis and policy background which was developed throughout, used to inform the action points and project outlines contained within the community plan.

3.0 BACKGROUND TO COMMUNITY PLAN

3.1 Population and Location

Thornhill is a village located in Dumfries and Galloway, South West Scotland. Initially a small village, planned and built in 1717 on the Queensberry Estate, it has grown over the years into a bustling village of around 1,790¹. This is a slight increase from 1,512 in 2001 to 1,674 in 2011². Thornhill lies at the junction of the A76 Dumfries to Kilmarnock and A702 New Galloway to Edinburgh roads providing the village with excellent road links to other nearby towns and villages as well as to the larger cities in Scotland's central belt and the North of England. Thornhill, being the largest village in the mid Nithsdale area, is a local service centre with many residents from nearby smaller villages and hamlets making use of the facilities and amenities on offer in the village. As such Thornhill could be seen as a central hub for the local area which draws people from across Nithsdale and further afield for work, leisure and healthcare and education. It is estimated that there are now approximately 800 houses in Thornhill with approximately a further 100 across the community council area. The proportion of owner occupied housing in Thornhill village is around 64%, slightly higher than the national level, estimated to be around 62%.



Figure 3.1.1: Thornhill Cross

3.2 Business and Education



Figure 3.2.1: Wallace Hall School

Thornhill is home to many businesses and with a local economy which is varied with a range of local small and medium-sized businesses, however many local people do still have to commute to larger settlements such as Dumfries, Ayr, Glasgow and Carlisle for work. The village is served by a number of pre-school groups. For older children there is Wallace Hall School which includes both a primary and secondary school facility which consistently rank among the best in the region. The secondary school has a catchment of most of the surrounding villages and its reputation draws in other pupils from as far afield as Dumfries.

3.3 Community

The community is also fairly well served in terms of community and recreation facilities and services. Most significantly the village has a large community centre which offers a range of classes and clubs across its timetable. The village also has a squash club, the Friendship Club (a community meeting space), activity



Figure 3.3.1: Thornhill Community Centre

¹ Dumfries and Galloway Council, 2016

² Census Scotland; 2001, 2011

spaces within the fire station, a golf club, a bowling green, a number of walking routes, and library. Thornhill is also home to a number of community groups and clubs including Scouts, Guides, various art classes, Bridge Club, keep-fit classes, singing groups, Buccleuch and Queensberry Caledonia Pipe Band, Probus Club, Rotary Club, the Horticultural Society, church groups and yoga classes. Throughout the year Thornhill also plays host to larger community events; notably Thornhill Music Festival, Thornhill Gala Day, and Thornhill Tattoo.

3.4 Environment

The community's rural setting ensures that there is an abundance of picturesque scenery surrounding the village which undoubtedly adds to its unique charm. Residents and visitors are able to explore this local environment using the network of walking paths and nature trails throughout the area. One such route takes walkers through The Common Wood, the woodland area to the west of the village, and back into the village via Gill Road. The village is also equipped with two children's play parks, one adjacent to the community centre and the other on the grassy area between Muirhall Road and Walltrees Road. These parks are aimed primarily at, and equipped for, use by small children. In addition to the local parks there are open spaces in the village for residents to use for sport and leisure. One such space is the field at Wallace Hall School which is used informally, however there are some issues relating to the accessibility of this space for more formal use.

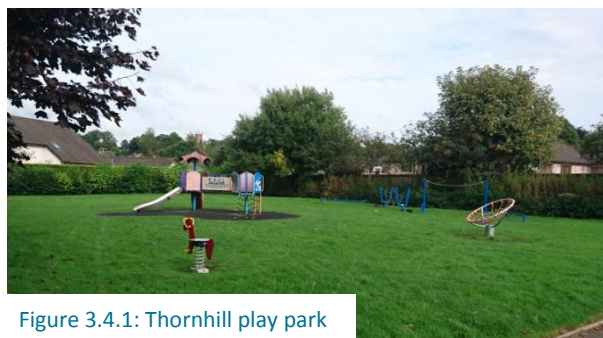


Figure 3.4.1: Thornhill play park

3.5 Health and Emergency Services

Thornhill is served by a local health centre and a small community hospital- one of eight across Dumfries and Galloway, but the only one in the Dumfries and Upper Nithsdale area. The cottage hospital offers a 13 bedded unit accessible by local GPs and consultants from Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary. Furthermore the cottage hospital provides assessment of adults, rehabilitation and palliative care for patients. For patients in need of emergency or specialist treatment, travel to



Figure 3.5.1: Thornhill Hospital

Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary (which contains 337 staffed beds, and has a full range of specialties) is necessary. Thornhill Ambulance Station is also situated adjacent to the hospital enabling residents to access the Scottish Ambulance Service with an estimated response time under 8 minutes, one of the best response times in all of Dumfries and Galloway. There is also a voluntary Fire Service in Thornhill based on Kinnell Street, which has ten retained crew members based in the community. Recently Police Scotland has proposed closing the police station located in Thornhill, a decision which has proven controversial with residents.

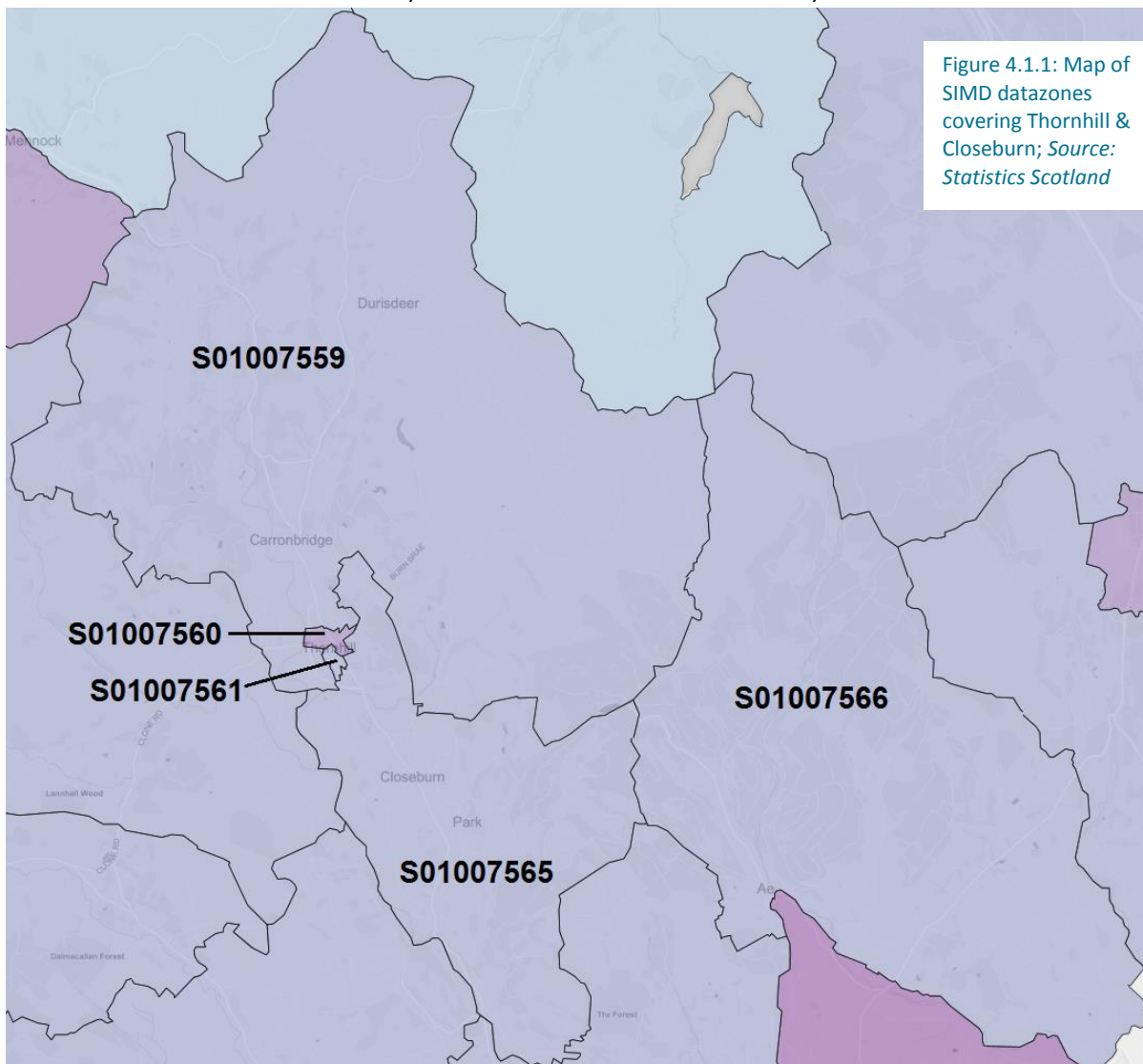
4.0 NEEDS ANALYSIS

The following section provides baseline information on the demographics of the area. The statistics have been derived from the most appropriate or available scale sources of data:

- Small Area Population Estimates 2015 at Datazone level
- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 at Datazone level
- Census Scotland 2011 at Locality and Output Area level

4.1 Defining Geographical Boundaries

The geographical boundaries relating to statistics used in this section of the plan are illustrated in the maps below which highlights the five datazones that comprise the areas covered by Thornhill and Closeburn Community Councils and Thornhill Community Council area.



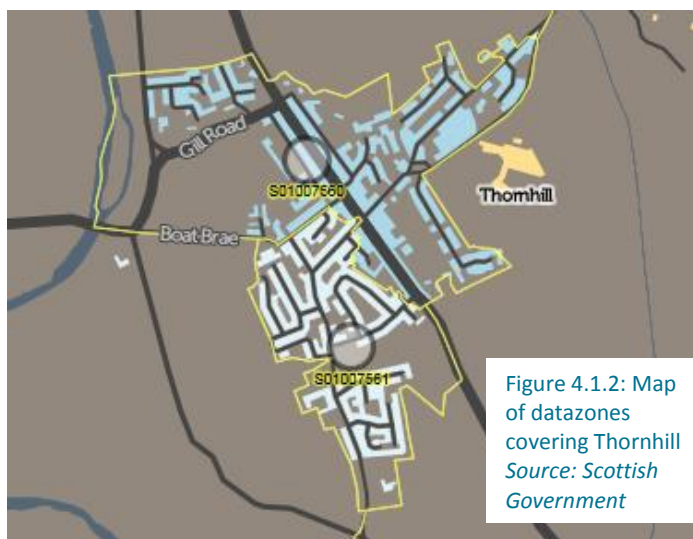


Figure 4.1.2: Map of datazones covering Thornhill
Source: Scottish Government

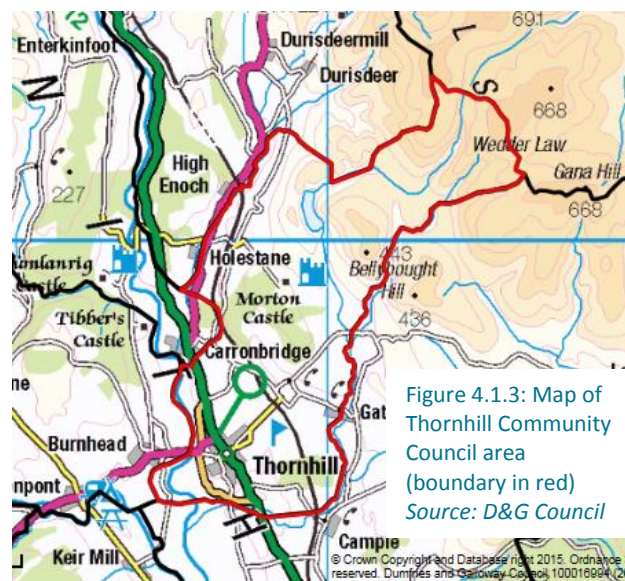


Figure 4.1.3: Map of Thornhill Community Council area (boundary in red)
Source: D&G Council

4.2 Population

Population estimates for 2015 are provided by the National Records of Scotland (NRS). The information is at datazone level for the datazones which cover Thornhill. Population estimates are shown in Table 4.2.1 with local authority and national figures included for comparison.

Table 4.2.1: Population Estimates for Study Area Datazones: 30 June 2015 Source: NRS

| Age | Thornhill | | Dumfries and Galloway | | Scotland 2015 | |
|------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % |
| 0 - 4 | 75 | 3.27% | 6,952 | 4.65% | 291,174 | 5.42% |
| (5-15 years) | 282 | 12.29% | 16,724 | 11.17 | 621,088 | 11.56% |
| Working Age (16 - 64) | 1,292 | 56.30% | 91,861 | 61.38% | 3,539,508 | 65.88% |
| Pension Age (65+) | 646 | 28.15% | 34,125 | 22.80% | 921,230 | 17.15% |
| All ages | 2,295 | 100.00% | 149,662 | 100.00% | 5,373,000 | 100.00% |

This table highlights that the total population of datazones S01007559, S01007560 and S01007561 is 2,295; these are the datazone areas which best match the community council boundary. This figure does not correspond to Thornhill Community Council’s population as datazone boundaries and community council boundaries do not match.

The estimated population of the Thornhill Community Council area is 1,790. This figure is taken from the Dumfries and Galloway website and is correct at the time of reporting.

Population figures are given to provide context to the following SIMD analysis which is given at datazone level. This population profile should be considered when identifying and delivering services and activities locally.

4.3 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

4.3.1 What is the SIMD?

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying those places in Scotland suffering from deprivation. It incorporates several different aspects of deprivation, combining them into a single index. It divides Scotland into 6,976 small areas, called datazones, each containing around 350 households. The Index provides a relative ranking for each datazone, from 1 (most deprived) to 6,976 (least deprived). The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 data was released on 30 August 2016.

In the SIMD context, deprivation is defined as the range of problems that arise due to lack of resources or opportunities, covering health, safety, education, employment, housing and access to services, as well as financial aspects. The SIMD uses data relating to multiple aspects of life in order to gain the fullest possible picture of deprivation across Scotland. Seven different aspects are identified - the seven SIMD domains - and data from these domains are combined to produce the index.

The SIMD is based on small areas known as datazones. Each datazone has on average 800 people living in it. Because they are population-based, datazones can vary hugely in size. For example, in towns and cities where people live close together, datazones can contain only a few streets, while in rural areas that are sparsely populated, they can cover many square miles. The physical datazone boundaries changed in 2016, and the type of people who live within each datazone has likely changed as well. The use of data for such small areas helps to identify 'pockets' (or concentrations) of deprivation that may be missed in analyses based on larger areas such as council wards or local authorities.

The seven domains in SIMD 2016, used to measure the multiple aspects of deprivation, are: Income; Employment; Health; Education, Skills, and Training; Housing; Geographic Access; and Crime. As well as providing an overall rank for each datazone (from 1, the most deprived, to 6,976, the least deprived); the SIMD also provides a rank for each datazone within each of the seven domains. It is therefore possible to look at individual aspects of deprivation for each area, as well as the overall level of deprivation. Each domain is made up of several indicators.

4.3.2 Thornhill Overall SIMD

This table highlights the low levels of multiple deprivation experienced within the Thornhill area. The overall rankings of the datazones that cover the area are within the least deprived 45%- 38% in Scotland. Consideration of the ranks for the individual domains illustrates that the area generally scores well; falling all datazones within the least deprived 10%- 56% of Scotland for most domains with a few exceptions. Datazone S01007559 falls within the most deprived 3% nationally for Geographic Access, and datazone S01007561 falling within the most deprived 36% for Income.

| Data Zone | Total Population (SAPE 2015) | Best-fit Working Age Population (men 16-64, women 16-60 SAPE 2015) | Overall SIMD 2016 | | Income domain 2016 | | Employment domain 2016 | | Health domain 2016 | | Education, Skills and Training domain 2016 | | Housing domain 2016 | | Geographic Access domain 2016 | | SIMD Crime 2016 | |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|------------------------|------|--------------------|------|--|------|---------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|-----------------|------|
| | | | Rank | % | Rank | % | Rank | % | Rank | % | Rank | % | Rank | % | Rank | % | Rank | % |
| S01007559 | 716 | 446 | 3,736 | 53.6 | 4,330 | 62.1 | 4,233 | 60.7 | 5,165 | 74.0 | 5,146 | 73.8 | 3,193 | 45.8 | 209 | 3.0 | 4,291 | 61.5 |
| S01007560 | 907 | 469 | 4,313 | 61.8 | 3,474 | 49.8 | 3,635 | 52.1 | 4,111 | 58.9 | 3,675 | 52.7 | 5,392 | 77.3 | 5,979 | 85.7 | 4,459 | 63.9 |
| S01007561 | 725 | 365 | 3,686 | 52.8 | 2,510 | 36.0 | 3,797 | 54.4 | 3,076 | 44.1 | 3,418 | 49.0 | 5,801 | 83.2 | 6,284 | 90.1 | 5,348 | 76.7 |

Table 4.3.1: Overall SIMD Rankings, Source; *Scottish Government*

4.3.3 Thornhill Income Domain

The income domain identifies areas where there are concentrations of individuals and families living on low incomes by looking at the numbers of people, both adult and children, who are receiving, or dependent on, benefits related to income or tax credits.

| Datazone | Total Population (SAPE 2015) | Income domain 2016 | | Income domain 2016 rate (%) | Number of Income Deprived People 2016 (DWP) |
|-----------|------------------------------|--------------------|------|-----------------------------|---|
| | | Rank | % | | |
| S01007559 | 716 | 4,330 | 62.1 | 7 | 50 |
| S01007560 | 907 | 3,474 | 49.8 | 10 | 90 |
| S01007561 | 725 | 2,510 | 36.0 | 14 | 100 |
| | 2,348 | | | | 240 |

Table 4.3.2: Income SIMD domain; Source: Scottish Government

The table above, highlights the varied level of income deprivation across Thornhill with the three datazones ranging from the most deprived 36% to the least deprived 38% in the country in that domain. The rate of income deprivation in the area ranges from 7%- 14%, meaning that approximately one tenth of the population is experiencing income deprivation. The total estimated number of income deprived people across the three datazones is as high as 240. These figures suggest there is still work to be done to address income deprivation locally.

4.3.4 Thornhill Employment Domain

The employment domain identifies the proportion of people from the resident working age population who are unemployed or who are not in the labour market due to ill health or disability.

| Datazone | Best-fit Working Age Population** (men 16-64, women 16-60 SAPE 2015) | Employment domain 2016 | | Employment domain 2016 rate (%) | Number of Employment Deprived People 2016 (DWP) |
|-----------|--|------------------------|------|---------------------------------|---|
| | | Rank | % | | |
| S01007559 | 446 | 4,233 | 60.7 | 7 | 30 |
| S01007560 | 469 | 3,635 | 52.1 | 8 | 40 |
| S01007561 | 365 | 3,797 | 54.4 | 8 | 30 |
| | 1,280 | | | | 100 |

Table 4.3.3: Employment SIMD Domain; Source: Scottish Government

The table above highlights the limited extent of employment deprivation in Thornhill with all three datazones falling within the least deprived 39%- 47% in Scotland. The estimated number of employment deprived working age people in the area is 100 with the rate of employment deprivation between 7%- 8%. While not a significant issue in Thornhill, these figures suggest there is still work needed to address employment deprivation in Thornhill.

4.3.5 Thornhill Health Domain

The health domain identifies areas with a higher than expected level of ill health or mortality for the age-sex profile of the population.

| Datazone | Health domain 2016 | | Standardised mortality ratio (ISD, 2011- 14) | Comparative Illness Factor: standardised ratio (DWP, 2015) | Hospital stays related to alcohol misuse: standardised ratio (ISD, 2011- 14) | Hospital stays related to drug misuse: standardised ratio (ISD, 2011- 14) | Emergency stays in hospital: standardised ratio (ISD, 2011- 15) | Proportion of population being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis (%) (ISD, 2014- 15) | Proportion of live singleton births of low birth weight (%) (ISD, 2011- 14) |
|-----------|--------------------|------|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| | Rank | % | | | | | | | |
| S01007559 | 5,165 | 74.0 | 64 | 70 | 32 | 0 | 81 | 11 | 6 |
| S01007560 | 4,111 | 58.9 | 95 | 75 | 15 | 0 | 107 | 17 | 0 |
| S01007561 | 3,076 | 44.1 | 131 | 95 | 33 | 54 | 98 | 20 | 0 |

Table 4.3.4: Health SIMD Domain; Source: Scottish Government

This table highlights the marked spread in levels of health deprivation across Thornhill, with the three datazones falling within a broad range of levels of deprivation; from the most deprived 45% to the least deprived 26%. Some key points to note from this data are:

- The rate of observed deaths is between 5%-36% lower than expected in two datazones but 31% higher than expected in So1007561.
- The rate of observed recipients of health related benefits is between 5%- 30% lower than expected across the datazones.
- The rate of observed hospital stays related to alcohol misuse in the datazones is between 67%- 85% lower than expected.
- The rate of observed hospital stays related to drug misuse is between 46%- 100% lower than expected across the datazones.
- The rate of observed emergency stays in hospital is between 2%- 19% lower than expected in two datazones but for So1007560 the rate is 7% higher than expected.
- Approximately 15%- 16% of the population are being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis.
- The level of live singleton births of low birth weight is between 0%- 6% across the three datazones.

4.3.6 Thornhill Education, Skills & Training Domain

The education domain includes indicators that measure both causes of education deprivation (such as absenteeism and lack of progression to further and higher education) and outcomes of education deprivation (such as children and adults with a lack of qualifications).

| Datazone | Education, Skills and Training domain 2016 | | School pupil attendance (SG, 2012/13, 2014/15) (%) | Attainment of school leavers (SG, 2011/12-2014/15) | Working age people with no qualifications: standardised ratio (Census, 2011) | Proportion of people aged 16-19 NEET (School Leavers 2012/13-2013/14, DWP 2013 and 2014 (%) | Proportion of 17-21 year olds entering full time higher education (HESA 2012/13-2014/15) (%) |
|-----------|--|------|--|--|--|---|--|
| | Rank | % | | | | | |
| S01007559 | 5,146 | 73.8 | 89% | 5.8 | 59 | 8% | 15% |
| S01007560 | 3,675 | 52.7 | 89% | 5.7 | 106 | 11% | 8% |
| S01007561 | 3,418 | 49.0 | 89% | 5.6 | 114 | 7% | 5% |

Table 4.3.5: Education, Skills and Training SIMD Domain; Source: Scottish Government

The table above shows that level of deprivation for Education, Skills & Training across the three datazones places them in the least deprived 26%- 51% nationally. Within the datazones pupil attendance is at 89% and the proportion of people aged 16- 19 who are not in full time education, employment or training is between 7%- 11% across the datazones. The proportion of 17- 21 year olds entering full time higher education is between 5%- 15% across the datazones.

4.3.7 Thornhill Housing Domain

The SIMD housing domain is intended to focus on the suitability and physical condition of housing. It contains indicators that are based on the proportion of the household population that experience overcrowding or are without central heating and the data is taken from the Census 2011.

| Datazone | Housing Domain 2016 | | Number of people in households that are overcrowded (Census, 2011) | Percentage of people in households that are overcrowded (Census, 2011) | Number of people in households without central heating (Census, 2011) | Percentage of people in households without central heating (Census, 2011) |
|-----------|---------------------|------|--|--|---|---|
| | Rank | % | | | | |
| S01007559 | 3,193 | 45.8 | 64 | 9% | 21 | 3% |
| S01007560 | 5,392 | 77.3 | 46 | 5% | 10 | 1% |
| S01007561 | 5,801 | 83.2 | 24 | 3% | 10 | 1% |

Table 4.3.6: Housing SIMD Domain; Source: Scottish Government

The table above shows that S01007559 is within the most deprived 45% nationally while the other two datazones fall within the least deprived quarter of all datazones in the country. Between 3%- 9% of people in the datazones live in households that are overcrowded and between 1%- 3% of people live in homes without central heating. It is very important to recognise that the data used here is now nearly 6 years old and therefore may not reflect the current situation.

4.3.8 Thornhill Access to Services Domain

The access domain is intended to capture the financial cost, time and inconvenience of having to travel to access basic services (e.g. post office, schools, GPs). It consists of two sub domains. One looks at the time it takes to drive to reach services and the other looks at the time it takes to reach services by public transport.

| Datazone | Access domain 2016 | | Average drive time to a petrol station in minutes | Average drive time to a GP surgery in minutes | Average drive time to a post office in minutes | Average drive time to a primary school in minutes | Average drive time to a retail centre in minutes | Average drive time to a secondary school in minutes | Public transport travel time to a GP surgery in minutes | Public transport travel time to a post office in minutes | Public transport travel time to a retail centre in minutes |
|-----------|--------------------|------|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| | Rank | % | | | | | | | | | |
| S01007559 | 209 | 3.0 | 8.2 | 9.2 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 8.4 | 28.0 | 20.3 | 21.7 |
| S01007560 | 5,979 | 85.7 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 1.4 | 2.9 | 1.5 | 3.2 | 9.9 | 5.1 | 5.3 |
| S01007561 | 6,284 | 90.1 | 2.1 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 3.6 | 1.8 | 3.7 | 5.2 | 5.8 | 6.3 |

Table 4.3.7: Geographic Access SIMD Domain; Source: Scottish Government

Table 3.3.7 shows that one of the datazones covering rural Thornhill is considered extremely deprived in terms of geographic access to services; falling within the most deprived 3% nationally. Datazone S01007561 on the other hand falls within the least deprived 10% in the country for this domain and S01007560 is within the least deprived 15%. It is important to note that this domain only considers *geographic* access; it does not take into consideration any other possible barriers to access of key services. From the above information we can see that the more urban datazones are well placed to access GP surgeries, petrol stations, post offices, primary and secondary schools, and retail centres by both car and public transport; the more rural areas on the other hand are not.

4.3.9 Thornhill Crime Domain

The SIMD crime domain measures the rate of selected crime at small area level using 2014/15 recorded crime data. It is based on six indicators of broad crime types, chosen partly on the basis of the relevance of their impact on the local neighbourhood and partly on the availability of data. The six indicators are:

- Recorded crimes of violence
- Recorded sexual offences
- Recorded domestic housebreaking
- Recorded vandalism
- Recorded drugs offences
- Recorded common assault

| Data Zone | SIMD Crime 2016 | | SIMD Crime 2016 count | SIMD Crimes per 10,000 total population |
|-----------|-----------------|------|-----------------------|---|
| | Rank | % | | |
| S01007559 | 4,291 | 61.5 | 11 | 154 |
| S01007560 | 4,459 | 63.9 | 13 | 144 |
| S01007561 | 5,348 | 76.7 | 7 | 97 |

Table 4.3.8: Crime SIMD Domain; Source: Scottish Government

This table shows that crime is not a significant issue in the datazones covering Thornhill given that they are ranked between the least deprived 38%- 23% of datazones in Scotland for this particular domain. A total of 31 SIMD crimes were recorded across the datazones in the 2014/15 year.

4.4 Demographic Data

The data in this section is presented at Locality level for the Scottish Census 2011, these do not correspond to SIMD16 datazone areas. Localities correspond to the more recognisable towns and cities of Scotland; they have a minimum rounded population of 500 people or more. This data therefore does not cover the more rural parts of Thornhill Community Council. Dumfries and Galloway local authority and national figures for Scotland are provided for comparison.

| Household Composition | Thornhill | D&G | Scotland |
|---|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Total number of households | 797 | 67,980 | 2,372,777 |
| % One person household aged 65+ | 22.8 | 15.7 | 13.1 |
| % One person household aged <65 | 14.1 | 16.8 | 21.6 |
| % One family only: Lone parent: With dependent children | 4.6 | 5.7 | 7.2 |
| % One family only: Lone parent: All children non- dependent | 4.6 | 3.3 | 3.9 |
| % One family only: Married or same-sex civil partnership: w. dependent children | 9.8 | 13.3 | 13.6 |
| % One family only: Married or same-sex civil partnership: No dependent children | 19.7 | 21.5 | 18.4 |
| % Cohabiting couple: with dependent children | 3.6 | 4.2 | 3.7 |
| % Cohabiting couple: No dependent children | 3.1 | 5.1 | 5.5 |
| % Other households: All aged 65+ | 14.7 | 10.9 | 7.8 |

| Households | Thornhill | D&G | Scotland |
|---|-----------|------|----------|
| % of households with too few rooms per resident | 3.3 | 5.0 | 9.0 |
| % households owned | 63.7 | 64.2 | 62.0 |
| % other social rented | 21.6 | 19.6 | 11.1 |
| Average age (Years) | 49.2 | 43.6 | 40.3 |

| Education | Thornhill | D&G | Scotland |
|--|-----------|------|----------|
| % 16- 17 year olds in education | 68.6 | 78.9 | 79.8 |
| % with no qualifications | 38.0 | 32.9 | 26.8 |
| % Highest qualification attained: Level 1* | 21.7 | 24.6 | 23.1 |
| % Highest qualification attained: Level 2 | 12.0 | 13.3 | 14.3 |
| % Highest qualification attained: Level 3 | 6.1 | 7.6 | 9.7 |
| % Highest qualification attained: L 4+ | 22.2 | 21.5 | 26.1 |

| Labour | Thornhill | D&G | Scotland |
|---|-----------|------|----------|
| % households w. at least 1 person aged 16-74 who is unemployed (not full-time student) or long-term sick/disabled | 10.4 | 12.8 | 14.6 |
| % All persons 16 to 74: Employees- part- time | 18.2 | 15.9 | 13.3 |
| % All persons 16 to 74: Employees- full- time | 31.6 | 34.5 | 39.6 |
| % All persons 16 to 74: Self- employed | 9.2 | 11.1 | 7.5 |
| % All persons 16 to 74: Unemployed | 3.7 | 4.2 | 4.8 |
| % All persons 16 to 74: FT student- employed | 1.2 | 1.6 | 2.9 |

| | | | |
|--|------|------|------|
| % All persons 16 to 74: FT student- unemployed | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.8 |
| % All persons 16 to 74: Retired | 24.8 | 19.5 | 14.9 |
| % All persons 16 to 74: Student | 2.3 | 3.2 | 5.5 |
| % All persons 16 to 74: Looking after home or family | 2.6 | 3.3 | 3.6 |
| % All persons 16 to 74: Long- term sick or disabled | 4.5 | 4.7 | 5.1 |
| % All persons 16 to 74: Other | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.9 |
| % All persons unemployed: aged 16- 24 | 54.8 | 33.9 | 30.2 |
| % All persons unemployed: aged 50- 74 | 16.7 | 18.3 | 18.4 |

Table 4.4.1: Census data for Thornhill; Source: Census Scotland

*See appendix 10.5 for breakdown of qualification levels.

A few key points to note about Thornhill from the statistics in the table above are:

- The average age in Thornhill is almost 9 years older than for the whole of Scotland
- The proportion of socially rented accommodation in the area is almost double the rate for Scotland, and slightly higher than the Dumfries and Galloway rate.
- There is a higher proportion of people with no qualifications in the area than seen regionally and nationally- up to 12 percentage points higher compared to Scotland.
- There is a higher proportion of people working part- time than seen regionally and nationally, with a lower proportion of people working full- time.
- Almost a quarter of the population is retired, compared to under 15% nationally
- In Thornhill the proportion of unemployed people falling in the 16- 24 age bracket is almost double the national figure.

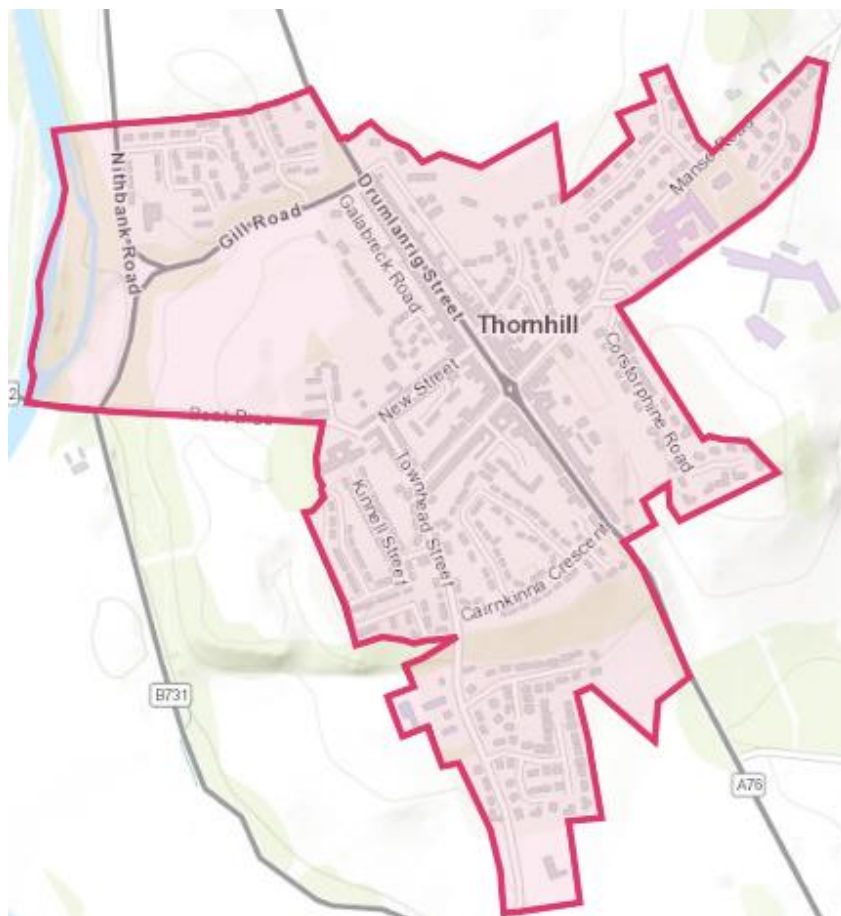


Figure 4.4.1: Map of Thornhill Locality Area; Source: Census Scotland

4.5 Nithsdale Local Area Profile

The Nithsdale Local Area Profile produced by The Crichton Institute highlights that the population of Dumfries and Galloway is projected to decline by 0.6% between the years 2010-2020. This will be caused by a disproportionate level of out-migration of young people aged 16-20, while simultaneously there is a net in-migration of those in the older age groups, this will likely be replicated in Nithsdale however reliable figures for smaller areas are not available. This will also exacerbate the gap in the number of births and deaths in Nithsdale, with far fewer births recorded than deaths.

The pattern of employment in Nithsdale is broadly similar to the regional average with health/social work and wholesale/retail accounting for the largest proportions of employment in the area, as they do across Dumfries and Galloway. The rate of unemployment across Nithsdale was slightly higher than the regional figure at 4.4% compared to 4.2%. These figures come from the number of people who are claiming Jobseekers allowance. In addition to those defined as unemployed around 13,440 people in Nithsdale were economically inactive, of those 18% were economically inactive because they had retired, nearly 2,100 were inactive because they were sick or disabled. Of the ten most employment deprived datazones in Nithsdale, none of the 2012 datazones covering Thornhill were included.

Of all the enterprises in Nithsdale almost 99% of them were classed as either small or micro businesses, this is only slightly lower than the national proportions. The sector with the most enterprises in Nithsdale is Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; however the share is slightly lower than what is seen at a regional level likely as a result of Nithsdale containing Dumfries and Galloway's largest urban area. The proportion of total employment in accommodation and food service activities, which is indicative of that in the tourism sector, was below the regional and national averages.

Within Nithsdale Thornhill Hospital is the only NHS hospital outside of Dumfries where Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary serves as the main acute services hospital for the region. A 2012/2013 survey carried out by NHS Dumfries and Galloway found that the greatest area of dissatisfaction across Nithsdale and Dumfries and Galloway more widely was in services for older people. According to the Dumfries and Galloway Joint Strategic Plan for Older People 2012-2022 there are 12 care homes located in Nithsdale, with one located in Thornhill itself, ownership is split between the private and voluntary sectors. Across Nithsdale in the 2011/12 year 764 people were receiving care at home with around 42% of over 65's accessing Community Alarm and Telecare Services highlighting the need and demand for these types of services in the area.

Public transport in the area is limited meaning that many people in Nithsdale rely on private transport to get to work. Within Nithsdale the lowest rates of private transport use for work are seen in Kirkconnel and Sanquhar which are both served by their own train stations. The rate of people driving a car or van to work in Thornhill was just under 60% based on figures from the 2011 Census.

5.0 POLICY ANALYSIS

5.1 National Policies

5.1.1 *Scottish Government Purpose, Strategic Objectives and National Outcomes*

Launched in 2007, the overriding purpose to which all the work of the Scottish Government and its partners is aimed at, which all projects should contribute towards the achievement of, is;

“To focus the Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.”

Thornhill Community Plan will contribute towards National Outcomes by developing a comprehensive strategy for regeneration of the village by planning and co-ordinating development of a range of projects. This Plan is comprehensive in its remit covering social, economic and environmental regeneration and thematic projects covering housing, environment, open space, infrastructure, services, transport, employment, and health.

5.1.2 *Scottish Government Regeneration Strategy: Achieving a Sustainable Future*

This strategy was launched in December 2011 and is the Scottish Government’s ‘vision of a Scotland where our most disadvantaged communities are supported and where all places are sustainable and promote well-being’.

Thornhill Community Plan will provide a means through which the local community are able to contribute to the regeneration of the wider area. The broad remit of the Community Plan means that it has the potential to contribute towards local regeneration in myriad ways from supporting people to access better services; to improving existing communal spaces; to the development of recreational areas; and ensuring people feel safe and included in their communities.

5.1.3 *Community Learning and Development Strategy*

This Strategy establishes that Community Learning and Development capacity should be targeted towards activities aimed at closing the opportunity gap, achieving social justice and encouraging community regeneration.

Community regeneration is at the heart of the Thornhill Community Plan given the overt focus on delivering improvements in provision of infrastructure, facilities and services. A participative approach should be taken to implementation of Community Plan, enabling local people to be more directly involved in local decision making and to increase confidence and skills, and ensure the community- led regeneration of the area.

5.1.4 *Scotland’s Economic Strategy*

The purpose is ‘to make Scotland a more successful country, with opportunities for all to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth’. This updated Strategy focuses on two mutually supportive goals of increasing competitiveness and tackling inequality.

Thornhill Community Plan will empower the local community to participate more in the development of activities and services in the area, encouraging them to participate in society and empowering them to access opportunities for their own development. The participative approach

to the project means that the Community Plan has been shaped by and for the community, and the projects contained within offer opportunities for the economic development of the area.

5.1.5 All Our Futures: Planning for a Scotland with an Ageing Population

Launched in 2007 this remains the lynch pin of Scottish Governments strategy to enable the effective planning for the needs of an ageing population.

The older residents of Thornhill have been heavily involved with the Community Plan throughout the consultation process, reflecting the current older demographic make- up of the area. This community plan offers opportunities for the development of projects which benefit older residents in particular, contributing to their integration in the wider community and ensuring their needs are met across all aspects of community life.

5.2 Local Policies

5.2.1 Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan

The Local Development Plan (LDP) covers all of Dumfries and Galloway; it guides the future use and development of land in towns, villages and the rural area. It also indicates where development, including regeneration, should happen and where it should not.

The Thornhill Community Plan offers opportunities for the sustainable regeneration of the community and aligns with development work across the whole region by developing opportunities for environmental improvement, recreation and social development in Thornhill.

5.2.2 Dumfries and Galloway Single Outcome Agreement 2013-16

The Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) sets out a strategic ten year vision for Dumfries and Galloway. The SOA wants to see work at pace, identifying and making service improvements and achieving a significant shift towards preventing problems arising rather than tackling them after they have happened.

This plan will contribute towards many priority outcomes; to provide better facilities for recreation, education, employment and learning; to provide services and opportunities to benefit all ages and to promote inclusion. Improvement of Thornhill, and the development of its services and amenities, will encourage local residents to increase their participation in community life.

5.2.3 Dumfries and Galloway Regional Economic Strategy 2014- 2020

The Vision for the Dumfries and Galloway regional Economic strategy is:

'By 2020, Dumfries and Galloway will have a more diverse and resilient economy. One which is capable of taking advantage of opportunities by combining an appropriately skilled workforce and connected infrastructure to support more prosperous and inclusive communities where every member of every community has equality of access to that prosperity.'

Thornhill Community Plan will contribute towards the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Economic Strategy primarily by empowering the community to take steps to diversify the local economy through provision of new and enhanced services and activities.

5.2.4 Dumfries and Galloway Regional Tourism Strategy 2016- 2020

The Vision for the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Tourism Strategy is that by 2020 Dumfries and Galloway will be the destination of choice for quality, value and memorable experiences delivered by skilled and passionate hosts.

Thornhill Community Plan can contribute particularly to the 'Building our Capabilities' theme by growing the capacity of Thornhill and its community. The Community Plan offers options for projects which could enhance appeal of the area for tourists and visitors.

5.2.5 Dumfries and Galloway Joint Strategic Plan for Older People 2012- 2022

The Strategic Plan celebrates the fact that many older people are living longer and staying healthy for longer, while acknowledging that projections show that over the next twenty years, there will be a steady increase in the number of frail older people, people living with multiple long-term conditions and people with dementia. Most of these people are likely to require some level of care and support.

Thornhill Community Plan has the potential to contribute significantly to this Strategic Plan given the focus afforded to projects and actions benefitting older residents in particular. This Community Plan promotes the integration of older people in community life by developing opportunities to address the needs of that demographic. .

5.2.6 Dumfries and Galloway Draft Open Space Strategy 2014

The overall outcome of the Open Space Strategy is to maintain (or increase where possible) reasonable quantity, accessibility and quality of publicly useable open space- especially in relation to wider connectivity and multi- functionality.

Thornhill Community Plan will link with Dumfries and Galloway's Open Space Strategy given the Plan's environmental themes. Open space around Thornhill is a key asset, providing important opportunities for recreation and physical activity. The Community Plan offers options for positively contributing to the enhancement and improvement of these valuable community resources.

5.2.7 Nithsdale Health and Social Care Locality Plan 2016- 2019

This plan is about how Health and Social care in Nithsdale will be integrated as part of a new D&G Integration Authority. It sets out specific information, where this is available, and identifies what is working well but also some of the main challenges which need to be tackled.

This Health and Social Care Locality plan is of particular relevance to the Thornhill Community Plan given the significant focus afforded to health and wellbeing focussed projects and actions; an exceptionally important issue for the community.

6.0 THORNHILL DEMAND ANALYSIS

6.1 Household Survey Results

This chapter summarises residents' responses to the consultation carried out by Thornhill Community Council in Thornhill and the surrounding area in November/December 2016. The information provided by residents will be used to identify priorities within the community and will subsequently inform Thornhill's Community Plan. All percentages in the following section are representative of the total number of returned questionnaires; therefore total percentages may not always equal 100% depending on how many people chose to complete particular questions.

6.1.1 Demographics

| | Male | Female | Total | SAPE 2015 |
|----------|------|--------|-------|-----------|
| Under 16 | 1% | 3% | 4% | 15% |
| 16- 21 | 6% | 8% | 14% | 6% |
| 22- 29 | 1% | 1% | 2% | 5% |
| 30- 39 | 2% | 5% | 7% | 8% |
| 40- 49 | 2% | 6% | 8% | 12% |
| 50- 59 | 6% | 9% | 15% | 13% |
| 60- 69 | 11% | 11% | 22% | 17% |
| 70- 79 | 6% | 11% | 17% | 14% |
| 80- 89 | 2% | 6% | 8% | 9% |
| 90+ | 1% | 1% | 2% | 2% |
| Total | ~39% | ~61% | ~100% | 100% |

The demographic breakdown of the responses from household surveys largely reflects the demographic makeup of the village according to Small Area Population Estimates for the year 2015 with some discrepancies. The most marked difference between the respondent and population breakdowns is in the over representation of 16- 21 year olds and the under representation of under 16 year olds. This is a result of carrying out the survey with Wallace Hall Academy senior pupils and not being able to carry the same survey out with under 16 year olds. We have ameliorated the effects of this somewhat by carrying out a separate consultation with P6 and P7 classes in the area, the results of this are summarised in 6.2.

There is also a slight overrepresentation of older residents in the survey, particularly between the ages of 60- 79, this has led to a comparable underrepresentation of younger adults between the ages of 22- 49. While it is not possible to determine the exact reason for this, it is perhaps a result of more free time among older residents allowing them to engage more fully in the consultation process. Despite the demographic differences, we have tried where possible to present a balanced result with the views and opinions of all age groups represented.

The most numerous age group who participated in the consultation were 60- 69 year olds who made up just under a quarter of participants at 22%, followed by 70- 79 at 17%, reflecting village demographics. The smallest age groups were 22-29 and 90+ with 2% each, again reflecting the

demographic makeup of the village. There were significantly more women participated in the consultation than men with 61% and 39% of the total number of respondents respectively.

6.1.2 Transport

| | Essential | Important | Less Important | Not Important |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Improved bus service | 31% | 48% | 14% | 3% |
| Improved village parking | 31% | 38% | 24% | 4% |
| Reducing traffic speed in village | 32% | 37% | 21% | 7% |
| Reintroduction of Thornhill Train Station | 43% | 30% | 16% | 9% |
| Improved public transport to Dumfries/Carlisle/Glasgow | 34% | 47% | 14% | 1% |
| Improved public transport locally | 28% | 46% | 19% | 3% |

Generally there was a high level of support for actions pertaining to transport in Thornhill. Support was particularly high for an improved public transport to larger towns and cities with 81% rating it as 'essential or 'important'. This was followed by improved bus service with 79% of respondents supporting that action when 'essential' and 'important' scores are combined. Interestingly, support for the reintroduction of Thornhill Railway Station was quite varied with it receiving both the highest proportion of 'essential' and lowest proportion of 'not important' ratings. This may be down to a general feeling among the community that the reopening of the station is very much an aspiration at this point and if it seemed more achievable support would be even higher.

Reducing the traffic speed in the village received the lowest level of support from the community with 29% of respondents rating it as 'less important' or 'not important'. Overall transport issues were well received by the community with support from over 68% of respondents for all actions in the survey. Clearly transport is an area of interest among the people of Thornhill, likely a result of its rural nature. This Community Plan will look at ways of increasing the village's connectivity in light of these results and the SIMD access issues highlighted in the Needs Analysis section of the Plan.

6.1.3 Environment

| | Essential | Important | Less Important | Not Important |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Creation of community composting scheme | 10% | 34% | 39% | 12% |
| Enhance environment e.g. Upgrading of drab areas | 21% | 55% | 17% | 4% |
| Create outdoor gym in play park | 13% | 30% | 41% | 12% |
| Additional/ improved local path network for walking/ cycling | 22% | 53% | 17% | 4% |
| Acquisition/ development of local woodland for the community | 15% | 36% | 35% | 10% |
| Gardening services for elderly and disabled | 29% | 51% | 13% | 5% |

Overall the environment section of the survey was less well received by the community compared to the others and contained within it the three actions which received the lowest number of combined 'essential' and 'important' ratings across the whole survey. These were the creation of a community compost scheme, creating an outdoor gym in the play park, and acquisition or development of woodland for the community they all received levels of support from 50% of the community or less, and were the only three across the whole survey to do so. As such these may be actions for the community to consider at a later date, but are not considered pressing at this point.

On the other hand gardening services for the elderly and disabled, enhancing the environment, and improved path network received 'essential' or 'important' rating from 80%, 76%, and 75% of the population respectively. The high level of interest in gardening services for elderly and disabled residents may be a result of age bias evident in the respondent demographic. There is scope to enhance the appearance of certain areas within the village, a sentiment echoed in discussions with community members, and in light of these findings it will be essential to look at ways of upgrading some village spaces going forward.

6.1.4 Infrastructure

| | Essential | Important | Less Important | Not Important |
|---|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Affordable housing for sale | 31% | 47% | 15% | 4% |
| Affordable housing for rent | 40% | 44% | 11% | 3% |
| Maximising use of vacant buildings e.g. Duke Williams buildings | 41% | 44% | 9% | 2% |
| Maximising community centre use | 42% | 44% | 9% | 2% |
| Provision of small start-up business units | 21% | 52% | 20% | 4% |
| Improved internet access beyond village centre | 47% | 39% | 7% | 3% |

Infrastructure was a popular issue among the community, again likely a result of its rural nature and many community members desire for better connectivity. It was overall the second highest regarded section of the survey with four of the six actions receiving a high level of support from over 80% of respondents. Of the six, improved internet access and maximising the use of the community centre was the most important for the community with them rated as 'essential' or 'important' by 86% of respondents each. Thornhill has a good community centre which is well used but discussions with and comments from the community brought to light that many felt it was in need of investment and general renovation.

Improved internet access for residents beyond the village centre was highlighted as a major issue for the community with many indicating that they currently had difficulty getting online. Making use of vacant buildings was another very popular issue with 85% of respondents rating it highly. Thornhill is home to a number of vacant premises including the old school house and police station, there is a feeling among community members that these need to be retained going forward given their significant role as part of local heritage. There was less interest in

providing small start- up business units with almost one quarter of respondents rating that particular issue as 'less important' or 'not important'.

6.1.5 Tourism

| | Essential | Important | Less Important | Not Important |
|---|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Accessible Tourist Information Point | 23% | 53% | 15% | 7% |
| More tourist accommodation | 11% | 50% | 27% | 7% |
| Walkers' map of local area | 21% | 58% | 16% | 3% |
| Village leaflet/website | 21% | 53% | 18% | 4% |
| Developing new attractions in the area | 25% | 53% | 16% | 3% |
| More regular community events throughout the year | 21% | 50% | 22% | 4% |

In terms of tourist issues in Thornhill most of the issues had combined 'essential' and 'important' ratings from respondents which fell between 70%- 80%. The most popular of the six actions were developing new attractions in the area and walkers' map of local area with 'essential' or 'important' ratings from 78% of respondents each. This highlights that there is significant interest in the area for developing new things to see and do in and around Thornhill and help bring more people in to visit the village.

Given the wealth of natural beauty around Thornhill it is no great surprise that there is interest in having a walkers' map developed for the area. It is likely that many local people would like to be made better aware of the numerous scenic walks in the area, and may also be interested in showcasing what is on offer to visitors to the area. 34% of respondents felt that an increase in tourist accommodation was less or not important for the area and was one of the lowest rated options in the whole survey. Thornhill has several hotels, B&Bs and guesthouses and is therefore well served at present for tourist accommodation. In future, it may be desirable to increase the availability of tourist accommodation if Thornhill is successful in attracting more visitors to the village.

6.1.6 Health & Welfare

| | Essential | Important | Less Important | Not Important |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Befriending service for elderly and disabled | 33% | 57% | 7% | 1% |
| Expansion of cottage hospital | 45% | 40% | 11% | 2% |
| Care home for elderly and disabled | 49% | 40% | 7% | 2% |
| Supported housing for elderly and disabled | 47% | 45% | 4% | 2% |
| Extended/ consistent GP opening hours | 46% | 42% | 8% | <1% |
| Access to emergency medical equipment | 49% | 40% | 7% | <1% |

Health and welfare was the highest regarded section of the survey with combined 'essential' and 'important' ratings for each of the six actions reaching over 85%. This was highest for supported housing for elderly and disabled which 92% of people thought was 'essential' or 'important'. This was followed by befriending service for elderly and disabled (90%) then care

home and access to emergency equipment (89%). These trends may be a result of the slight bias seen in the survey demographic which is weighted towards older people and may have been different if the survey demographic more closely reflected the makeup of the village population.

These results make clear the fact that health and welfare are exceptionally important issues for the community and ensuring access to high quality healthcare is top of their agenda. The Community Plan strives to reflect the community's interests and works towards safeguarding those interests. Thornhill has an ageing population and it is likely that in future there will be greater demand for care homes, supported housing and other types of support for older residents. In future it will be essential for the availability of support to match demand, with this in mind it may be appropriate for the community to look at ways of expanding this kind of care provision in the area.

6.1.7 Community & Recreation

| | Essential | Important | Less Important | Not Important |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Lunch club for older residents | 21% | 55% | 20% | 2% |
| Creation of Thornhill Services Directory | 13% | 51% | 30% | 2% |
| Improve access to existing sports facilities | 20% | 51% | 23% | 3% |
| Wider range of evening classes | 19% | 49% | 26% | 3% |
| Joint projects and events for all age groups | 17% | 54% | 22% | 4% |
| A wider range of local interest groups and clubs | 17% | 54% | 22% | 3% |

Community and recreation issues were around the mid- range of community survey results with all receiving combined 'essential' and 'important' rating between 64%- 76%. The highest rated action from this section was lunch club for older residents, again perhaps reflecting the older demographic, but also a product of real concerns among residents that there is not enough to do during the day, an issue perhaps affecting retirees disproportionately. These views were voiced during conversations with community members and groups throughout the consultation.

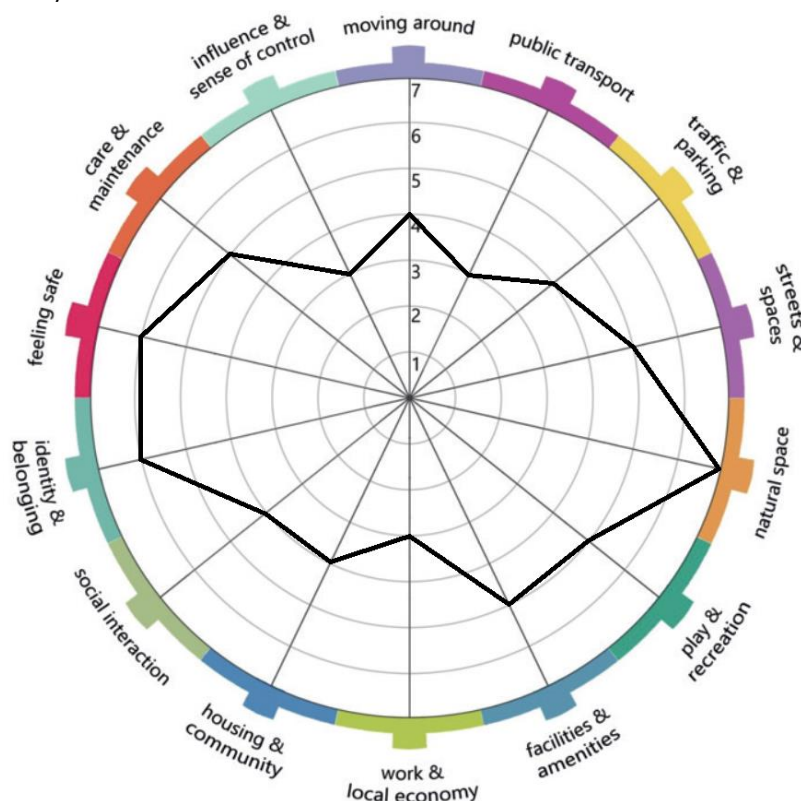
The relatively high scoring of all of these issues gives an idea of the issues facing the community; that at present there isn't enough to do for all age groups in Thornhill, hence the interest in developing more classes, sports facilities, and community projects. These efforts would benefit all sections of the community and allow them to participate in more activities, learn new skills, do things that interest them, and generally take an increased role in community life. For that reason these results have been particularly useful in the development of a Community Plan in which ensuring access to better opportunities is central. Developing a wider range of services, activities and facilities in Thornhill would benefit the community in myriad ways, overall making the area a more attractive place to work, live and visit.

6.1.8 Place Standard Tool

We asked residents how they rated the standard of Thornhill using the Scottish Government’s Place Standard Tool. The Place Standard Tool provides a means of assessing places and allows respondents to consider all the elements of place in a methodical way. The diagram below provides a visual representation of how the community rated the quality of a range of aspects of their area. Each aspect is rated from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement. The community’s scores were averaged for the purposes of this report.

As can be seen from the diagram below, there are no areas where Thornhill was considered to be of an especially low standard by the community, in fact many of the separate aspects were scored quite highly. Where it was considered that there was the most room for improvement was in ‘work & local economy’, ‘influence & sense of control’, and ‘public transport’. These are three areas which reflect the wider findings of the community plan consultation; that there is a need to develop the local economy and provide more jobs for local people, that public transport could better meet the demands of local people and that community members feel detached from the decision making process.

It will be essential for Thornhill in the coming months and years to work hard to include all members of the community in community life, ensuring all voices are heard and that people are empowered to affect the positive changes that want to see. Facilitating that type of community empowerment will also help to develop many of the recommendations put forward in this community plan, it may therefore be the case that Thornhill Community Council decides to consider options for employing a development officer to facilitate these actions. In terms of what the community rated highly, ‘natural space’, ‘identity & belonging’ and ‘feeling safe’ were all positive results for Thornhill. It will be crucial to maintain that high standard; these are Thornhill’s strengths in the eyes of the community and should be built upon for the benefit of the whole community.



6.1.9 Internet Access

When examining internet access patterns among respondents it is important to consider that people's online behaviour is often a choice and not all people who don't access the internet do in fact want to.

| | Yes | No |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Do you have access to the internet? | 81% | 16% |
| Do you have a PC/laptop/tablet? | 80% | 17% |
| Do you have a smart phone? | 56% | 41% |
| Do you regularly use email? | 62% | 35% |
| Do you use social media? | 53% | 42% |

At present the vast majority of respondents do have access to the internet with only 16% reporting no access, while this may be out of choice it may also be due to the rural nature of the area and a lack of broadband connectivity. Again in terms of computer access the vast majority of people do have a computer or a tablet with only 17% not having access to one. For the other three questions, responses were more varied with 41% of respondents not having a smart phone, 35% not regularly using email and 42% not using social media. Improving the connectivity of the community will likely be essential if it is to flourish, particularly in the more remote areas of the community council.

Getting more people online will ensure that all residents have increased access to a range of opportunities from accessing information about local services and activities, to job searches, all contributing to the overall development of the community. This information will be important to consider going forward as it will affect how residents will be able to access information pertaining to the community plan in an increasingly online world. While the internet is an exceptionally useful tool for sharing information not everyone is able to make use of it and it is therefore essential to find ways of reaching the community that do not rely on their access to the internet.

Improving the accessibility of high speed internet access was an important issue for the community as can be seen from the demand analysis, as such it has been afforded appropriate focus in section eight of this report.

6.2 Primary School Pupil Responses

As part of the community consultation we undertook a number of exercises with P6 and P7 pupils at Wallace Hall Primary School. These exercises largely followed the same themes as the household survey which was distributed to all households in the two community council areas with alterations made to make it more suited to younger age groups. The discussions with primary school pupils helped to build a picture of the local needs which was more representative of the whole community given that under 16 year olds were markedly underrepresented in the household survey responses. A copy of all of the exercises can be found in the appendices of this community plan.

The first exercise carried out with the pupils was similar to the Place Standard Tool model with pupils asked to rate their agreement with a series of questions about Thornhill with 10 indicating a strong agreement and 5 indicating a strong disagreement. The table below highlights how pupils rated their village with the scores of each class averaged.

| Statement | P6 | P7 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| I can get around Thornhill easily by foot or bike | 10 | 9 |
| The bus service in Thornhill meets my needs | 7 | 6 |
| There are enough places to meet friends | 8 | 6 |
| Traffic and parked cars are a problem in Thornhill | 10 | 8 |
| There are enough things to do and places to go in Thornhill | 6 | 7 |
| Thornhill is a nice place to live | 10 | 10 |
| I feel safe in Thornhill | 9 | 8 |
| I would like to be included in decisions made about the village | 10 | 10 |

From the information in the above table we can see that the children mostly found it easy to get around Thornhill by foot or by bike, they find Thornhill a nice place to live, and they mostly feel safe in the village. The answers indicate that the children would like to see an improved bus service in the area which better meets their needs and they would like to see more things to do and places to go in Thornhill suggesting that there is currently a lack of suitable activities for young people in the area. Where there was some divergence in the responses from P6 and P7 was in the assertion that there are enough places to meet friends and that traffic and cars are a problem in Thornhill; for these two statements the P6 pupils tended to agree more strongly. One issue of strong agreement for both classes was in that they would like to be included in decisions made about the village with both rating it at 10. This is important as it highlights the significant levels of interest among young people in being involved in their communities and wanting to participate in the decision making process which many may at present feel excluded from.

The next exercise involved the pupils marking on a map things that they liked about Thornhill and things that they did not like. Pupils were given free reign at this point to cover all issues that they felt were important and affected them. As a result the answers given by the pupils were highly varied however we have attempted to condense them as best we can into relevant themes and outline them below. The primary concerns for pupils seemed to be to do with ensuring good access to high quality services and amenities in Thornhill such as the local play

park and a wide range of shops. There was also concern around the volume of traffic and parked cars currently and an interest in preserving the environment.

| Positives | Negatives |
|--|---|
| There is a wide variety of shops | There is a need to improve the park |
| It is a friendly, nice and quiet village | We would like a wider variety of shops |
| There is a good school | Too many parked cars are a problem |
| We live close to our friends | There are not enough things to do |
| I like going to the park | Need to take better care of the environment |
| The local environment is nice | The main road is too busy |
| The buildings look good | Need better street lighting at night |
| There are fun clubs to take part in | The paths are not well maintained |
| | Thornhill has lost lots of services |

A third exercise involved asking the children to select the top five improvements they would like to see in Thornhill in future from a list of 15. The responses from the two classes were very similar with the most frequently selected options listed in below. The results of this section indicate a very clear consensus among young people in Thornhill about their priorities for the future and what they think could be done to improve the community.

| P6 | P7 |
|--|--|
| 1. Reopening Thornhill Railway Station | 1. =A bigger range of shops |
| 2. A bigger range of shops | =Making the play parks better |
| 3. Making the play parks better | 3. Reopening Thornhill Railway Station |
| 4. Better sports facilities | 4. Better sports facilities |
| 5. Better cycle paths | 5. More community events |

Leading on from this section the pupils were asked to note down their number one top priority for Thornhill onto a luggage tag just as was asked in the household survey. At this stage we asked the pupils to think about everything they had talked about or thought of during the preceding exercises and decide on what they thought was the most important thing for Thornhill going forward. The responses were again highly varied among the two classes however there were a number of recurring themes and interesting ideas among the answers which allowed us to discern a few key priorities and potential projects. Some of the pupil's priorities are highlighted below and are taken from both P6 and P7.

| | |
|---|---|
| To open the train station again | I would like to see mountain bike trails |
| I would like to see more shops in Thornhill | I would like more rubbish bins |
| I would like a museum | I would like to see a highland dancing club |
| I would like to see the cinema reopen | I would like to see a better park in Thornhill |
| More football places to play football | Better attractions e.g. [as at] Drumlanrig Castle |
| I would like to see a sweet shop in Thornhill | For Thornhill to have a swimming pool |

Finally the pupils were asked to put together a short comic strip illustrating how they thought their idea might work. The comic strips helped the pupils think through their ideas and how they could be achieved with many of the children thinking about realistic and attainable ideas for their community. A selection of these comic strips can be found in the appendices of this community plan.

6.3 Community Group Responses

As part of the community consultation we were able to contact a number of community groups in the area. These groups included the local Guides and Brownies, Thornhill Art Club, and B&Q Caledonia Pipe Band who all offered their unique views on the priorities for the area and what could be done in future to develop the community. The vast majority of the groups (69%) primarily used Thornhill Community Centre, but some also made use of Thornhill Fire Station, The Friendship Club (Figure 6.3.1), the library and Closeburn Village Hall. This section summarises the findings from the community group surveying exercise and discussions had with certain community groups.



Figure 6.3.1: The Friendship Club

The community centre is well used however there is a need to upgrade and renovate it, as well as other community facilities given that 57% of respondents rated them as 'okay' in the community group survey, as opposed to 'very good' or 'good'. There is perhaps potential in promoting use of other community spaces in and around Thornhill and Closeburn as none of them are used half as well as the Community Centre based on responses to the community group survey; this may however be as a result of a better response rate from Community Centre users and more discussions with groups primarily based there. In terms of suggested improvements for the Community Centre there is a strong desire among local groups to see the toilet facilities upgraded, offering improved accessibility for disabled users and provision of more storage space.

Community groups were then asked to indicate which improvements to existing infrastructure their community group would most benefit from and like to see, choosing from a list of options, this list of options was based on initial observations made by the consultants. Community groups were also at this stage encouraged to add in any additional comments they had on potential improvements which were missing from the list. Overall, the most popular option for future priorities for community facilities in the area was having a large hall for activities which over three quarters (77%) of respondents highlighted as one of their top five priorities. While Thornhill Community Centre does have significant space within, as Figure 6.3.2 shows, the

space available is not particularly suited to indoor spots given the low ceiling. This was followed by lockable storage (62%), sports equipment (46%) and better heating (38%). Two options which were not included in the original list of options on the survey but proved popular in the 'Other' category among community groups were improving toilet facilities at Thornhill Community Centre and upgrading the facilities at the play park.

In order to help existing community groups access the facilities they need, an important first step could be to make them better aware of the range of venues available in the area for their activities to be held. This could help to better match existing groups with existing community facilities. Promoting the use of the large hall available at Closeburn Village Hall would be one option which may be of interest to community groups based in Thornhill who are looking for larger premises. This may not be on a permanent basis, but could instead be on an ad hoc basis as and when larger premises are needed. Another option for the community to consider would be undertaking significant community asset improvements both in Thornhill and Closeburn; this may include renovating existing facilities or perhaps building an extension on the existing Community Centre in Thornhill. Thornhill Community Centre and Closeburn Village Hall are both well used and in need of an upgrade in the eyes of the community. They are relatively old buildings which would benefit from funding to address some of the signs of wear and tear which have been identified by the community groups that use them.



Figure 6.3.2: Thornhill Community Centre Lower Hall

Responses from community groups also highlighted a need to offer a wider range of activities in the community, particularly for teenagers who do not have many activities which specifically cater to them. Most of the available activities are targeted at younger children or older residents, indicating a dearth of youth oriented activities and classes in the area, in fact none of the community groups surveyed indicated that their service is mainly used by 13- 24 year olds. Providing a better range of services and activities for the whole community has been a key theme throughout the community consultation and it will be important for Thornhill to find ways of supporting the introduction of new activities across a diverse range of interests and themes. Developing what is on offer currently will be an important first step in meeting the community demand for new activities for all age groups and interests.

6.4 Local Business Response

The community consultation also engaged with local businesses to look at what their priorities for the continuing development of Thornhill were. The most important support issue for businesses in the area proved to be 'Information on potential grant funding sources for development initiatives' with 60% of businesses rating it as one of their top priorities. This was followed by 'Access to shared small business services' with 47% of businesses rating it as a top priority, then 'Sustainability advice' with 27%. Discussions with a number of local businesses in Thornhill highlighted a strong desire to fill up the available business lots on the main shopping streets, however it was also raised that rents were in part financially prohibitive. Filling up empty premises would bring more customers into the area, likely increasing footfall for other local business. It was well recognised by local business people that having more shops in the village and fewer vacant premises would benefit them and they were supportive of any initiative which aims to attract new small businesses to the area- something they identified as a priority.

In terms of transport issues for local businesses 'Village centre parking' was the most important issue in the area with 79% of responding businesses rating it as a priority for them; many cited the layout and availability as particular problems. Upon further discussion we found that often commuters travelling to Dumfries by bus, park on Drumlanrig Street for the whole day meaning that customers cannot access spaces close to the shop or unit they are visiting. Furthermore the requirement to reverse onto the road was highlighted as an issue for many business owners as unsafe. The issues brought up with regards to parking reflect some of the findings of the wider community survey in which a great number of residents highlighted this as a significant concern of theirs.

As well as parking 'Public transport' was highlighted by 74% of businesses as an area which needed developed particularly in terms of connecting the retail centre of Thornhill with other nearby small towns and villages. While the bus service to larger towns is good, better connections to other rural villages could lead to an increase in customers coming to Thornhill to shop and engage the services of local businesses. There was also an interest raised in creating 'Good walking and cycling links to the village' from a number of respondents which could, again, increase footfall for many local businesses. Responses from local businesses in terms of



Figure 6.4.1: Bus stop on Drumlanrig Street

transport issues generally centred on ensuring that customers were able to access their businesses as easily as possible.

Environmental issues were quite important for a number of local businesses with the upkeep of the 'Appearance of local village generally' being by far the most important issue in the environment section, with 82% rating it as a priority. The reason cited for this was that in keeping the village looking attractive, more people and customers can be attracted to the area. Additionally, there is an element of community pride as well with many people working locally also living nearby and naturally wanting their community to be kept at a high standard. As well as keeping the village looking good, it was also highlighted that the village needs to be safe as well in terms of even pavements and cleanliness. This was an opinion voiced by a number of businesses and particularly in terms of older residents' interests, as it was stated there had been a number of incidents involving people falling on the uneven pavements in Thornhill centre. Issues like this may put some people off visiting the main shopping area and spending money, to the detriment of the local economy.

One local business person also suggested developing a local gardening group to take responsibility for installing and maintaining plants and flowers around the village to keep it looking appealing as has been done in nearby Sanquhar with 'Brighten up Sanquhar'. Such a group could work with individuals, businesses and community groups to enhance the community and keep it looking attractive. 'Development of local walking and cycling routes' was also rated as a priority by 65% local businesses; again this may be in terms of attracting tourists to the area to visit businesses or generally making businesses more accessible. Overall, there is an interest in maintaining the village's quiet, rural feel as it is felt this is why tourists and visitors come to Thornhill, and maintaining this will sustain peoples' interest in visiting.



Figure 6.4.2: Thornhill library

Other issues which were raised by local businesses but were not covered in the survey included difficulties in some shop's delivery routine as it sometimes blocked the main road in Thornhill. This may suggest a need for roadside bays where delivery vans are able to unload without blocking the main traffic route through the village. The wide roads in Thornhill could offer appropriate space for developing such a layout at certain times of day in the village without loss of parking availability. The transfer to and reduction of council services in Thornhill library (Figure 6.4.2) (originally provided at the council one-stop-shop in Thornhill Police Station) was highlighted as a challenge for some businesses in Thornhill during the consultations it means certain services, such as collection of refuse bags, that they need are not accessible and impact upon their day to day operating, suggesting a local need for extended or more suitable council service availability. This could tie in with projects aiming to retain key services in the community by taking certain buildings into community ownership.

There is also significant interest among local businesses in reintroducing Thornhill train station as this will help bring business into the area. This was an opinion voiced by four separate respondents when asked if there was any single facility not yet available that they thought would help local businesses. Reintroducing the train station would certainly increase the accessibility of Thornhill and the surrounding area, making it easier for people to get here and visit the shops, services, and amenities it has to offer. It could also raise the profile of the areas in terms of its reputation as a 'destination' for visitors.

Finally, one popular issue among local business mentioned above, is the interest in filling the available retail units in Thornhill. Maximising use of vacant premises and buildings in Thornhill was also a key priority coming out of the household survey carried out, suggesting this is an issue which deserves significant attention going forward given its evident importance to the whole community. This type of project, upgrading and developing community assets, would inevitably attract more people to the village to make use of any new amenities. One such amenity may be an IT suite for local businesses given that 30% of respondents to the business survey highlighted a need for better access to telephone and IT services. Any future development would undoubtedly have a positive knock on effect for existing businesses as they would benefit from the increased footfall.

6.5 Drop-in Consultation Response

The second stage of the community consultation process involved discussing the priorities identified in the first stage of the consultation with the community in more detail in order to determine the specific needs and demands of residents. To achieve this, a series of interactive boards were put together designed to ask questions which expand and build upon the initial prioritisation exercise of the first stage consultation.

The questions put to the community were framed so as to provide a more holistic picture of the needs of the community, not just the identification of an issue. For example, where the first stage of consultation revealed that the community thought an improved bus service was needed, this second stage aimed to determine where residents wanted that improved bus service to travel to and when this improved service was needed.

The second stage consultation was held as two drop-in sessions; first at the late-night Christmas shopping event on Monday 5th of December, followed by the craft fair at Wallace Hall School on Saturday 10th December. It was felt that by having a presence at these two well attended community events we would be able to reach a broad cross section of the community. We estimate that we were able to engage with over 200 residents over the course of the two sessions with the vast majority being from within Thornhill Community Council area, with some additional responses from residents of nearby areas such as Carronbridge and Gatelawbridge. Input from people living outside of Thornhill but who use Thornhill's amenities, such as the community centre, the health centre and transport links, was welcomed to help build a significant evidence base for future actions. The results from the drop in events are summarised in this section with full results available in the appendices of this community plan.

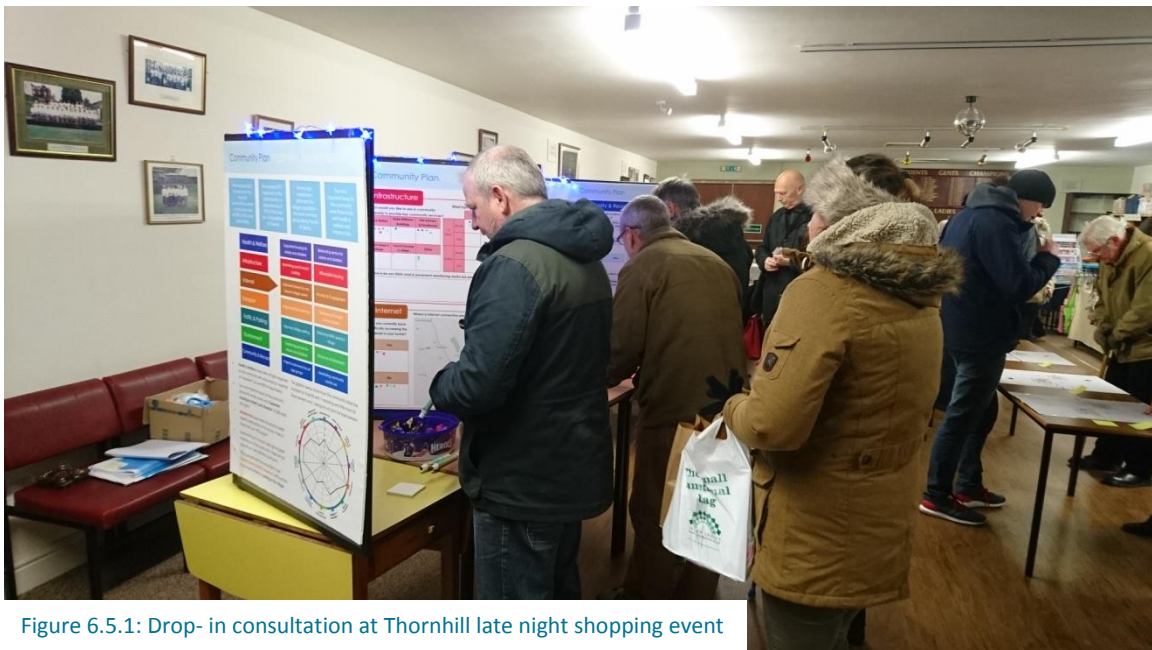


Figure 6.5.1: Drop-in consultation at Thornhill late night shopping event

6.5.1 Health & Welfare

Further discussion with the community revealed that the overwhelming majority, 72% of respondents, wanted to see the emergency medical equipment, which proved very popular during the household survey, to be positioned in a shop, cafe, or pub in the village centre. It was suggested that this would facilitate ease of access for the whole community given the central location of the proposed equipment. It was also highlighted by community members during the drop- in that they would be interested in having training sessions provided for the whole community on how to use the equipment properly.

In terms of support services for older residents, all four options were popular. Of these 'more sheltered housing' was the most popular with 29% of people identifying it as their main priority followed by 24% for 'retaining care home' and 'carer home visits', and finally 22% for 'volunteer befriending service'. This suggests that there is widespread support for a variety of measures which ensure that older residents in Thornhill are able to live comfortably and happily in their communities. Responses to the question about better availability of GP appointments indicates that there is very strong support for extended GP hours at some point through the week. This would enable those with work commitments between 8am- 6pm to go to their GP outwith those hours, as the current opening hours are between 8.00am and 6.00pm Tuesday to Friday and 8.00am and 6.00pm on Monday. The most popular option is having an extended service one weekday evening between 6pm- 8pm, this would require close collaboration with the local health service on the potential for such a service. The most popular two days for having extended opening are Monday and Thursday, although this would need clarification from the community at a later stage. In terms of the community's hopes for Thornhill Hospital, responses evidence a strong support for retaining the hospital and upgrading it to enable the hospital to provide more modern facilities to a greater number of people.

While we appreciate that large numbers of the community wished to see extended opening hours, we also understand that given health board funding limitations it is our understanding that the practice is struggling to get enough GP hours and in consequence have reduced the number of beds in the cottage hospital to seven until August 1st 2017.

6.5.2 Infrastructure

One area of particular interest to the community is the future of the old primary schoolhouse buildings in the village which have been unused for a number of years. These buildings are a great source of pride for the community and form a significant part of the community's heritage given that many residents went to school there. It was no surprise then that the majority of respondents at the drop- in wanted to see the old primary schoolhouse in community ownership and retained e.g. provide key community services such as council services and police presence or a more permanent option. 38% of respondents selected the old school house as their first choice of building to take into community ownership. There was also significant interest in similarly retaining the police station (23%) and vacant shops in the village (21%) for community ownership. Using these buildings to retain services would ensure that Thornhill kept the services it needs to flourish and the buildings which are part of its history.

The community also highlighted some priority areas for pavement and road resurfacing works at Manse Brae, Burn Brae, Greenhead, and Drumlanrig Street, with many indicating that this was a priority for ensuring the safety of people who use the roads and pavements. There was also interest expressed in improving road marking for roads leading onto Drumlanrig Street, many of which have been worn away, better pavement weeding and improved upkeep of village entrances in general.

The community were also very interested in having more houses available to rent and buy in Thornhill with 68% indicating that more houses to rent was a priority and 36% thinking more houses to buy was the priority. There was a spread of interest in terms of how many bedrooms people would like to see new homes have; having more homes with fewer bedrooms would allow older residents to downsize, and more houses with three or more bedrooms would enable more families to stay in the area. One issue which was added by respondents during the drop-in was the need for retirement flats for local people, enabling them to stay in Thornhill- an issue which was not originally addressed in the consultation but has been highlighted as important for the community.

Internet issues were very important for the community during the first stage of the consultation and this did not change at the drop in. The majority of respondents stated that they currently do experience problems accessing the internet in their homes, with specific problem areas identified at Gatelawbridge, Cample, and Carronbridge. Gatelawbridge was one area identified as being particularly problematic in terms of internet access, however this may be a result of the relatively larger population compared to other rural settlements.

6.5.3 Transport

Transport issues were an area that the community were particularly keen to enter discussion around possibilities for the future, especially with regards to the reopening of Thornhill Station which is obviously an issue which the community as a whole are extremely passionate about. Community members' responses suggested that they would primarily like to see the station reopened for 'leisure' purposes, most significantly for travelling to larger cities to shop, visit the theatre and attend sports events. A significant proportion however also indicated that their primary use of the station would be for work. Further discussion with community members highlighted that the current lack of a station at Thornhill has been prohibitive in terms of the location of jobs community members can apply for; it was made clear that if Thornhill station was reopened it would allow residents to apply for jobs further afield.

The most popular destination residents said they would use the station to travel to was Glasgow which 30% of people said would be their primary destination, followed by Edinburgh, Carlisle and Dumfries all at 22%. Some residents also added that they would travel further afield to places like Newcastle if the station was reopened. Providing opportunities like this for the community would increase their connectivity, while simultaneously opening Thornhill for visitors. Responses at the drop-in suggested that use of the station would be varied with almost equal numbers of people saying they would use it daily, weekly, and monthly. There was also a good level of interest among community members in forming an action group responsible for campaigning for the reopening of the station.

Thornhill's bus service was another topic of conversation during the drop-in events, and as expected most people had something to offer on this subject. It was highlighted in the drop-in sessions that local bus services, such as those to places like Sanquhar and Dumfries, needed to be more frequent, particularly in the morning from Monday to Friday. This was due to many people commuting to these places for work early and needing to arrive before 9am. As for the weekend the identified need for a more frequent service was from 4pm until late. Discussion revealed this was primarily to enable people from Thornhill to travel back to the village after spending an evening in Dumfries.

Residents highlighted a wish for a more frequent service throughout the day in terms of bus services to bigger cities like Glasgow and Edinburgh; however it was again made clear that the priority was before 9am to allow people to commute. However one interesting difference from the local bus service was at weekends, as residents felt it was essential to have a more frequent bus service to cities like Glasgow throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday, but crucially before 9am. Further discussion revealed that this would enable people to spend a full day in the city allowing them to make full use of all the facilities and amenities the cities have to offer. More specifically, residents talked about a need for a direct bus service to Glasgow because the current situation requires residents travel to Dumfries or Cumnock to change bus to Glasgow.

Many respondents at the second stage of the consultation indicated a strong desire to have traffic slowed on Drumlanrig Street, particularly the lorries that frequently pass through the village, given its status as a main A-class road. The importance put on slowing traffic on Drumlanrig Street is likely a result of its central location, and as such the vast majority of residents will use it on a very regular basis. In addition to Drumlanrig Street, East Morton Street was highlighted as an area in need of traffic slowing particularly given that this is the road that leads to Wallace Hall School. There were also discussion about slowing traffic on Hospital Brae given its proximity to the health centre and hospital and the location of walking paths which cross the road. Suggestions for how traffic would be slowed centred on having a pelican crossing or similar, which was the most popular option with 63% of respondents selecting it. Additionally, installing speed cameras and speed induction displays (smiley SIDs), a suggestion from residents, on speeding hotspots was brought up as a possible solution during the consultation. There was less enthusiasm for traffic islands and road humps in the village.

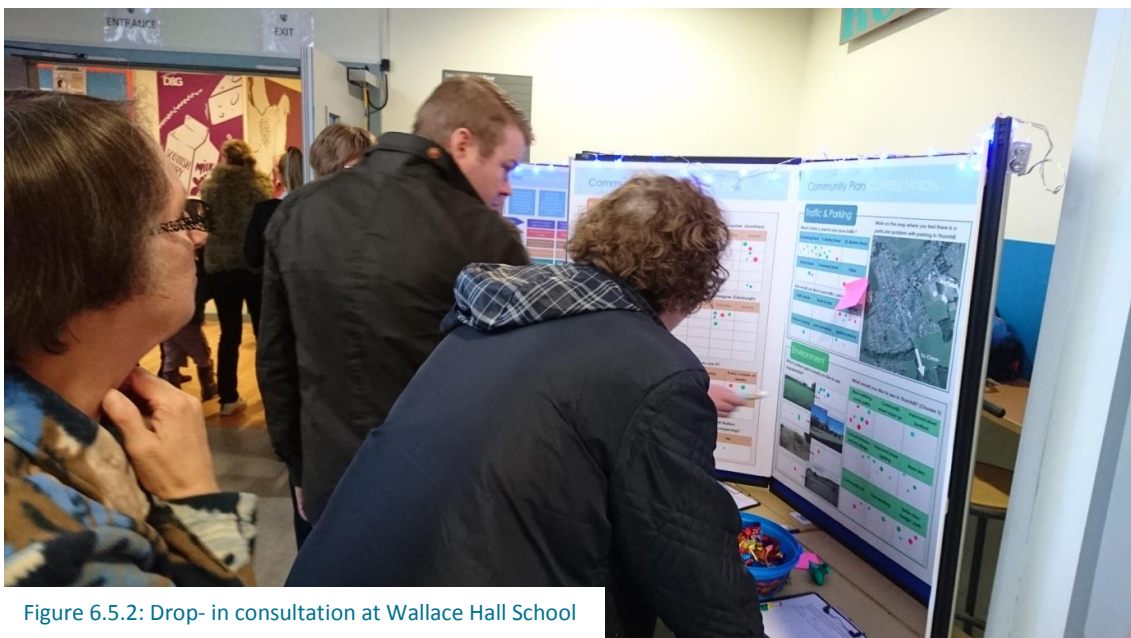


Figure 6.5.2: Drop-in consultation at Wallace Hall School

6.5.4 Environment

The most popular area in the village identified for potential development was the space opposite the community centre which a number of community members at the drop-ins (34%) thought was in need of upgrading, however there was strong desire expressed by others for keeping this space multi-functional, suggesting there could be some conflict over any future development here. The second most popular option for upgrading was the under-developed space at St. Cuthbert's Walk which at present lies largely unused by the community, 30% of participants were in favour of upgrading this space. As for improvements local people wanted to see around the village there was a lot of interest in 'more walking/ cycle paths', 'colourful flowers around village', 'community art', 'community street clean-up', 'better tree/ hedge/ path maintenance' and 'improved street lighting'. The variety of popular options suggests that there is a significant interest among the community for all sorts of small scale local developments. It will be important to maintain this interest and turn it into community action.

6.5.5 Community & Recreation

There were five key identifiable priorities for the community when asked what amenities they would like to see in Thornhill in future. These were 'improved play parks', 'walkers' map', 'more open shops', 'tourist information', and the most popular option of all was 'affordable sports facilities', which at least 67% of people selected, followed by 'more open shops' at 59%, indicating that there is a broad community interest across a number of areas of potential improvement, particularly those pertaining to physical activity. In terms of which activities and services community members wanted to see in Thornhill, there were four priorities identified; 'sports clubs', 'regular community events', 'activities for younger people' and most popular of all was 'evening classes'. Upon further discussion with community members it was highlighted that there is quite a lot of provision locally during the day but at night there is significant scope for a fuller programme of classes and activities.

Community members also indicated three main priorities for the community centre; 'better disabled access/ lift' (85%), 'improved toilet facilities' (79%), and 'develop outside space' (76%) i.e. create new play/sports facility, toddler play area etc. Discussion at the drop-in highlighted how much of an asset the community felt the centre was with many indicating that they currently or previously have made use of the facility. In terms of the opportunities local people wanted to see in Thornhill, all options were popular suggesting that there is significant will within Thornhill for any sort of positive development in this area- from 'support for self-employed people', to 'more local jobs', to 'admin/ office facilities for small businesses'. The interest shown in these issues highlights the current level of interest in expanding and developing the local economy. One project suggested by a community member, and supported by others during discussions, involved developing the disused primary schoolhouse into office and studio spaces.

7.0 ACTION POINTS

This section offers some recommendations which local groups, individuals and businesses may wish to consider taking forward. These recommendations have been put together using the vast amount of information collected from the Thornhill Community Council area over the course of the consultation, supplemented with additional information collected at the research stage by the consultants. While the recommendations made here are not fully fledged project outlines, they could form a first step in some of the potential work undertaken by the community council and the wider community in the months and years after presentation of this community plan. The recommendations cover a range of priorities which were outlined by the community as being of great importance to them during the consultation. The following action points have been identified based on the analysis of the various elements of the extensive community consultation combined.

7.1 Health & Welfare

Retain care home

The retention of the existing care home in Thornhill was a key issue for the community with 89% of respondents to the household survey rating it as essential or important. Furthermore, 24% of respondents at the two community drop- in events selected it as their top priority in terms of support services for older residents. An initial first action for the community in addressing this clear community demand would be liaising directly with the existing care home in the area, Briery Park, to discuss current demands and pressures on the service and to look at potential for expanding current provision. At this stage it will be important to consider the long term viability of existing levels of provision given the ageing demographic trends locally. It would also be prudent to work alongside Dumfries and Galloway Council, enabling stakeholders to look at ways of increasing the availability of care home spaces in Thornhill and the surrounding area. Stakeholders must also look at options for making the case for and attracting investment in care homes locally.



Figure 7.1.1: Briery Park care home

Extended GP opening hours

Extended GP opening hours was a key priority for the community identified at all stages of the community consultation. Responses to the household survey showed that 88% of respondents were in favour of having extended/ consistent GP opening hours, and further investigation at the drop- in sessions found that people wanted to see extended opening hours one evening during the week (Monday and Thursday were the most popular) and/ or on Saturday mornings.

Discussion with community members found that this was to enable people to see their GP without taking time off work. This is a very significant mandate from the community for the community council to contact NHS Dumfries and Galloway and work with them to look at ways of ensuring that all local residents can access suitable appointments by extending the opening hours of Thornhill Health Centre. There is precedent from other health centres across Scotland that have extended opening hours in order to better meet the needs of the whole community, particularly those who are unable to arrange appointments during normal working hours.

Expanding cottage hospital

Residents from Thornhill community council areas were very supportive of an expansion of the cottage hospital facility in Thornhill. In Thornhill 85% of respondents to the household survey indicated that they felt expanding the cottage hospital was needed. To achieve this will involve significant consultation with NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Dumfries and Galloway Council and Scottish Government, furthermore it will also be crucial to involve all surrounding community council areas that use Thornhill Cottage Hospital in discussions regarding its future.



Figure 7.1.2: Thornhill Hospital

The Scottish Government acknowledges that with growing demographic pressure it is likely that the role of community hospitals in providing care for older people will increase. The Community Hospitals Strategy Refresh highlights that NHS Boards will need to consider the implications of this for community hospitals and community based services to effectively manage this expanding group of patients, many of whom will have multiple long term conditions, including in many cases dementia. Beyond NHS funding it may be difficult to source capital funding for the expansion of the hospital, one option to consider may be for the community to undertake fundraising efforts locally.

Promote befriending service

In the household survey 87% of respondents highlighted the need for a befriending service as either 'essential' or 'important', however upon further investigation it was found that there is

existing provision of befriending services in Thornhill. Throughout the consultation process however it was made clear that awareness of this provision from Food Train (based in Dumfries) is severely limited, given that it wasn't mentioned by any resident at any point.

Thornhill Community Council should work with Food Train to promote their befriending services more widely within Thornhill and the surrounding area, given the clear evidence of demand provided by local people. By making residents more aware of what is available to them, the community can ensure that isolated and marginalised individuals are able to access support and social contact on a regular basis. This may be in the form of a cup of tea and a chat, shopping trips, or accompanying individuals to appointments and meetings should they desire. The effect of this will be that individuals feel increasingly part of their community and no longer feel isolated. It will be important to ensure that the type of provision offered matches the specific needs and demands of Thornhill residents.

7.2 Infrastructure

Resurfacing and repainting

Throughout the consultation process the need for resurfacing works was highlighted by the community as something of particular importance to them. Not only has the need been in terms of aesthetically enhancing the area, it has also been in terms of making it safer for people to walk on, particularly older residents. In addition to resurfacing works, there was a need identified by the community for repainting some road markings in the village, making junctions safer for both pedestrians and drivers.

Resurfacing works and repainting road markings are not typical projects that a community may undertake itself, therefore to achieve this it will be important for the community to maintain local interest in improvements and sustain a level of pressure on the council to undertake the improvements the community want to see. A local action group or community body such as the community council could take the lead on this issue with the support of the community. Delivery of such improvements may take time given the limits on council budgets but by clearly outlining the need and case for the improvements an important first step towards achieving them will be taken.

More housing to rent

The community should work alongside local housing providers such as Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership and Loreburn Housing Association to look at ways of increasing the availability of rented housing stock in the area. Another important contact for this type of development would be Buccleuch and Queensberry Estates who are significant regional land owners. Conversation with and between these groups could open up potential pathways to the provision of more rented housing. An issue of particular importance to the local community with 84% of respondents being in favour, better availability of more rented housing will enable more people to remain in their communities.

Secondary consultation work highlighted that the community in favour of a range of housing options, from one bedroom retirement flats to 3+ bedroom houses for families. Consideration

of all housing options will ensure that any developments in this vein will benefit a broad range of housing needs. One other option for the provision of rented housing in the area could be through the establishment of a local development trust in Thornhill who could undertake work to buy and rent housing in the area. Nith Valley Leaf Trust in Closeburn has already undertaken significant work in this area and could provide a key source of advice and support for any new community development trust wanting to explore options for buying and renting homes in Thornhill given their experience.

7.3 Transport

More frequent local bus service

Throughout the consultation, respondents were keen to discuss options for increasing the bus service in Thornhill, both in terms of local routes and further afield to places such as Glasgow and Edinburgh. The household survey showed that 79% of respondents thought an improved bus service was either essential or important. Furthermore, the Place Standard tool showed that the community rated public transport as the poorest aspect of Thornhill, scoring only three of a possible seven. Consultation with local business in Thornhill and Closeburn highlighted that improving public transport in the area was also an important issue for them, with 74% indicating that improvement was a priority. In order to better evidence the need for an improved bus service, at the drop in sessions respondents were asked to go into more detail about how the existing service could be improved.

In terms of local routes to places such as Sanquhar and Dumfries the community identified that there is a need for a more frequent service before 9am and after 4pm on weekdays, enabling residents to more easily commute to work in nearby towns. Services to Glasgow and Edinburgh should also be increased in the mornings and evenings on weekdays, again to enable residents to commute to work in these cities. Additionally, a more frequent city bus service is desirable throughout the day on weekends to enable residents to travel to the city and spend a full day there before returning. One additional point raised by residents regarding bus services to cities was the need for a direct bus service to Glasgow, as the existing lengthy routes require passengers to change at Kilmarnock, Dumfries or Abington, the quickest of which is still a journey time of over two hours. A more frequent and quicker bus service between Thornhill and Glasgow would enable residents to make better use of the wide range of amenities available in the city, and could also open up more job opportunities by shortening residents' commute.

In order to achieve any of these desired changes it will be essential to enter discussions with local bus operators including James Robertson, Houston's Coaches and Stagecoach, and SWestrans, the Regional Transport Partnership for the area. Opening up discussions will enable all parties to explore options for an increased service, perhaps initially on a trial basis to assess the viability of the venture. It may also be prudent to explore any funding opportunities available for rural bus services. One other option for residents to consider may be the expansion of the existing community bus service, enabling more journeys to be made by the bus on a regular basis, e.g. a scheduled bus to Glasgow every Saturday organised by the community. Funding for community transport projects is available through a number of funders including Trusthouse and Postcode Community Trust. It will likely be essential however

that any funding for community buses will stipulate that it must be for the benefit of the whole community, particularly disadvantaged groups.

Traffic slowing

Traffic slowing was an issue of great importance to the community with many respondents discussing their personal experiences and opinions on traffic passing through Thornhill throughout the consultation. The household survey indicated that 69% of residents thought that reducing traffic speeds was either essential or important. This was supported by responses from school pupils who very strongly agreed that traffic was a problem in Thornhill, and businesses that were unhappy at the speed of traffic through the village which they felt could affect their business.

In order to achieve this it will once again be essential to liaise extensively with Dumfries and Galloway Council, Transerv and SWestrans who are responsible for these types of infrastructure works. Discussions with the community at the drop in events highlighted that the most popular option for the community was to install a pelican crossing, or similar, on Drumlanrig Street. Not only would this ensure that traffic was slowed through the village, it would also allow pedestrians to safely and easily cross the road. Residents were also very keen on installing speed indicator devices (Figure 7.3.1) on the main road as a means of reducing drivers' speed while travelling through the village. Extensive and sustained consultation with the council will be essential to achieve this.



Figure 7.3.1: Speed Indicator Device

Improved parking layout

When asked what their top priority for the future development of Thornhill was the community overwhelmingly opted for the reintroduction of Thornhill Station, however the second most popular action, the top priority for 10% of the population, was addressing existing parking issues in the village. Currently the parking layout where one must reverse onto the A76 from a parking bay is extremely unpopular among residents and many would like to see it changed. This opinion was reflected in the responses from school pupils and local business who both agreed that parking could be improved. This however is again an issue for the community to raise with the council, Transerv and SWestrans and will require significant engagement from the community and sustained pressure on the council to achieve.

Redesigning the unique parking layout of Thornhill represents a significant infrastructure project for the area and as such will incur significant costs that the council will likely be hesitant to cover. In light of this, another option for the community to consider may be taking land into community ownership and developing a community car park on that land e.g. at St. Cuthbert's Walk as was suggested by community members during the consultation. While still a significant infrastructural undertaking it may be a more attractive option for all parties. Funding for this may be available from Awards for All who have in the past allocated funding towards to refurbishment of community car parks.

7.4 Environment

Better maintenance of hedges, trees and paths

The community highlighted during the drop in sessions that this was an issue of significant importance to them, and it was one of the most popular options among residents when they were asked what environmental improvements they would like to see. Improved maintenance of hedges, trees and paths will require the community to work with the council to look at ways improving current levels of maintenance, which once again will require sustained discussion between the community and the council. It would likely be in the community's interest to identify some key areas where they would like to see improvements made to begin with as a way of focussing attention and maximising potential for positive outcomes.

Another option for the community to explore with relevant stakeholders, such as the volunteer and conservation groups, could be the potential for developing a voluntary environmental project in the area. It is feasible that this type of project would be able to attract funding to enable residents themselves to undertake improvement and maintenance works in their own community. By empowering the community to address the identified need for improvements could help build community cohesion and allow individuals to learn new and develop existing skills. One other option could be for the community to explore options with Dumfries and Galloway Council Community Service Coordinators for community service to be undertaken locally to address the maintenance issues identified in and around Thornhill.

7.5 Community & Recreation

Admin facilities for small businesses

A first step in achieving this community aspiration would be the establishment of, or engagement with an existing, association of local businesses. This association could then work towards securing premises from which administrative facilities could be offered, B & Q Estates would likely be the most appropriate contact to discuss this with given that they are the largest land and property owner in the area. Providing admin facilities for local businesses was an important action for the community based on consultation responses from both businesses and the wider community. Responses from local business showed that 47% of those responding highlighted access to shared small business services as a top priority. Furthermore around a quarter of respondents at the drop in sessions selected admin/ office facilities for small businesses as the most important opportunity they would like to see available in the area in future.

Any business association who chooses to take this action forward could look to access funding from Dumfries and Galloway LEADER fund which aims to increase support to local rural community and business networks to build knowledge and skills, and encourage innovation and cooperation in order to tackle local development objectives. This type of project could engender growth in the local economy and help provide more opportunities for local jobs, contributing to the wider economic development of the area.

More activities and clubs in Thornhill

Consultation with the community revealed that there is significant appetite for expanding the range of classes, activities and clubs on offer in the area. The first stage of the consultation revealed that 69% wanted to see a wider range of local interest groups and clubs and 65% wanted to see a wider range of evening classes. The second round of consultation found that the community would like to see more evening classes for adults, sports clubs and activities for younger residents. Furthermore, during consultation work with primary school pupils, many were highly supportive of introducing more clubs in the area including highland dancing and football. In order to achieve this, the community could form a working group to expand the range of services and activities on offer in the area. Through this it would be possible to identify individuals from the area who are in a position to form new interest groups and offer classes and support them to realise this by helping them access funding opportunities, identify premises and advertise their group. This work will ensure that Thornhill and the surrounding area has an increased range of activities which local people are able to participate in, leading to improved health and social outcomes.

There are a number of small funding sources available to community groups and clubs offering financial support to set up and purchase equipment including Dumfries and Galloway Council Sports Grants, Aldi Scottish Sport Fund, and Spoted Scotland. This funding could also be used to support existing community groups who during the consultation process identified that they would be interested in looking at ways of accessing support enabling them to access more equipment and better facilities.

Better access to sports facilities

During the consultation, better access to existing sports facilities was important to the community with 71% rating it as essential or important. Furthermore, better sports facilities were identified as a priority among pupils and community groups. Better sports facilities was one of the top five priorities identified for the future of Thornhill by both P6 and P7 pupils at Wallace Hall Primary. Residents indicated that this was aimed at accessing the high quality sports facilities at Wallace Hall School which many indicated was currently cost prohibitive. Discussions with the school, D&G Council and Scottish Government will be a key first step in looking at the possibility of securing better access to this particular facility, which better use of could lead to improved health outcomes among those who were then able to participate in sport locally.

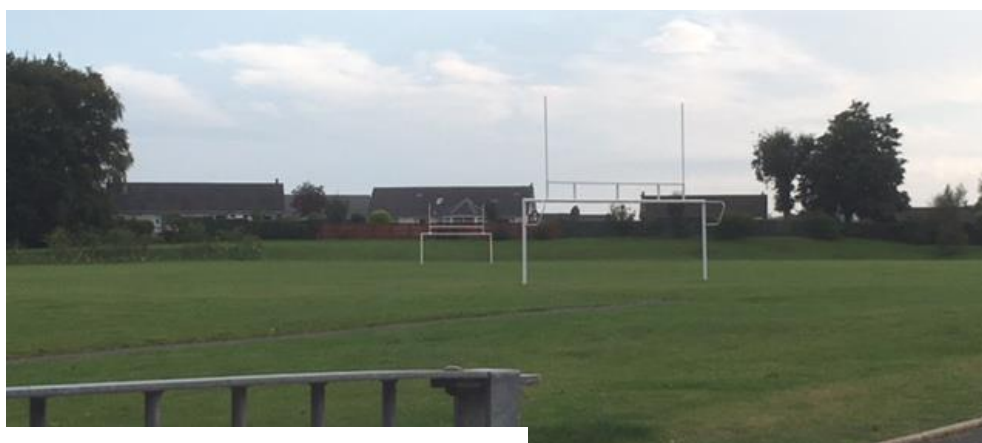


Figure 7.5.1: Wallace Hall Academy sports pitches

8.0 PROJECT OUTLINES

The following projects were developed in light of the priorities highlighted by the Thornhill community over the course of the community consultation. They reflect the input of residents, community groups and local businesses and have been designed to meet the needs and demands of the whole population. These project outlines have been identified based on the analysis of the various elements of the extensive community consultation combined.

Health & Welfare

Installation of Emergency Medical Equipment
More sheltered housing

Infrastructure

Development of Unused Local Buildings
Availability of Broadband in Rural Areas

Transport

Reintroduction of Thornhill Railway Station
Walking/ Cycling Path to Closeburn

Environment

Upgrade Outdoor Space
Gardening Service for Elderly Residents

Community & Recreation

Thornhill Community Centre Upgrade
Improved Play Park in Thornhill
Thornhill Tourist Information Point (Inc. Walkers' map)

In order to develop the following project outlines some additional research was carried out into the top issues and priorities identified by the community, building on the responses to the preceding consultation work. It is intended that these project outlines be used by Thornhill Community Council to identify future areas of activity.

The following project outlines are suggestions only and could be used as a basis for developing projects in very different ways depending on further, more detailed stakeholder and partner consultations and research. Each outline summarises the aim of the project, the potential outputs (main activities involved) and outcomes (impacts the project hopes to have). This is followed by a summary of the evidenced local need and demand and some suggestions as to how the project might be shaped, together with potential key funders and partners.

8.1 Installation of Emergency Medical Equipment



Aim To equip the local community with a portable defibrillator especially designed for people with little or no medical background.

Outputs

- Installation of suitable emergency medical equipment in an agreed central location in Thornhill
- Community training sessions are provided to ensure residents know how to properly use the equipment

Outcomes

- Residents are have access to emergency lifesaving medical equipment in their community
- Residents are suitably trained in how to use emergency equipment

Underlying Need and demand During the community consultation this was a particularly popular option in both Thornhill and Closeburn with significant support from 89% and 94% of community members respectively. The rural nature of the community may have been a key determinant in the community's perception of the need for access to emergency medical equipment.

Access to a defibrillator can impact upon the chance of a patient surviving after a heart attack, with chances of saving the life decreasing by 23% per minute in the absence of emergency care. With Thornhill's majority elderly population (28% over 65), access to a defibrillator could likely benefit a number of residents over its lifetime. During the second stage of the consultation the issue of access to emergency medical equipment was particularly popular, being one of the most answered questions in the exercise. The consensus was that the most appropriate location for the equipment was in a central village location such as a pub, shop or cafe and that training on use would need to be provided for the whole community.

Current provision in Thornhill Area Thornhill currently has a Cottage Hospital and Health Centre; however there is a lack of emergency medical equipment available in the area with the nearest A&E department located in Dumfries at Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary. The Cottage Hospital does have a defibrillator available within it; however this is not for general community use meaning that if a member of the public were to go into Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) in Thornhill there is no defibrillator readily available.

Project Proposal This project will provide a defibrillator for community use in Thornhill located

at a central point in the village, ensuring ease of access to vital medical equipment for residents. Consultation with the community indicated that the consensus among residents was that the most appropriate location for the equipment was in a central village location such as a pub, shop or cafe as think will be easily and quickly accessible for the most number of people. It will be necessary to discuss with local businesses where the equipment could be positioned and what the conditions may be for using particular locations. It may be that after discussion the most appropriate location is on an external wall in the village centre, these specifics, along with the type of equipment to install, will be determined through extensive consultation.

In addition to the provision of the physical equipment there will also be extensive training carried out with the community to ensure that residents are able to correctly use the defibrillator and maximise its benefit. There are a number of providers who offer such training so examining the different courses and their suitability for the community will be necessary. Ensuring that the maximum number of community members attend training will be essential in ensuring that the equipment is used correctly should the need arise.

Potential Funding

British Heart Foundation- Part-funding is available to community organisations such as sports clubs, village halls and community centres through the Community Package.

The Pumping Marvellous Foundation- Offers part funding and training for communities contributing themselves and matching the Foundation's aims.

The Sandpiper Trust- The aim of the Sandpiper Trust is to help save lives in Scotland by improving immediate care especially in the remote and rural areas. Sandpiper has sponsored a number of defibrillators to be positioned in strategic locations throughout Scotland.

Potential Partners

Community Heartbeat Trust- provides support to groups and individuals looking to provide a defibrillator for their community, helping them to implement the project, bring it to completion and ensure it is fully supported and continues to function correctly for years to come.

Scottish Ambulance Service- Training is provided to community members or venue staff/users about how to use the equipment.

British Heart Foundation- provides support, advice, and training on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and proper use of defibrillators.

8.2 More Sheltered Housing



Aim

To ensure that there is sufficient long- term provision of sheltered housing in Thornhill to enable residents to remain in their community.

Outputs

- Engagement with local housing providers to explore options for collaborative working.
- Explore options for delivery of more sheltered housing in Thornhill
- Construction of additional sheltered housing stock in Thornhill

Outcomes

- Community members are able to remain in Thornhill after retirement.
- Residents are able to access an appropriate level of support in their communities enabling them to live independently.

Underlying Need and demand

Thornhill has an increasingly elderly population as evidenced by population trends for the area. At present the proportion of over 65s is estimated to be around 11% higher than what is seen at a national level and it is likely that this trend is going to continue. As such it will be essential in future to have sufficient availability of sheltered housing for older residents, enabling them to remain in the community they live in currently. In addition to this demographic evidence, responses from the community throughout the consultation showed that more sheltered housing was an issue of great importance for local people. In the household survey 92% of respondents indicated that having more supported housing in the area was either essential or important, furthermore 'more sheltered housing' was the most popular option at the drop in event with 29% of respondents selecting it as their priority.

Current provision in Thornhill Area

Thornhill has a number of sheltered housing properties located at Drumlanrig View; these properties are owned by Trust Housing Association. Drumlanrig View contains 25 cottages of 1 and 3 bedroom sizes with Lounge, laundry, guest facilities, and garden. In addition to Drumlanrig View there is Tynron View located in nearby Penpont which contains ten 1 bedroom properties.

Project Proposal

This project will work towards establishing additional sheltered housing properties in Thornhill in order to ensure that older residents are able to remain in their communities as long as possible. In order to do this it will be essential to liaise with existing care providers in the area to establish if there is scope for an expansion of existing provision in the area- particularly if there is an evidenced need from the community in terms of waiting lists. The community may also wish to look at attracting a different developer to the

area to build new sheltered housing properties in Thornhill.

Another option may be for a local development trust to take ownership of property in the area and offer this as sheltered housing alongside some form of support provision from an existing provider. To establish the best route to offering additional sheltered housing in Thornhill the community will need to undertake careful discussion with a range of partners and stakeholders and a thorough examination of the various possibilities on offer in order to determine the best possible option.

Potential Funding

D&G HSCP- responsible for providing joined-up quality health and social care services with Dumfries and Galloway.

Housing Associations- may be in a position to offer sheltered housing properties in the area.

Scottish Government- Rural Housing Fund- aims to increase the supply of affordable housing of all tenures in rural Scotland. Available to a wide range of applicants, including community organisations, development trusts, private landowners and private developers, as well as more traditional housing providers, enabling them to take a more active role in meeting the housing needs of their communities.

Potential Partners

Local Sheltered Housing Providers- including Trust HA who are responsible for existing properties at Drumlanrig view.

Local Housing Associations- including DGHP and Loreburn Housing Association.

Dumfries & Galloway NHS- responsible for healthcare within Dumfries and Galloway.

D&G HSCP- responsible for providing joined-up quality health and social care services with Dumfries and Galloway.

Local Development Trust- who are able to take property into community ownership and ultimately make available to rent.

8.3 Development of Unused Local Buildings



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| Aim | To develop well- equipped and dynamic assets in Thornhill, providing a range of key services and amenities. |
| Outputs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A business plan for the potential development of the police station/ and or old school building is compiled to assess the feasibility of undertaking this project - Access funding for development of police station building - Refurbishment works undertaken to ensure the facility is fit for purpose |
| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key community services offered from new community facility - A range of well- equipped community spaces now available for rent - More activities, services and amenities are able to be offered and provided within Thornhill |
| Underlying Need and demand | The local community have proven very keen to retain and maximise the use of currently unused buildings within Thornhill over the course of the consultation with 82% of respondents supporting such developments in the household survey. During the second stage of consultation The old school house was identified as the most popular option for a location to take into community ownership and from which key community services could be offered. This was followed by the old police station and vacant retail premises in the village centre The community were in favour of retaining historic buildings within Thornhill for reconditioning and service provision, given their significant role in the heritage of the area. |
| Current provision in Thornhill Area | After the removal of a sustained police presence in Thornhill and a reduction in the number and availability of council services there is significant appetite within the community for these services to be retained in Thornhill in some form. There are also limited multi- use spaces in Thornhill at present from which exhibitions and events can be hosted. Furthermore, there are a number of currently unused or underused buildings in the area which have the potential to be adapted to provide a range of different services, activities or facilities. |
| Project Proposal | The first stage of this proposal would be to commission a business plan or feasibility study for the development of currently unused buildings in Thornhill to determine whether this type of project is one the community are willing to undertake, and whether it is ultimately possible. |

Development of a building within Thornhill would involve taking the currently unused space into community ownership, or other appropriate and useful ownership, and using it to provide a number of key community services and to offer a range of spaces for different uses. This project anticipates that the chosen space could eventually rent spaces for council and police service use on a semi- permanent basis, reducing the overall cost of provision of these services in the area. It may also be appropriate that some unused premises are reconditioned for more permanent and specific uses.

In addition to the provision of key community services the new community facility will also be able to offer a range of spaces within, from which a variety of activities can be hosted. These activities may include running evening classes for residents, running children's activity clubs, arts and heritage exhibitions, and elected members' surgeries. By providing spaces which could enable these types of activities the population of Thornhill and the surrounding area will be able to access a wider variety of opportunities which enhance their lives and develop their skills and interests.

While preparing the Community Action Plan, CLS provided support to a new community/thematic group who expressed an interest in purchasing and upgrading the old school building. Talks have been held with Buccleuch Estates and potential grant funders on potential legal arrangements and consideration over potential end use, which is likely to focus on a co-working art space.

Potential Funding

D&G Council - Dumfries & Galloway LEADER- to increase support to local rural community and business networks to build knowledge and skills, and encourage innovation and cooperation in order to tackle local development objectives.

Scottish Land Fund- supports rural and urban communities to become more resilient and sustainable through the ownership and management of land and land assets.

WREN- FCC Scottish Action Fund- considers applications across all types of projects including: land reclamation, community recycling, public amenities and parks, biodiversity and historic buildings.

Heritage Lottery Funding- funds a range of heritage projects including repairing and transforming historic buildings at the heart of communities

Potential Partners

The Stove Network- arts organisation based in Dumfries operating as a means for the creative community to play a significant role in the future of the region.

Cample Mill Studio- independent arts organisation based in Cample Mill near Thornhill

Buccleuch & Queensberry Estates provides a platform for sustainable economic development for the communities living in and engaging with local land resource.

8.4 Availability of Broadband in Rural Areas



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| Aim | To ensure residents within the Thornhill and Closeburn Community Council Areas can access broadband in their homes. |
| Outputs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A community action group is formed together with Closeburn to work for expansion of broadband into rural areas - The Action Group Liaises with relevant bodies to identify routes to securing broadband. - Preferred route to achieving better broadband connection identified. |
| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Broadband is rolled- out in rural areas around Thornhill, increasing residents' and businesses' connectivity. -Residents and businesses are able to more easily access a wider range of online services. |
| Underlying Need and demand | <p>Thornhill is a rural area in Dumfries and Galloway where many residents are currently unable to access high- speed internet, negatively impacting upon their ability to source information, resources and services online. Residents are being excluded from an increasingly online world simply due to their geographic location which disadvantages them in myriad ways, and will continue to do so if they are not provided with better internet access. Responses from the community during the consultation stage of this community plan indicated an overwhelming support among residents for improved internet access with 83% indicating that it was 'essential' or 'important' to them. Residents have made it abundantly clear that this is something that they want and need in their community. This situation is compounded by poor internet connection on mobile phones in the village. The majority of residents at the drop- in event had experienced difficulties accessing the internet at home and were keen to see these issues addressed.</p> |
| Current provision in Thornhill Area | While Thornhill centre is mostly well served by high- speed internet access, the more rural areas of the community council area are not, with virtually all respondents, during second- stage consultation discussions, from outside the main village claiming that they find it difficult to access the internet. |
| Project Proposal | This project proposes the establishment of a community internet action group for the area which will campaign for better internet access across the two community council areas. This will ensure that the drive to access improved internet will be coordinated, organised and effective in its approach to ensuring online access. The action group must liaise with elected |

members, service providers and the community, ensuring that the community's voice is heard clearly and loudly by those who are best positioned to affect change.

One course of action for the group would be to press providers to improve infrastructure enabling Thornhill, Closeburn and the surrounding area to access faster and more reliable internet. This may be a long process requiring sustained pressure to achieve results. It may also be in the community's interest to focus on one settlement in particular to act as a pilot project from which success and positive effect can be evidenced, making the case for further development clearer.

One other option could be for broadband delivery via non-land based routes. These routes would be either via satellite or mobile phone technology. The action group should explore different options and costs for such provision.

The community may also be interested in a community design, build and operate model. This involves a community organisation together with a great deal of volunteer effort being supported to design their broadband network. Once designed, volunteers build the network themselves. Often, this approach is the most cost-effective way of setting up a community broadband project owing to its use of low-cost infrastructure (e.g. attaching relay dishes to scaffolding towers and the use of volunteer labour). There are several types of these networks in Scotland which operate on a small scale. The community involved usually takes a very 'hands-on' approach to the management, maintenance and billing for the project.

Potential Funding

The Start-Up Fund- is intended to help communities with the costs involved in establishing local community-led projects to access superfast broadband services – where projects can demonstrate local need and demand, and the capacity to make it happen at a reasonable cost.

Scotland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 – LEADER- delivers support to communities for rural development to build knowledge and skills, and encourage innovation and cooperation in order to tackle local development objectives.

Potential Partners

Community Broadband Scotland- support and empower rural and remote communities across Scotland to gain access to faster broadband by supporting them to create and manage their own infrastructure.

Digital infrastructure and network providers- provide experience and skills in bringing better internet access to rural communities.

Digital Scotland- The Digital Scotland Programme is a key step in the Scottish Government's aim for Scotland to become a world class digital nation by 2020.

8.5 Reintroduction of Thornhill Railway



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| Aim | To reintroduce Thornhill Railway Station. |
| Outputs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formation of Thornhill Station Action Group - Liaise with relevant public and government bodies regarding the various options for station reopening. |
| Outcomes | - Thornhill station reopens, enabling residents to more easily access a range of national destination via public transport. |
| Underlying Need and demand | <p>Thornhill Station was closed in 1965 and has had significant public support for its reopening ever since. The current unused station sits on the Glasgow South Western Line on the stretch of railway between Sanquhar and Dumfries, which is the longest on the line between Glasgow and Carlisle without a stop. Responses to the household survey indicate that 71% of people think that the reopening of the station is either 'essential' or 'important' for the community. Additionally, when the community were asked to indicate their number one top priority during a separate exercise this was the most popular response by far, receiving more than double the level of support from the community as the next most popular issue.</p> <p>School pupils were also very supportive of reopening the station as it would allow them easier access to amenities and shops in Dumfries; it was in fact the top priority for P6 pupils. Furthermore, discussions with the community at the drop-in events highlighted that the reopening of the station would enable people to travel more easily to larger towns and cities for leisure and to visit family. It was also made clear that the reopening the station would open up jobs in cities like Glasgow and Edinburgh for people from the area as it would significantly reduce the commute.</p> |
| Current provision in Thornhill Area | Currently Thornhill has no train station with the nearest stations being located in Sanquhar and Dumfries which both lie about half an hour journey away by car. The village is also served by a number of bus routes however these are prohibitive in terms of travelling to larger cities given the lengthy journey time. |
| Project Proposal | This project would seek to reopen Thornhill Train Station through sustained community action and awareness. By developing a coordinated community action group the community will be able to ensure that the reopening of Thornhill Station remains firmly on the agenda, at a local, regional, and national level. At the time of writing this report there have been significant |

positive steps in terms of achieving the reopening of Thornhill Railway Station with a successful STAG pre-appraisal submission on behalf of Thornhill from SWestrans and the decision to progress this to the next stage of the process. Successful completion of the STAG process will mean that stakeholders will be able to apply to the Scottish Stations Fund for a significant contribution towards reopening Thornhill Station.

By sustaining interest among the community, liaising with all relevant parties and ensuring that the issue of station reopening stays firmly on the agenda, the community can maximise the likelihood that Thornhill will be successful in attracting funding to reopen the station. Should Thornhill be unsuccessful in attracting funding this time then it will be necessary to continue to campaign for the reopening and apply for any future funding opportunities.

Potential Funding

Transport Scotland- The national transport agency for Scotland, delivering the Scottish Government's vision for transport and responsible for major national transport infrastructure projects. Funding available through the Scottish Stations Fund.

SWestrans- Regional Transport Partnership responsible for public transport in the area including enhancing the quality and integration of public transport.

Dumfries and Galloway Council- to provide match funding.

Potential Partners

SWestrans- is the Regional Transport Partnership covering Thornhill and will be essential to liaise with regarding the public transport options for the area.

Scotrail- Scotland's national rail network, responsible for operating train services across the country.

Transport Scotland- Transport Scotland is the national transport agency for Scotland, seeking to deliver a safe, efficient, cost-effective and sustainable transport system for the country.

Buccleuch & Queensberry Estates provides a platform for sustainable economic development for the communities living in and engaging with local land resource.

Thornhill Community Council and neighbouring community councils- to evidence significant local and regional support for the reopening of Thornhill Station.

8.6 Walking/ Cycling Path to Closeburn



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| Aim | To create a safe walking and cycling route between Thornhill and Closeburn |
| Outputs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liaise with D&G Council to explore options for constructing walking route between Thornhill and Closeburn. - Identify optimal route for path between the two villages. - Appoint professionals to design and develop the new walking route |
| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents of Thornhill and Closeburn are able to easily and safely travel between the two settlements. - Improved health outcomes among residents making use of the new path. |
| Underlying Need and demand | <p>Currently there is no designated walking route between Thornhill and Closeburn with no pavement located on either side of the A76 between the two villages. This means that residents must either walk on the main A76 road or walk along the B- class 'Cample Road' both of which are majority national speed limit traffic routes. Better walking and cycling routes were highlighted as very important for the community throughout the consultation with three quarters of residents indicating that this particular issue was either essential or important. A number of local businesses were also keen to see local walking and cycling paths improved with many stating that this could lead to an increase in footfall and custom for their businesses. A footpath between Thornhill and Closeburn would significantly reduce residents' reliance on public and private transport to travel between the two settlements.</p> |
| Current provision in Thornhill Area | <p>Currently there is no designated walking route between Thornhill and Closeburn. At present walkers need to either walk on the dangerous A76 road or take the alternate route along 'Cample Road' adding on an extra one mile to the overall journey. This alternate route is however still not on a pavement, and while it is a quieter minor road, it is not particularly safe given the 60 mph speed limit designation. There is a path between Thornhill and Carronbridge which residents stated they would like to see the path between Thornhill and Closeburn emulate.</p> |
| Project Proposal | <p>Responses from residents from both Thornhill and Closeburn community council areas indicate that many want to see a walking route put in place between the two villages. This project would involve the community engaging with the relevant bodies and organisations in the area to develop a plan for this infrastructure project. This plan would include identifying key</p> |

stakeholders, commissioning professional planning drawings and sourcing funding for the development.

Utilising the outputs from the project plan, works could be undertaken to begin construction of a walking route between the two settlements which will ultimately enable safe and easy access for local residents. Not only will this offer a functional route for moving around the area it will make it safer for local people to undertake leisure activities in the area such as jogging, dog walking and cycling to work or school. This will have a resultant positive impact on the health and wellbeing of residents.

Potential Funding

Dumfries & Galloway Council, Transerv and SWestrans- responsible for road and pavement maintenance in the area.

Paths for All Fund- offers individual grants of up to £1500 to help community groups improve, maintain and promote their local community paths. Includes buying tools, insurance and materials, hiring a contractor, plant and machinery.

Community Links Grant Programme- provides grant funding to local authorities, statutory bodies and educational institutions for the creation of cycle network infrastructure for everyday journeys.

WREN- FCC Scottish Action Fund- considers applications across all types of projects including: land reclamation, community recycling, public amenities and parks, biodiversity and historic buildings.

Potential Partners

Dumfries and Galloway Council- maintain existing roads and pavements and are involved in building new infrastructure.

Sustrans- works closely with communities, the Scottish Government, local authorities and other partners to ensure that the people of Scotland have access to a network of safe walking and cycling routes.

Paths for All- aim to significantly increase the number of people who choose to walk in Scotland - whether that's leisure walking or active-choice walking to work, school or shops.

8.7 Upgrade Local Space



- Aim** To improve the aesthetic appeal of Thornhill and make it a more visually attractive place to live, work, and visit with multi-use outdoor community spaces.
- Outputs**
- Identify suitable space to carry out landscaping works
 - Commission professional to develop plans for chosen site
 - Employ skilled workers to undertake work to upgrade site
- Outcomes**
- The visual and aesthetic amenity of Thornhill has been improved for the community to enjoy
 - There is a better use of available space in the village
- Underlying Need and demand** During the first stage of consultation almost three quarters of respondents thought that it was either 'essential' or 'important' to enhance the local environment and upgrade certain areas. Following on from this, during the drop- in events community members were asked to identify where they would like to see these improvements made. At this stage there were two main priorities identified by the community for development: the open space opposite the community centre and the space at St. Cuthbert's walk. It has been acknowledged that there is an interest in developing these areas and maximise their potential to be well used community spaces.
- Current provision in Thornhill Area** Analysis of satellite images of Thornhill shows that there is limited open space in the village for development works to be undertaken and that the few spaces there are have enormous potential to be attractive, well-used community areas. Thornhill has a large allotment space and some open green spaces however there has been limited landscaping works undertaken on these sites.
- Project Proposal** As a first step it may be prudent for the community to appoint specialist consultants to undertake project planning and development. Although the community identified two areas for upgrading during the drop- in sessions, the space opposite the community centre and St. Cuthbert's Walk, it would be prudent to undertake additional consultation with the community should this project be taken forward to clarify where and what type of works should be undertaken. This consultation may involve putting together some mood boards for the community to look at with a variety of landscaping ideas to consider. From this, a more detailed selection of landscape drawings could be developed by a commissioned landscape architect for the community to consider.

Once the final design had been decided it will be essential to seek funding for the development. The method of delivery will also need to be determined at this point i.e. will this be carried out on a voluntary basis by interested community members, will it be delivered through a landscaping employability project for local people, or will trained professionals be contacted to carry out the works. By providing a training project for local people it would tie in well with another priority identified by the community during the community consultation process: providing more training opportunities for local people.

Whichever delivery method is decided upon it will be essential to plan this carefully for inclusion in any funding applications. The type of funding available may determine which delivery method is more feasible for the project.

A voluntary steering group from the community will also be established early on to guide the project through the planning and delivery stages.

Potential Funding

Awards for All- A Lottery grants programme that funds small, community-based projects across the UK up to £10,000

Investing in Ideas- will fund groups and organisations of all sizes to improve their skills and knowledge to; think differently about how a service is delivered, and help them to design and test new projects or better ways of working.

People's Postcode - Postcode Local Trust- encourages lasting benefits by bringing people together to improve local ecology and habitats, encourage bio-diversity and benefit the wider environment – including creation/restoration of green spaces.

D&G Council Common Good Fund- provides organisations with financial help to organise events and activities for residents in their area, such as improving the appearance of the area; attracting people into the area; positively raising the profile of the area; promoting awareness of the area; contributing to a larger scale project with a longer term goal.

Potential Partners

Skills Development Scotland- to provide guidance and support on potentially developing a landscaping training programme.

Dumfries and Galloway Leisure- have a responsibility to offer access for all residents to enjoy outdoor space and a duty to ensure that recognised core paths are in reasonable condition and signposted.

D&G Council- own land adjacent to Thornhill Community Centre and are key stakeholder.

Local training providers- offering recognised training opportunities for local people, particularly in environmental and landscaping works.

8.8 Gardening Service for Elderly Residents



| | |
|--|--|
| Aim | To ensure that all residents in Thornhill, Closeburn and the surrounding area have the means to maintain their gardens. |
| Outputs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify a suitable model of delivery - Agree eligibility criteria based on age and capability to include residents of social rented, private rented and privately owned housing - Determine potential for training opportunities in the project and identify suitable training partners |
| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced amenity of the area - Increased community pride - Individuals supported in accessing training opportunities |
| Underlying Need and demand | <p>Thornhill is a community with an above average proportion of older people living in it many of whom indicated over the course of the consultation that they would appreciate a gardening service in the village. This may be due to many feeling that they require support with the physical aspects of maintaining their gardens as they get older. In fact 77% of respondents thought that gardening services for elderly and disabled residents was either 'essential' or 'important'. Furthermore, development of a gardening service aimed at supporting older and disabled residents could have a significant positive impact in terms of the ongoing aesthetic upkeep of the area. It would also provide opportunities for training and skills development, within the community for those interested in pursuing that type of career.</p> |
| Current provision in Thornhill Area | <p>There are a number of formal landscaping, tree felling and grounds maintenance services however these may not be suited to the particular needs of older residents in the community. It will also be necessary to provide gardening services and support to those on low incomes who are disproportionately older and disabled persons. Current council provision of help with garden maintenance is available but there are limitations in terms of availability, affordability and eligibility which this project would address.</p> |
| Project Proposal | <p>One option for this project would be to develop a voluntary gardening group in the community who offer their time and skills to local residents who are in need of gardening services. Older and disabled residents who wish to garden but cannot manage independently may want to contact the gardening team to request assistance. Not only will this enable residents to participate in the upkeep of their own gardens, it can boost individuals' self-esteem, and reduce isolation which has been shown to disproportionately affect older</p> |

people. Appropriate support and training would be provided to the gardening group, this would include first aid training and Protection of Vulnerable Groups registration.

Another option for the delivery of a gardening service for elderly and disabled residents in the area could be through council provided gardening support, the Home Garden Maintenance Scheme. This support is available for residents who are finding it difficult to look after their own gardens. Volunteers within the community could offer assistance to residents wishing to access this support in terms of understanding and completing application forms.

Another option could be for a local employability initiative to work with D&G Council Home Garden Maintenance Scheme on a sub contract basis to extend provision in Thornhill, Closeburn and to other parts of the community council area to enable the service to be more responsive and deal with increasing demands to reduce waiting list time.

Potential Funding

The Volunteering Support Fund is open to support third sector organisations to create new volunteering projects. Funding will be used to buy in specialised support in this area. Action will need to contribute significantly to the development of volunteers.

Greggs Foundation for financial contribution towards the required equipment, funding may also cover the costs associated with activities and trips.

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation would be useful if gardening services focus on community growing, particularly through their funding strand focussed on food.

Keep Scotland Beautiful Community Grants Scheme provides small grants of £250 to local groups, to make small improvements to their local environment. Eligible projects will include local action to improve the local environment, delivered in an environmentally sustainable manner, involving and benefitting the community, and will be volunteer led.

Disabled Facilities Grant- may be available to cover costs of improving access to residents' gardens.

Potential Partners

Dumfries and Galloway Council- offer support to residents who are experiencing difficulty in maintaining their gardens through their Home Garden Maintenance Scheme.

Volunteer Scotland- offer support and training for voluntary groups in Scotland.

Existing or previous projects- to offer advice and share experience on running similar projects e.g. Groundwork's Green Aiders programme and Garden Buddies SNVB (South Northants Volunteer Bureau).

8.9 Upgrade Thornhill Community Centre



| | |
|--|---|
| Aim | To provide an accessible, well- equipped community space in Thornhill for the provision of a range of services and activities. |
| Outputs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commission feasibility study to assess potential for expansion - Undertake extensive renovation and extension of Thornhill Community Centre - Upgrade open space surrounding the Community Centre |
| Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Community Centre renovated to a high standard including better kitchen and toilet facilities - Thornhill Community Centre has improved disabled accessibility - Thornhill Community Centre is better able to accommodate a wider range of services and activities |
| Underlying Need and demand | Thornhill Community Centre is a well- used and well- loved community asset however it is widely recognised that the facility is in need of renovation, particularly the toilet facilities and the disabled access. Consultation with groups who currently use the community centre indicated that the vast majority supported upgrading the community centre, with 57% rating it as 'okay' in its current state. In addition to that 83% of residents supported maximising the use of the community centre suggesting that there is significant demand from the community to have a high- quality facility offering a wide range of services and activities. An upgraded community centre could offer better sports facilities for the area, a key demand for many residents particularly school pupils who participated in the consultation. |
| Current provision in Thornhill Area | Thornhill Community Centre is the main Community Centre serving Thornhill and a number of the surrounding villages including Closeburn, Moniaive and Durisdeer. It is therefore a regional hub for service and activity provision in the area and without this key facility it is unlikely that a number of existing groups could operate in their current capacity. In addition to Thornhill Community Centre the village has the Friendship Club and meeting rooms within the fire station which host community groups. |
| Project Proposal | This project would initially see the development of a feasibility study for the upgrade of the existing community centre in Thornhill. This feasibility study would determine the best option for carrying out the works to the community centre in terms of affordability, usefulness for the community and sustainability. The feasibility study will include input from architects, quantity surveyors, landscape architects (where appropriate), and |

experienced consultants. Their input will cover costing plans, design drawings, identifying potential funders, coordinating input from key stakeholders, and business planning. Upon completion of the feasibility study, assuming the project is indeed feasible, work could then begin on the chosen plan for the community centre. Based on the identified demand this plan would likely include better disabled access, improved toilet facilities, a larger hall and more storage space.

This project would ultimately see the development of a well- equipped community space for all of Thornhill, and indeed the surrounding areas whose residents make use of the services and activities on offer there. By providing the community with an upgraded community centre it will enable more groups to make better use of the facility and local people will have more opportunity to participate in a wide range of high- quality activities locally.

Potential Funding

Investing in Ideas- will fund groups and organisations of all sizes to improve their skills and knowledge to think differently about how a service is delivered, and help them to design and test new projects or better ways of working.

Trusthouse Charitable Foundation- Community Centres and Village Halls- interested in applications for capital projects at community centres in the most deprived urban areas and village halls in remote and economically deprived rural areas.

Dumfries & Galloway Council- Currently own the building.

Foundation Scotland - Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company- will support charitable activities that support the rural regeneration and sustainability of communities for a wide range of costs and activities including maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities and capital costs to purchase or develop community assets.

Potential Partners

Dumfries & Galloway Council- The Council currently own the centre and would be a key stakeholder in any future developments in the centre

Thornhill Community Council- to support the community and the Community Centre Committee to undertake any feasibility study and future works.

Current Community Centre Tenant Groups- To offer assistance with fundraising and planning.

8.10 Improved Play Park in Thornhill



Aim To offer the community a better equipped play park in Thornhill, for use by young people of all ages.

Outputs

- Identify a suitable location for installation of new equipment
- Identify the type of equipment sought by the community to address the needs of young people in the area particularly those who feel they are too old for existing equipment
- Source relevant funding for the development of the new/ improved play park

Outcomes

- Young people of all ages in Thornhill are able to access play equipment suited to their needs within their community
- Better health and social outcomes for young people in the area as they are able to make use of improved play equipment locally

Underlying Need and demand While play parks were not exclusively mentioned in the household survey the community were very much in favour of improving access to existing sports facilities. Building on this, the community were asked about play parks during the drop- in events with over 67% of respondents indicating that improved play provision in Thornhill was a priority for them. Consultation with P6 and P7 pupils at Wallace Hall Primary School also made clear that young people in the area were in favour of improving play parks. P6 pupils rated it as their third top priority for the future of Thornhill and P7 pupils rated it as their second top priority. Further discussion with the pupils highlighted that they felt that the equipment on offer at present is for younger children and there is nothing for them to do at the existing parks.

Current provision in Thornhill Area At present in Thornhill there are three play parks; one located adjacent to the community centre, one behind Muirhall Road and one at the new housing development on Manse Road. All of these sites however are equipped with play facilities which are aimed at younger children, meaning that there is little for 'older' young people to do in the village. There is a well-equipped park in nearby Closeburn which a number of P6 & P7 pupils stated was far better in terms of equipment for their age group, however at present this is largely inaccessible to them given the distance and lack of footpath.

Project Proposal It will be essential to develop this project in close consultation with young people in the area as they will be the primary users of any new equipment. Including young people in the planning and development of any new or improved play park will increase the likelihood of ensuring that the new

facilities are well used by the community by engendering a sense of ownership. The planning process will involve deciding what the community would like to see as part of a new or improved facility and, importantly, where this new equipment should be located. This stage could involve further consultation work at Wallace Hall Primary School with local young people, doing online research with them and encouraging them to put together planning ideas, perhaps in the form of a 'mood board' exercise. Further to this it will then be necessary to undertake a more formal planning exercise to ensure that the costing, and landscaping plans for the new/ improved facility are correct. This will be necessary for project funding applications and the eventual construction of the equipment.

Following on from the consultation stage it will be necessary to secure funding for the development of new facilities. This will require identifying a suitable lead partner for taking this stage forward that will undertake online funding research, liaise with relevant bodies such as D&G Council to explore funding potential, and look at other fundraising options. Finally, contractors can be hired to undertake the works upon successfully securing funding for the project.

Potential Funding

Awards for All- A Lottery grants programme that funds small, community-based projects across the UK up to £10,000

People's Health Trust- Active Communities is a funding programme for community groups and not-for-profit organisations, with an income of less than £350,000 a year or an average of £350,000 over two years.

WREN- FCC Scottish Action Fund- considers applications across all types of projects including: land reclamation, community recycling, public amenities and parks, biodiversity and historic buildings.

Tesco Bags of Help- funding up to £5,000 for projects that deliver a physical environmental improvement or encourage the use and long term sustainability of outdoor spaces.

Potential Partners

Dumfries & Galloway Council- The Council are responsible for play parks in the area.

Local community group- To lead on the development of the project i.e. liaise with relevant bodies, coordinate plan and identify possible funders.

Local schools- to liaise with young people from Thornhill likely to use the equipment.

8.11 Thornhill Tourist Information Point



Aim To provide visitors and tourists to the area with a well-equipped, informative first point of contact offering information on local attractions and activities.

Outputs

- Liaise with wider tourist information services to establish best mode of provision and any support on offer
- Tourist information point established in a central village location
- A wide range of activities and services advertised via the tourist information point

Outcomes

- Residents and visitors are more aware of and more likely to make use of the wide range of activities and services on offer in the area
- Tourist attractions in the area are better advertised and able to attract visitors
- Increase in local tourist industry

Underlying Need and demand 73% of respondents to the household survey thought that having an accessible tourist information point in Thornhill was 'essential' or 'important'. Further face to face discussions with residents and business owners highlighted how much the community valued the attractions and natural beauty on offer around their village and wanted to ensure that this was being enjoyed as fully as possible. As such it became clear that there was a need for tourist information to be better provided in Thornhill, particularly given that there is none available currently. Residents also highlighted support for a walkers' map for the area and more tourist attractions with 75% and 76% support respectively.

Current provision in Thornhill Area At present tourist information is offered inside a local shop that has unfortunately been closed in recent months. Thornhill has a need to provide high quality tourist information to ensure that visitors to the village and residents are able to make the most of all the village and its surroundings have to offer. It was also highlighted during discussions with local businesses that many visitors to the area ask them for informal tourist advice in the absence of a formal service. While this is useful for many people, it is recognised that it is unsustainable and doesn't always offer the fullest information despite the significant local knowledge available in Thornhill.

Project Proposal By establishing a well- resourced and accessible tourist information point in Thornhill, the community will be able to inform themselves and visitors to the village of all that is on offer in terms of attractions, services and activities in the area. This project will establish a tourist information point in the village in a central location which will be decided upon after close consultation with

local businesses regarding who would be able to accommodate such a resource. The information point will offer leaflets and advertisements for local services and activities, a walkers' map, and information on the area's heritage. This will enable visitors to take advantage of what is on offer locally, contributing to the local economy and developing the area's reputation as a tourist destination. One important aspect which the community were particularly keen on during the consultation was a walkers' map, therefore it will be important to ensure that this element is included in the final tourist information point design. This resource will require funding to develop and create the map in consultation with designers, mapping experts and local walkers.

By hosting such a resource in the community, Thornhill will be able to encourage local people and visitors to make the most of the range of opportunities and activities on offer in the area. While this tourist information point may begin life as a small information stand located in an existing business, it may evolve into a more substantial staffed facility depending on its popularity and success. Most importantly in achieving this, it will be essential to ensure that the information point, in whatever form it may take, is as accessible as possible for all.

Potential Funding

VisitScotland Growth Fund- supports industry groups with marketing projects. The fund supports projects aimed at increasing visitor numbers and reaching new target markets. Funding can cover 50% of approved marketing costs from £10,000 - £40,000.

Paths for All Fund- offers individual grants of up to £1500 to help community groups improve, maintain and promote their local community paths. Includes installing signage and way-markers and producing a leaflet or promotional materials.

D&G Council Common Good Fund- can provide organisations with financial help to attract people into the area; positively raise the profile of the area; and promote awareness of the area.

Business Contributions- Businesses who advertise through the tourist information point could contribute a small fee to maintain the resource.

Potential Partners

VisitScotland- Scotland's national tourism organisation working to maximise the economic benefits of tourism to Scotland.

Visit Thornhill Website- provides access to a wide range of information on Thornhill and surrounding area.

Buccleuch & Queensberry Estates- provides a platform for sustainable economic development for the communities living in and engaging with local land resource.

Local businesses- may wish to advertise their business through the information point, contributing to funds, or may be able to accommodate the resource.

9.0 MAKING IT HAPPEN

Action So Far

Throughout the consultation process as potential project ideas have become clear, steps have been taken to act upon the priorities and demands identified by the community. Primarily this has involved putting interested parties in contact with each other and providing guidance to groups or individuals looking to undertake projects locally, based on the information gleaned through the community plan. This has meant that the positive effects of the community plan are already being experienced in and around Thornhill by making tentative steps towards the type of positive change community members have made it clear they would like to see. With this completed community plan, using the information contained within it, these first steps will be built upon and worked into longer term, realistic community projects.

So far the consultation work carried out as part of the Community Plan has facilitated the formation of Thornhill Station Action Group which now has an active local presence, as well as a significant online presence through their dedicated website, Twitter, and Facebook feeds. This group has been set up to campaign for the reopening of Thornhill Train Station and sustain community interest in the station's reopening. The Thornhill Station Action Group have also been in discussion with local land owners including Buccleuch and Queensberry Estates and Thomson & Roddick, who own the old cattle market on the east side of the line, to discuss the availability of land. At this stage they have been successful in securing a written offer of the land required.

Furthermore, work carried out as part of the community consultation has been used by local groups to evidence local support for the reconditioning of unused local buildings. More specifically this work has focussed on bring the old primary schoolhouse in Thornhill back into use as an arts space. Support has been provided by consultants to a new community/thematic group who expressed an interest in purchasing and upgrading the old school building. Talks have also been held with Buccleuch Estates and potential grant funders on potential legal arrangements and consideration over potential end use, which is likely to focus on a co-working art space.

Next Steps

The next steps for the Thornhill community will be finding workable ways of implementing the recommendations and options contained within the plan. As a first action the community may wish to prioritise the action points and project outlines above. While it is important to address the most important community issues, it may also be prudent to consolidate interest in the work carried out in Thornhill so far by implementing a few of the more easily achievable, quick impact actions. This will help build confidence in the community plan by highlighting early on how residents' input has affected positive changes in the area. The community should be mindful of a number of factors while determining their priorities. Whilst the preferences of the local community are important they should not be the only information used to determine which area is addressed first. For example, it may be that something considered by the

community to be the third or fourth priority is more achievable due to available funding, partnership links etc. and therefore a top priority.

While Thornhill Community Council will have a key role in the future of the report and a great number of the projects contained within, there will also be significant scope for other local groups to take the lead on projects, with support from the community council. Perhaps one key group which could be set up in Thornhill which would be able to take forward a number of projects would be a community development trust. Through a community development trust the community would be able to undertake a number of projects which the community council may not be able to such as generating income through enterprise and the ownership of assets, this would help reduce dependency on grant support. Inspiration and guidance could be gained from working collaboratively with Nith Valley LEAF Trust in Closeburn who have had significant success in taking forward projects as a community development trust. Further to this, the community may also be interested in setting up other groups and clubs that will be well placed to take forward small scale projects particular to the group's interests or skills.

Thornhill Community Council may also wish, in light of the findings of this Community Plan, to explore options for the potential employment of a Community Development Officer. This staff post would be responsible for taking forward the Action Points and Project Outlines contained within this Community Plan. Further to this, it may also be the case that a Community Development Worker would identify other suitable projects to address local need and demand within Thornhill as and when it arises.

In The Long- Term

It will be essential for Thornhill Community Council and its partners to revise this Community Plan in the months and years to come. This will ensure that works undertaken locally continue to be in line with the wishes of the community as evidenced by the extensive community consultation works undertaken as part of this Community Plan. It may be appropriate that this plan is supplemented with additional, more specific, consultation work undertaken in Thornhill and the surrounding area on particular projects. It will fall to Thornhill Community Council and its partners to decide the final timescale, scope and method for this update.

Whatever ideas and projects the community decide to take forward, by utilising this plan they can ensure that their actions will help realise the community's aspirations, and in turn are supported by the community themselves. Further to this, it will be important to maintain an open dialogue between stakeholders throughout the implementation of the community plan and beyond. This will ensure that the community continues to be well- informed about what is going on locally and they ultimately remain invested in the ongoing development of the area.

10.0 APPENDICES

10.1 National Policies

Scottish Government Purpose, Strategic Objectives and National Outcomes

Launched in 2007, to run a minimum of ten year, the overriding purpose to which all the work of the Scottish Government and its partners is aimed at, and which all projects should contribute towards the achievement of, is;

“To focus the Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.”

In order to meet the Purpose and increase the success of the country, the Scottish Government is focusing their actions around five Strategic Objectives;

1. *Wealthier and Fairer* – enable businesses to increase their wealth and more people to share fairly in that wealth.
2. *Safer and Stronger* – help local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life.
3. *Healthier* – help people to sustain and improve their health, especially in disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local and faster access to health care.
4. *Smarter* – expand opportunities for Scots to succeed from nurture through to lifelong learning ensuring higher and more widely shared achievements.
5. *Greener* – improve Scotland’s natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it.

Within these five areas the Scottish Government has also developed 15 specific National Outcomes to work towards over the next 10 years:

- We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing [business](#) in Europe.
- We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.
- We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation.
- Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
- We live longer, healthier lives.
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
- We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
- We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
- We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.
- We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.

- We value and enjoy our built and natural [environment](#) and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
- We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive [national identity](#).
- We reduce the local and global [environmental impact](#) of our consumption and production.
- Our [public services](#) are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

Scottish Government Regeneration Strategy: Achieving a Sustainable Future

This strategy was launched in December 2011 and is the Scottish Government's 'vision of a Scotland where our most disadvantaged communities are supported and where all places are sustainable and promote well-being'. The Strategy acknowledges that many regeneration efforts in the past have concentrated on depressed areas, however new investment should redress the balance by also focussing investment on stronger areas too in order to create sustainable economic growth. The Strategy states that funding should be targeted not only on tackling deprivation and reversing decline but also on ensuring that communities are resilient. The Strategy emphasises community-led regeneration with the 'Focusing our Interventions' section recognising that 'local partners and communities themselves are best placed to identify local assets and needs'. Communities should have more responsibility for determining their own needs and acting upon these, taking responsibility for the delivery of regeneration projects.

The Strategy has three categories of outcomes the Scottish Government wants to achieve: economically, physically and socially sustainable communities.

Economically Sustainable Communities

- Strong local economies, providing access to jobs and support for business
- A well trained workforce whose skills meet economic needs
- People have access to the learning and development opportunities that they need and the right support is in place to help people to work
- A thriving private sector and social enterprise
- Effective strategies in place to link economic opportunity and demand
- The right affordable housing options with sufficient availability and quality of housing across all tenures
- Places encourage positive and appropriate private sector investment and social enterprise which provides opportunities for business and jobs
- Infrastructure fosters the right conditions for growth and community cohesion, including good transport and digital connectivity
- Thriving towns and high streets
- Sustainable employment and reducing welfare dependency

Physically Sustainable Communities

- People have access to quality public space and appropriate greenspace
- Well planned neighbourhoods and local areas, with accessible facilities and amenities

- Communities have a positive appearance and are places where people want to live, work and invest
- Quality design and upkeep of buildings and spaces
- Address vacant and derelict land and property and preserve heritage/built environment for productive use
- Use resources efficiently and respect the natural environment

Socially Sustainable Communities

- Communities and people are protected and feel safe
- Delivery is focussed on the needs of people
- Communities are involved in designing and delivering the services that affect them
- Strong and effective community networks are in place
- People have access to appropriate community facilities and places to meet
- Communities have a positive identity and future aspirations
- People are empowered to improve their area and maximise local assets
- People have good physical and mental health
- People have access to effective local services and facilities, including health, education and early years support
- Towns and high streets act as a focal point for social and economic interactions
- Communities are fair and inclusive, where all have a voice and can participate
- Sustainable employment to tackle worklessness.

Community Learning and Development Strategy

Community Learning and Development (CLD) is seen as a key tool in delivering the Scottish Government's commitment to social justice. This Strategy establishes that CLD capacity should be targeted towards activities aimed at closing the opportunity gap, achieving social justice and encouraging community regeneration. The Strategy outlines three priorities for Community Learning and Development;

- *Achievement through learning for adults* - Raising standards of achievement in learning for adults through community-based lifelong learning opportunities.
- *Achievement through learning for young people* - Engaging with young people to facilitate their personal, social and educational development and enable them to gain a voice, influence and a place in society.
- *Achievement through building community capacity* - Building community capacity and influence by enabling people to develop the confidence, understanding and skills required to influence decision-making.

Scotland's Economic Strategy

The Government Economic Strategy (updated March 2015) reflects the changes in the current economic environment, and sets out how the Scottish Government will work with businesses and individuals to achieve its Purpose. The purpose is 'to make Scotland a more successful country, with opportunities for all to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth'. This updated Strategy focuses on two mutually supportive goals of increasing competitiveness

and tackling inequality and has four priorities enabling actions that can make a substantial difference:

- **Investing** on our people and our infrastructure in a sustainable way
- Fostering a culture of **innovation** and research and development
- Promoting **inclusive growth** and creating opportunity through a fair and inclusive jobs market and regional cohesion
- Promoting Scotland on the **international** stage to boost our trade and investment, influence and networks

This strategy also highlights and supports the important role organisations across Scotland have – whether voluntary organisations, third sectors partners or through informal relationships – which together empower local communities and underpin the structures which many individuals rely on to participate within society.

All Our Futures: Planning for a Scotland with an Ageing Population

Launched in 2007 this remains the lynch pin of Scottish Governments strategy to enable the effective planning for the needs of an ageing population. The strategy has three basic premises to safeguard this sector of society:

- Older people are contributors to life in Scotland;
- There are barriers which need to be broken down between generations;
- Services should be in place to ensure that people can live life to the full as they grow older.

To achieve this, six priority areas for action were identified:

- We will act to continue to improve opportunities for older people - to remove barriers and to create more chances for older people to participate and to be involved in their communities - as volunteers; through paid work; in learning, leisure, culture and sport.
- We will act to forge better links between the generations
- We will continue to act to improve the health and quality of life of older people
- We will continue to improve care, support and protection for those older people who need it.
- We will ensure that the right infrastructure is in place for a Scotland with an ageing population with housing, transport and planning progressively meeting the needs of all ages.
- We will offer learning opportunities throughout life.

10.2 Local Policies

Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan

The Local Development Plan (LDP) covers all of Dumfries and Galloway; it guides the future use and development of land in towns, villages and the rural area. It also indicates where development, including regeneration, should happen and where it should not. The overarching principle of this Plan is that all development proposals should support sustainable

development, including the reduction of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions. The vision for Dumfries and Galloway is for it to be:

'A thriving region with a sustainable economy built on sustainable principles that safeguard the landscape, natural and historic environment, promote growth, maximise the use of existing infrastructure and enhance connectivity. It will have maximised its location to attract investment to create employment and investment opportunities which will in turn attract people of working age to the region.'

This will be characterised by a rural economy with:

- more rural businesses;
- more houses in small groups;
- more recreational activity;
- more woodlands;
- high quality distinctive landscapes;
- high quality accessible viewpoints, paths and green networks;
- a range of renewable energy developments;
- a protected and enhanced natural and historic environment;
- access to sustainable transport;
- ready access to higher education and opportunities for knowledge transfer;

and vibrant towns and villages that have:

- more businesses and people working from home;
- more opportunities to meet locally arising affordable housing needs;
- housing developments of a scale appropriate to their location that incorporate features such as open space, green networks, SuDS and are based around sustainable transport modes;
- high quality, affordable housing;
- a range of services and facilities that help support the local community;
- enhanced historic environment, streetscape and open spaces;
- a distinctive landscape setting or sense of place;
- more green networks providing a range of environmental, social and economic benefits;
- more sustainable developments linked to allotments, waste recycling, energy generation and so on, that are based around sustainable transport modes;
- access to a wide range of good quality sport, recreation and leisure facilities;
- developments served by district heating systems.

Dumfries and Galloway Single Outcome Agreement 2013-16

The Single Outcome Agreement sets out a strategic ten year vision for Dumfries and Galloway. We want to see work at pace, identifying and making service improvements and achieving a significant shift towards preventing problems arising rather than tackling them after they have happened. We want all our people to fulfill their potential and make the most of our rural and

urban communities. The SOA commitments to achieve this will be through initiatives to address the following priorities:

'We will provide a good start in life for all our children'

We want a region where every child from pre-birth to 8 years old is prepared for, cared for and nurtured to be the very best and healthiest that they can be.

'We will prepare our young people for adulthood and employment'

We want our children and young people to be successful learners and will provide a range of flexible learning options to help them do so. We want them to be confident individuals and will support them to make informed choices and have the right skills for life, learning and work. Young people will be retained as there is access to opportunities for them to be effective contributors to the local economy, culture and society.

'We will care for our older and vulnerable people'

We want our adult population to have good levels of health and wellbeing and to remain as independent and physically and economically active as they can be. We will support people who are vulnerable particularly those experiencing mental or physical health problems or who face poverty by providing the right type of information and access to services, facilities and support delivered by a range of providers.

'We will support and stimulate our local economy'

We want to achieve sustainable prosperity by attracting and retaining successful businesses and quality jobs and to galvanise our local businesses and social enterprises to develop their ambition and capacity for growth and to support them.

'We will maintain the safety and security of our region'

We want to retain our existing high levels of community, personal and home safety. We want a region that respects and celebrates the diversity of the people who choose to live and visit here and to embed a sense of community, integrity and achievement.

'We will protect and sustain our environment'

We want to get the right balance of social, environmental and economic land use to develop more attractive and sustainable neighbourhoods, promoting engagement with communities to build civic pride.

Dumfries and Galloway Regional Economic Strategy 2014- 2020

The Vision for the Dumfries and Galloway regional Economic strategy is:

'By 2020, Dumfries and Galloway will have a more diverse and resilient economy. One which is capable of taking advantage of opportunities by combining an appropriately skilled workforce and connected infrastructure to support more prosperous and inclusive communities where every member of every community has equality of access to that prosperity.'

The strategic objectives for achieving this Vision are as follows:

- Capitalising on the strength of the region's base to increase productivity and provide the conditions for business-led growth.
- Empower the region's communities to address their distinct economic challenges and opportunities.
- Create a vibrant culture of opportunity in the region to retain and attract people of working age and improve the competitiveness of individual businesses.
- Enhancing regional connectivity, removing barriers to business competitiveness and improving access to economic opportunities for individuals and businesses.
- Large investment projects that will make a significant impact on the regional economy.
- Attainment of our aspirations requires a shared vision and partnership working across the public, private and third sectors along with our providers of further and higher education. Our partners must demonstrate strong, confident leadership and effective partnership working.

Dumfries and Galloway Regional Tourism Strategy 2016- 2020

The Vision for the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Tourism Strategy is that by 2020 Dumfries and Galloway will be the destination of choice for quality, value and memorable experiences delivered by skilled and passionate hosts.

This vision will be delivered through three key themes:

- *Providing Authentic Experiences: An all year round offering of great and unforgettable experiences, events and hospitality.*
- *Improving the Customer Journey: Providing customers with a consistently high quality experience that will have them return and recommend the area to other.*
- *Building our Capabilities: Building a resilient, advised and collaborative local network of businesses and organisation.*

Dumfries and Galloway Joint Strategic Plan for Older People 2012- 2022

The Strategic Plan has been developed at a time of great challenge. It celebrates the fact that many older people are living longer and staying healthy for longer, while acknowledging that projections show that over the next twenty years, there will be a steady increase in the number of frail older people, people living with multiple long-term conditions and people with dementia. Most of these people are likely to require some level of care and support. It also notes that over this same period there will be fewer people of working age available to support them and there will also be less money.

The Strategic Plan supports the development of services which are:

- are provided as locally as possible;
- are person-centred and personalised;
- provide more choice and control through forward looking care;
- improve the experiences of people with dementia;

- recognise the needs of Carers;
- maximise an individual's independence;
- help to overcome barriers to participation in local communities including those who are socially isolated; and which
- result in a better integration of care across health, social care, housing, independent and third sector partners within communities through a joint use of resources.

Dumfries and Galloway Draft Open Space Strategy 2014

The Open Space Strategy covers the whole of the Dumfries and Galloway region and is an important document for the future development, management and conservation of open space in the region. The overall outcome of the strategy is to maintain (or increase where possible) reasonable quantity, accessibility and quality of publicly useable open space- especially in relation to wider connectivity and multi- functionality. Within the outcomes there are five objectives, as follows:

- Objective 1: Maintain or increase (where necessary and possible) the amount of open space with the aim of meeting the publicly usable open space quantity and accessibility standard;
- Objective 2: Avoid fragmentation of existing open space networks;
- Objective 3: Increase/ enhance connectivity between open spaces and between these and residential areas;
- Objective 4: Maintain or increase (where necessary and possible) the quality of existing spaces and ensure that new spaces are of good quality;
- Objective 5: Ensure new open space is made as multi- functional as possible, serving a number of different uses and aim to improve multi- functionality of existing spaces.

The strategy is structured around these objectives and includes action points and recommendations to allow for its implementation and monitoring.

The Open Space Strategy is of benefit to a range of users and interested parties including developers, community groups, residents and visitors. The OSS provides the Council's strategy in relation to open space requirements, will be a material consideration in responding to housing development proposals and will also feed into other strategies and programmes relating to human health and wellbeing, recreation and transport within the region.

Nithsdale Health and Social Care Locality Plan 2016- 2019

This plan is about how Health and Social care in Nithsdale will be integrated as part of a new Dumfries and Galloway Integration Authority. It sets out specific information, where this is available, and identifies what is working well but also some of the main challenges which need to be tackled. Importantly, much of the plan is based on what people who live in the area and those currently involved in delivering health and social care in the area have said about how things could be better and what would make a difference.

The plan is shaped around the vision for Dumfries and Galloway as set out in the Dumfries and Galloway integration scheme- "A Dumfries and Galloway- where we share the job of making

our communities the best place to live active, safe and healthy lives by promoting independence, choice and control". This means:

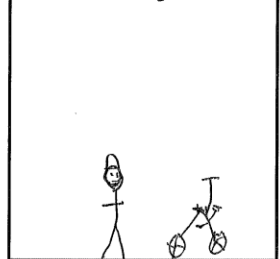
- a positive experience for people in our communities, their families and carers
- enabling people to take responsibility for their own physical health and mental well-being
- making sure that people, their family and carers are placed at the centre of all that we do, supported to make decisions and offer as much choice and control as possible
- making sure that the most vulnerable members of our communities are supported to live as independently as possible within their own homes or in homely settings
- supporting people to make positive lifestyle changes
- taking an innovative, creative, partnership approach to addressing health and social care challenges

10.3 Primary School Pupil Comic Strips

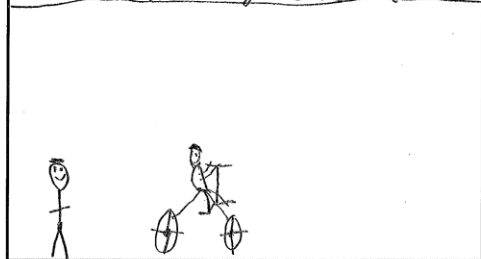


Mountain bike trails

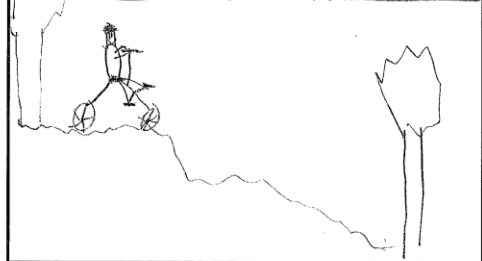
I want to go a cycle



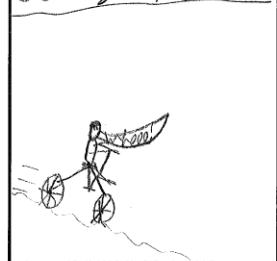
I want to go on a trail but I can't still just cycle home



Or you could go on the new mountain bike trails.



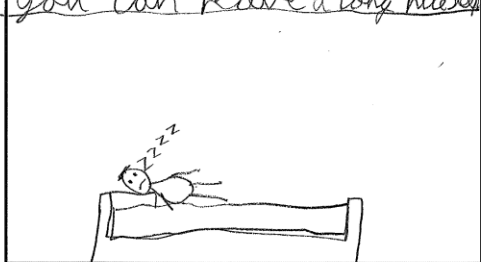
Great sun for everyone.



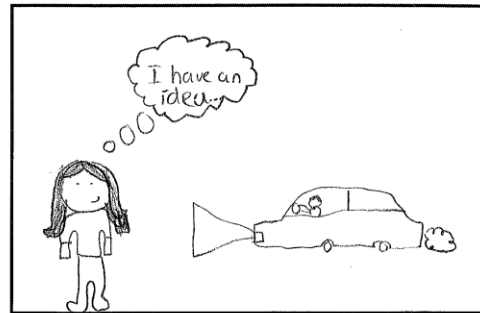
A nice day out!



And makes you tired so you can have a long nice sleep.

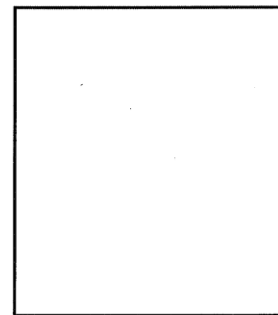
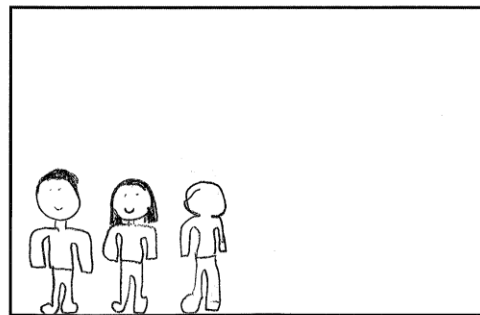


THORNHILL TRAIN STATION

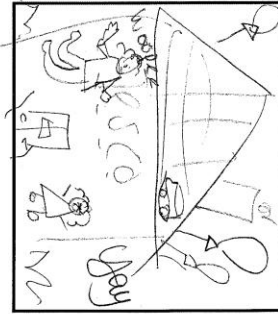
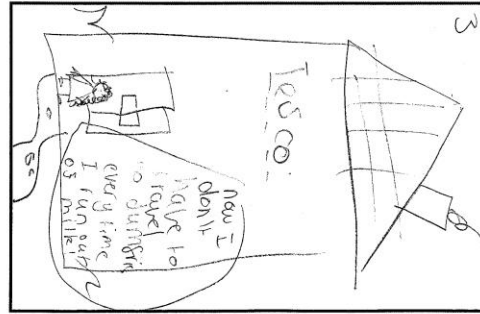
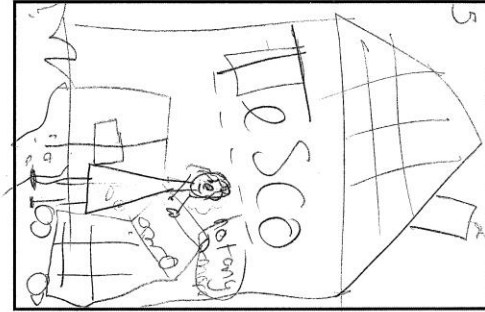
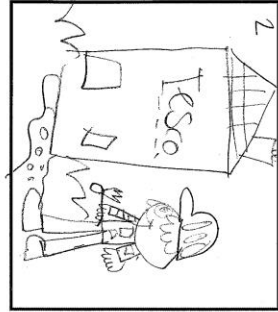
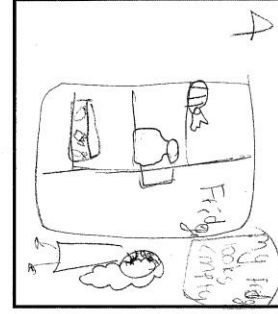
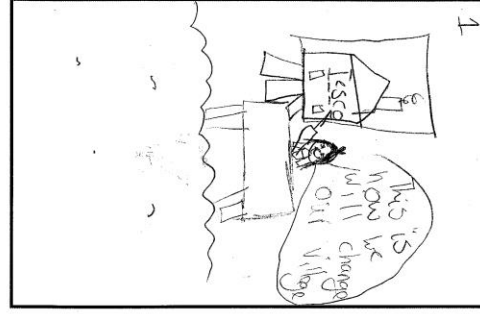
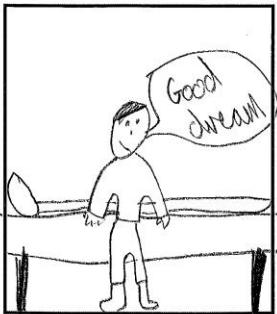
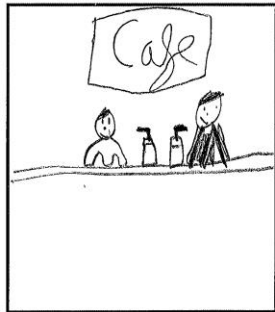
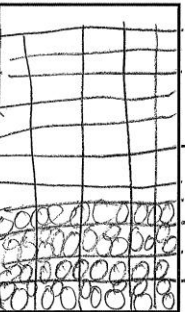
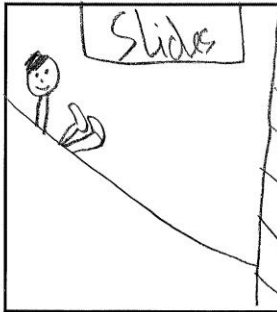
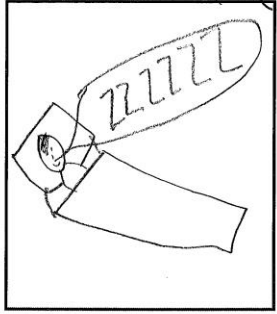


Mum has to go to Glasgow. If only we had a train station...

Eventually it was finished

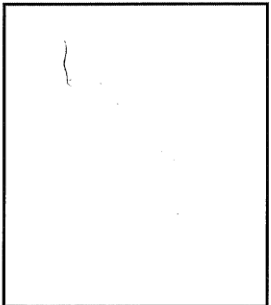
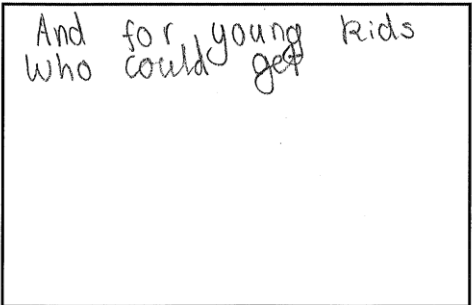
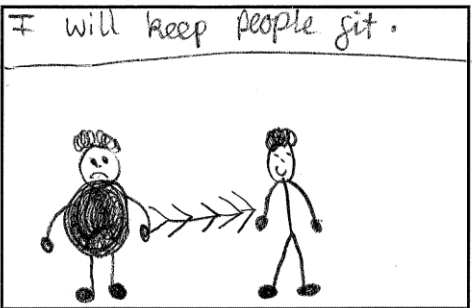


(Child Play area)

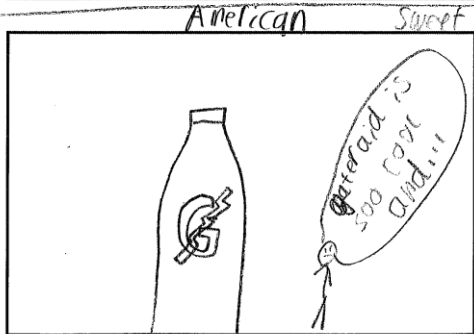
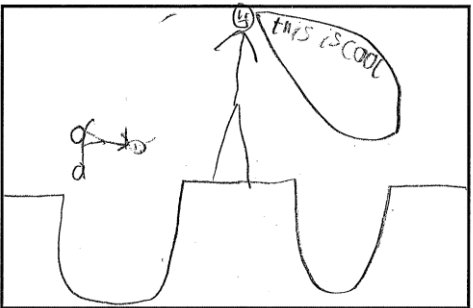
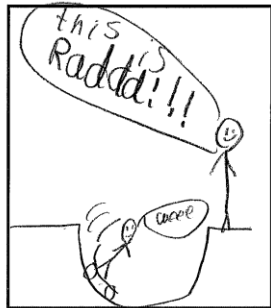
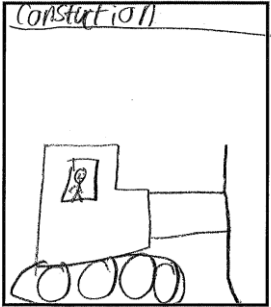
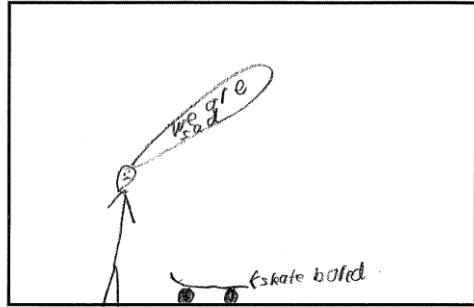


Bigger range of shops

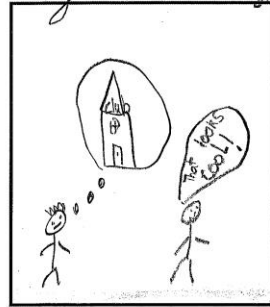
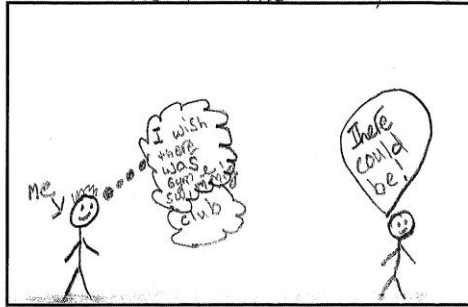
A Swimming pool



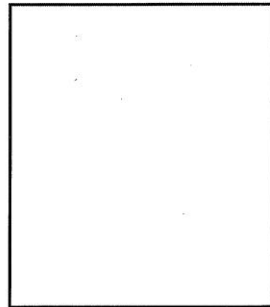
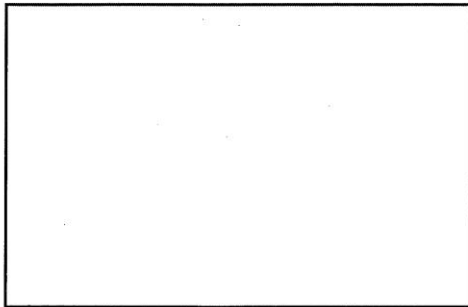
Skate park



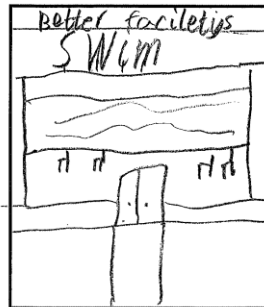
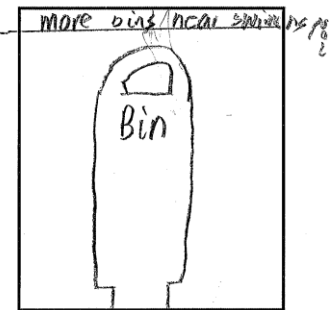
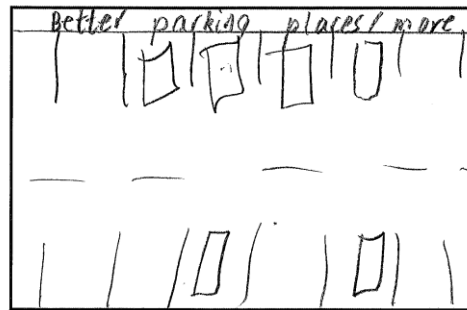
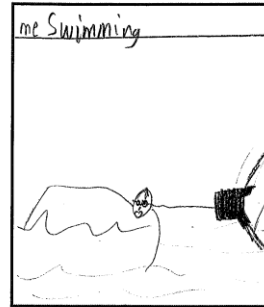
Team Thornhill, Swimming club & Gym



1 Year Later!

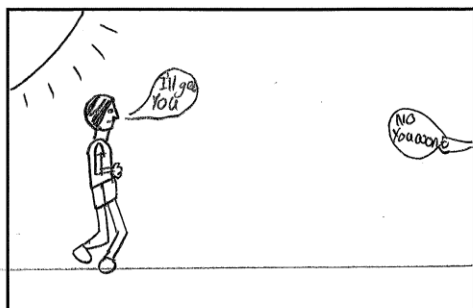
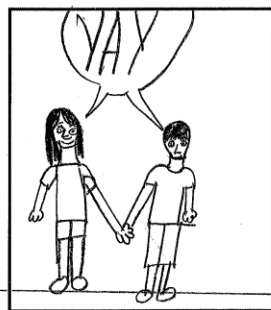
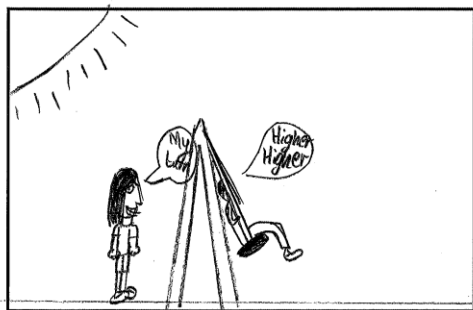
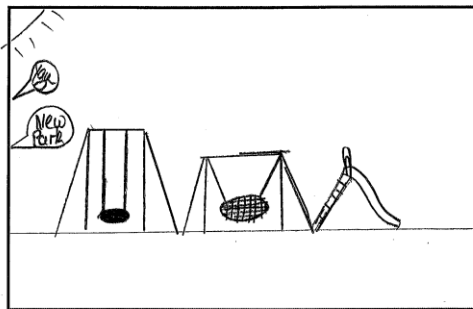


Swimming pool



The End
 Thanks for reading!
 😊

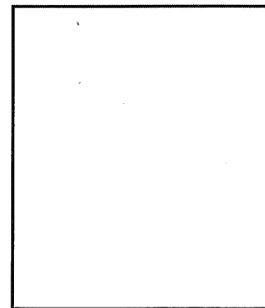
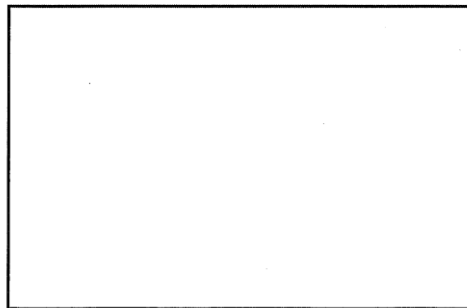
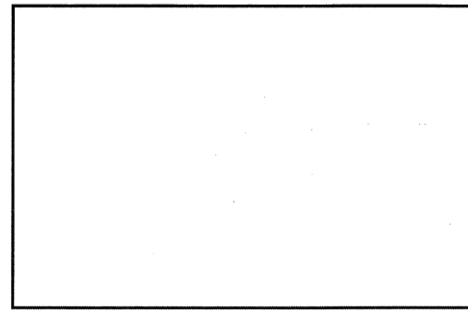
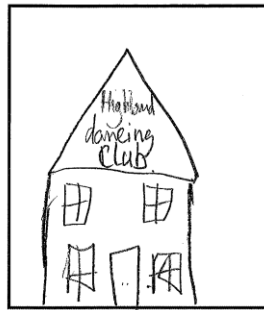
How we might feel with a new park!



Highland dancing



1 year later



10.4 Community Questionnaires

Q11. The Place Standard Table is a Scottish Government tool to evaluate the quality of a place.

For each of the questions in the table below, think about Thornhill and how it meets your needs and demands as a resident. By putting a mark in the appropriate box, please tell us how satisfied you are currently with each aspect of your community on a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 meaning there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 meaning there is little room for improvement.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Can I easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes? | | | | | | | |
| Does public transport meet my needs? | | | | | | | |
| Do traffic and parking arrangements allow people to move around safely and meet community needs? | | | | | | | |
| Do buildings, streets and public spaces create an attractive place that is easy to get around | | | | | | | |
| Can I regularly experience good quality natural space? | | | | | | | |
| Do I have access to a range of space and opportunities for play and recreation? | | | | | | | |
| Do facilities and amenities meet my needs? | | | | | | | |
| Is there an active local economy and the opportunity to access good quality work? | | | | | | | |
| Does housing support the needs of the community and contribute to a positive environment? | | | | | | | |
| Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people? | | | | | | | |
| Does this place have a positive identity and do I feel I belong? | | | | | | | |
| Do I feel safe? | | | | | | | |
| Are buildings and spaces well cared for? | | | | | | | |
| Do I feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better? | | | | | | | |

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If there is anything you would like to add, please feel free to note it down in the space provided below.

For more information or additional survey forms please contact Community Links Scotland on 0141 952 4382.

THORNHILL COMMUNITY SURVEY

Thornhill Community Council is undertaking a Community Action Plan for Thornhill and the surrounding area to help develop projects that will benefit the local community and they have appointed Community Links Scotland to assist. As part of the consultation process a survey of all households in the Community Council area is being undertaken.

We would be grateful therefore if you could take a few minutes to answer this questionnaire and use the prepaid envelope supplied to return it to Community Links Scotland by **Monday 24th October**. Try to answer as a household but if you would like additional surveys, as opinions and priorities may differ, please contact us and we can send more surveys to you. If possible, we also ask you to note your number one top priority for the area on the enclosed luggage tag and return it along with the survey.

This is your chance to have your say on the development of new projects in your community by helping us to identify demands and priorities in the Thornhill Community Council area. Once we have these results we will organise further community consultations, drop-ins, chats, and workshops to prioritise the local needs.

This information will provide us with a great opportunity to carry forward a variety of community projects in and around the village.



THANK YOU—YOUR HELP IS MUCH APPRECIATED AND WILL HELP US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE FUTURE OF YOUR AREA

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Q1. Are you? | Male <input type="checkbox"/> | Female <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Q2. What age bracket do you fall into? | Under 16 <input type="checkbox"/> | 16–21 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 22–29 <input type="checkbox"/> | 30–39 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 40–49 <input type="checkbox"/> | 50–59 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 60–69 <input type="checkbox"/> | 70–79 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 80–89 <input type="checkbox"/> | 90+ <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Q3. Postcode? | | |
| Q4. The Internet | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you have access to the internet? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you have a PC/laptop/tablet? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you have a smart phone? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you regularly use email? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you use social media? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

For each issue, in each of the following questions, please indicate with a tick in the relevant box how important you think it is for the future development of Thornhill. This will allow us to prioritise the main issues for the area, and help us to identify potential project ideas for the Community Action Plan.

| Q5. Transport Issues | Essential | Important | Less Important | Not Important |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Improved bus service | | | | |
| Improved village parking | | | | |
| Reducing traffic speed in village | | | | |
| Reintroduction of Thornhill Train Station | | | | |
| Improved public transport to Dumfries/Carlisle/Glasgow | | | | |
| Improved public transport locally | | | | |
| Other? (Please State) | | | | |

| Q6. Environmental Issues | Essential | Important | Less Important | Not Important |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Creation of community composting scheme | | | | |
| Enhance environment e.g. Upgrading of drab areas | | | | |
| Create outdoor gym in play park | | | | |
| Additional/ improved local path network for walking/ cycling | | | | |
| Acquisition/ development of local woodland for the community | | | | |
| Gardening services for elderly and disabled | | | | |
| Other? (Please State) | | | | |

| Q7. Infrastructure Issues | Essential | Important | Less Important | Not Important |
|---|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Affordable housing for sale | | | | |
| Affordable housing for rent | | | | |
| Maximising use of vacant buildings e.g. Duke Williams buildings | | | | |
| Maximising community centre use | | | | |
| Provision of small start-up business units | | | | |
| Improved internet access beyond village centre | | | | |
| Other? (Please State) | | | | |

| Q8. Tourist Issues | Essential | Important | Less Important | Not Important |
|---|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Accessible Tourist Information Point | | | | |
| More tourist accommodation | | | | |
| Walkers' map of local area | | | | |
| Village leaflet/website | | | | |
| Developing new attractions in the area | | | | |
| More regular community events throughout the year | | | | |
| Other? (Please State) | | | | |

| Q9. Health & Welfare Issues | Essential | Important | Less Important | Not Important |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Befriending service for elderly and disabled | | | | |
| Expansion of cottage hospital | | | | |
| Care home for elderly and disabled | | | | |
| Supported housing for elderly and disabled | | | | |
| Extended/ consistent GP opening hours | | | | |
| Access to emergency medical equipment | | | | |
| Other? (Please State) | | | | |

| Q10. Community & Recreation Issues | Essential | Important | Less Important | Not Important |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Lunch club for older residents | | | | |
| Creation of Thornhill Services Directory | | | | |
| Improve access to existing sports facilities | | | | |
| Wider range of evening classes | | | | |
| Joint projects and events for all age groups | | | | |
| A wider range of local interest groups and clubs | | | | |
| Other? (Please State) | | | | |

THORNHILL BUSINESS SURVEY

Thornhill Community Council is undertaking a Community Action Plan for Thornhill and the surrounding area to help develop projects that will benefit the local community and they have appointed Community Links Scotland to assist. As part of the consultation process a survey of businesses in the Community Council area is being undertaken.

We would be grateful therefore if you could take a few minutes to answer this questionnaire and use the prepaid envelope supplied to return it to Community Links Scotland.

This is your chance to have your say on the development of your community by helping us to identify demands and priorities in the Thornhill Community Council area. Once we have these results we will organise further community consultations, drop-ins, chats, and workshops to prioritise the local needs.

THANK YOU—YOUR HELP IS MUCH APPRECIATED AND WILL HELP US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE FUTURE OF YOUR AREA

Q1a. What is the nature of your business?

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| Construction | | Hospitality/accommodation | |
| Machine/plant hire | | Retail | |
| Agriculture | | Tourist attraction | |
| Horticulture | | Local service e.g. surgery | |
| Forestry | | Other (please state) | |

Q1b. Approximately how many employees do you have?

| | All year round | | Seasonal | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Full-time | Part-time | Full-time | Part-time |
| None | | | | |
| Less than 5 | | | | |
| 5 - 10 | | | | |
| 10+ | | | | |

Q1c. Are you a member of any business support network e.g. Thornhill Business Traders Association? Yes No

Q2. Business support issues: In relation to the day to day running and future development of your business, how importantly do you rate the need for the following Business Support services? Please rank the list below from 1 to 6 with 1 as your highest priority and 6 as your lowest priority.

| | Priority |
|--|----------|
| Access to shared small business services in the village e.g. An administration, marketing and IT support centre. | |
| Employee development advice e.g. Health & Safety awareness, I.T. classes etc. | |
| Sustainability advice e.g. Energy conservation, recycling etc. | |
| Information on potential grant funding sources for development initiatives. | |
| New local business networks e.g. a co-operative or purchasing partnership. | |
| Access to business units or workshop space. | |
| Access to video conferencing facilities. | |
| Other (please state) | |

Q3. Transport issues: In relation to the day to day running and future development of your business, how importantly do you rate the need for improvements in relation to local transport? Please rank the list below from 1 to 5 with 1 as your highest priority and 5 as your lowest priority.

| | Priority |
|---|----------|
| Village centre parking | |
| Dropping off/delivery area | |
| Public transport | |
| Good walking and cycling links to the village | |
| Competitively priced fuel sourcing | |
| Other (please state) | |

Q4. Environmental issues: In relation to the day to day running and future development of your business, how importantly do you rate the need for improvements, in relation to the local environment? From the list, please rank 1 to 5 with 1 as your highest priority, 5 as your lowest.

| | Priority |
|--|----------|
| Appearance of local village generally | |
| Protection of local woodlands/hedges | |
| Natural/Local history visitor centre | |
| Development of local walking and cycling routes. | |
| Other suggestion (please state) | |

Q5. Procurement issues: Do you have any issues in sourcing any of the following locally? If so please tick as many as are appropriate?

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Unskilled labour | <input type="checkbox"/> | Business/storage space | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Suitably skilled labour | <input type="checkbox"/> | Telephone/IT services | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Machine/equipment hire | <input type="checkbox"/> | Infrastructural services e.g. Water, sewerage etc | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commodities/products | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please state) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q6. Future business development in Thornhill

A) Can you think of any single facility or service not yet available in Thornhill that if provided would assist local businesses?

B) Do you think that there are any business opportunities that could be developed in the area and if so, are you prepared to tell us what they might be?

THORNHILL GROUP SURVEY

Thornhill Community Council are undertaking a Community Action Plan of Thornhill and the surrounding area to help develop projects that will benefit the local community and they have appointed Community Links Scotland to assist. As part of the consultation process a survey of local community groups is being undertaken.

We would be grateful therefore if you could take a few minutes to answer the questionnaire and use the prepaid envelope supplied to return it to Community Links Scotland by **Monday 24th October**.

This is your chance to have a say in the development of new projects in the area by helping us to identify the demands and priorities of community groups and clubs in Thornhill. Once we have these results we will organise further community consultations, drop-ins, chats, and workshops to prioritise the local needs. All information will be treated confidentially and will be used by Thornhill Community Council and Community Links Scotland for the purposes of this study only.



THANK YOU—YOUR HELP IS MUCH APPRECIATED AND WILL HELP US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE FUTURE OF YOUR AREA

Q1. What is the name of your group or organisation?

Q2. What is the nature of the activities carried out by your group or organisation?

Q3. Where do you currently run your group or organisation in Thornhill?

Q4. Are there any other facilities your group or organisation uses? e.g. Dumfries, Sanquhar etc.

Q5. How often do you provide your service or activity?

Daily Weekly

Monthly Occasionally

Other _____

Q6. How many people typically attend your service or activity

0- 10 11- 20

21- 30 31- 40

41- 50 50+

Q7. What is the typical age mix of people who use your service or activity?

Toddlers Under 12

13- 17 18- 24

25- 49 50- 64

65 + All ages

Q8. How much do you charge for your service or activity?

Free of charge

Annual charge (£ _____ per year)

Per session (£ _____ per session)

Other _____

Q9. Which of the following existing facilities in Thornhill does your group or organisation currently use and roughly how often? (Please tick)

| Facility | Weekly | Fortnightly | Monthly | A few times a year | Very occasionally |
|----------------------------|--------|-------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Thornhill Community Centre | | | | | |
| Friendship Club | | | | | |
| Wallace Hall School | | | | | |
| Thornhill Library | | | | | |
| Other _____ | | | | | |

Q10. Which of these would your group or organisation most benefit from, or most like to see in Thornhill in the future (Please tick top 5)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lockable storage | <input type="checkbox"/> | Better parking | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Projector and screen | <input type="checkbox"/> | Improved access | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community notice board | <input type="checkbox"/> | Better heating | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community printer / scanner/ copier | <input type="checkbox"/> | Leaflets. Publication, Info stand | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| TV & DVD player | <input type="checkbox"/> | Loop system for hard of hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| PCs or any other IT equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Loudspeaker facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Internet access | <input type="checkbox"/> | Medium sized meeting rooms | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sports equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Large hall for activities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Better availability times | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q11. How would you rate the standard of the facilities currently available in Thornhill?

Very Good Good

Okay Poor

Very Poor

If poor or very poor, why is this? _____

Q12. What is the top priority for you, as a local group or organisation, that would help you to provide better services or activities for the community?

10.5 Census Scotland Educational Attainment Levels

Highest level of qualification is defined as:

Level 1: 0 Grade, Standard Grade, Access 3 Cluster, Intermediate 1 or 2, GCSE, CSE, Senior Certification or equivalent; GSVQ Foundation or Intermediate, SVQ level 1 or 2, SCOTVEC Module, City and Guilds Craft or equivalent; Other school qualifications not already mentioned (including foreign qualifications).

Level 2: SCE Higher Grade, Higher, Advanced Higher, CSYS, A Level, AS Level, Advanced Senior Certificate or equivalent; GSVQ Advanced, SVQ level 3, ONC, OND, SCOTVEC National Diploma, City and Guilds Advanced Craft or equivalent.

Level 3: HNC, HND, SVQ level 4 or equivalent; Other post-school but pre-Higher Education qualifications not already mentioned (including foreign qualifications).

Level 4 and above: Degree, Postgraduate qualifications, Masters, PhD, SVQ level 5 or equivalent; Professional qualifications (for example, teaching, nursing, accountancy); Other Higher Education qualifications not already mentioned (including foreign qualifications).

10.6 O.S. Map of Thornhill Village

