

Summary of Thornborough Survey Findings

May 05

| 1. | Paths | Lights | Seating | Village Hall | Sports pavilion |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Chapel lane | 17 | 15 | 16 | 19 | 19 |
| Nash Rd | 28 | 31 | 14 | 27 | 19 |
| The Green High St | 20 | 26 | 11 | 19 | 14 |
| Thornhill | 28 | 21 | 9 | 17 | 15 |
| Bridge St | 28 | 28 | 14 | 18 | 17 |
| Lower End | 18 | 21 | 13 | 14 | 9 |
| Palmers moor | 14 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 5 |
| Back St | 46 | 31 | 19 | 14 | 8 |
| Total | 199 | 186 | 104 | 133 | 106 |

| 2. Is a Web site for TPC a good idea | Yes | No | Maybe |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----|-------|
| | 20 | 17 | 13 |

| 3. | C La | N Rd | Th Gr H St | Th'll | Br St | Lo E'd | Pa Mo | Ba St |
|-----------------|------|------|------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| Litter | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 = 37 |
| Anti Social b'r | 4 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 5 = 31 |
| Drug problems | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 = 4 |
| Motoring off's | 7 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 = 39 |
| Vandalism | 1 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 = 25 |
| Burglaries | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 = 8 |

| 4. | Bridge | Railings | Pond | Traffic | hedges |
|-------|--------|----------|------|---------|--------|
| CL | 20 | 17 | 29 | 24 | 23 |
| NR | 17 | 13 | 26 | 20 | 12 |
| TG HS | 8 | 5 | 21 | 29 | 12 |
| TL | 11 | 17 | 23 | 12 | 7 |
| BT | 20 | 7 | 22 | 22 | 21 |
| LD | 6 | 8 | 13 | 16 | 5 |
| PR | 10 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| BA T | 16 | 7 | 24 | 32 | 16 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Total | 108 | 78 | 165 | 164 | 99 |
|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|

5. Traffic calming at entrances to village

| | C La | N Rd | Th Gr H St | Th'll | Br St | Lo E'd | Pa Mo | Ba St | Total |
|-----------|------|------|------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------------|
| Lone tree | 15 | 18 | 24 | 21 | 16 | 10 | 7 | 27 | 138 |
| Thor'n Rd | 16 | 10 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 4 | 25 | 103 |
| Nash Rd | 17 | 21 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 11 | 5 | 16 | 108 |
| Bridge St | 9 | 10 | 7 | 9 | 24 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 71 |

| 6. Public telephone | Yes | No |
|---------------------|-----|----|
| Should we keep it | 3 | 45 |

| 7. Important issues | Lack of Affordable Housing | lack of public transport | planning issues | Recreational activities | community activities |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| CL | 2 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| NR | 5 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| TG HS | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 2 |
| TL | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Br St | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| LD | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| PR | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| BA St | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Total | 18 | 25 | 24 | 12 | 17 |

Any other comments

2 (Ch La)

gradual erosion of grass verges , Any clearing of the village pond would have to be done carefully because of having been a water vole site and with the help of BBOWT to advise

3 (Nash Rd)

Would the sewage system be able to cope with extra housing

No public transport on a Saturday, parking in Nash Rd has become completely unacceptable

1 (The Green+High St) Young people growing up in this village cannot afford houses therefore the community is sadly disappearing in favour of affluent, non participating villagers

1 (Bridge St) I am very concerned that common and TPC land is being used and taken inappropriately and illegally

2 (Lower End) Keep Thornborough a distinct village and fight MK sprawl
Developments seem to go through despite residents objections, even representations to AVDC are ignored by the authorities

2 (Palmer's moor) Real useful village shop open to 7Pm to encourage use,

5 (Back St) I do not believe more houses should be built on the greenbelt
Retention of successful school, enforcement of demolition notices that have been served
Affordable housing is available in MK where the jobs are, low cost housing should be where employment is

8. Should we have a design statement Yes No Not sure
36 9 12

9 Is a compacted surface on the green a good idea Yes No Not sure
38 14 7

Comments

2 if this happens it should be grass creted

1 (if this happens the pub should fund it

10. What other improvements would you like to see in the village?

Chapel Lane

Overgrown hedges trimmed

Filling holes in Chapel lane

Better path maintenance

Encourage a local shop to open up

We need a permanent assault course in the corner of the sports field

Nash Rd

There should be double yellow lines in Bridge St- on the bend beyond the Two brewers.

A gate and improved entrance to the sports field, keep greens free of parked cars,

Mow the green more often, Parking in Nash Rd and parking on the footpath,,,

Obvious gates at the entrances to the village and painted signs on the road

Implementation of fines for people who let their dogs foul the street, dog waste bins

The Green and High St

what about a village sign similar to Maids Morton, where is the 6ft fence in the playground, to screen Chestnut cottage for privacy

cars parked along Nash Rd makes seeing oncoming traffic difficult

street lamppost to be painted

Thornhill

Can anything be done about the corrugated iron hut opposite the pub, it's an eyesore

P.S. new playground looks super

I would like to see existing railings by pond in keeping with village the current ones are white and do not look very smart

Perhaps youngsters could be allowed to fish occasionally

Until the teenagers are catered for you will have some problems in the village

I would like to see dog poo bins around the village and more trees and flowers

Levelling and resurfacing of the Thornton Rd end to back St.

Drainage of the grass verges by adequate drainage ditches dug beside the hedges to take away excess water

Bridge St

If the compacted surface is put on the green then posts have to be put up to stop cars from going further

Better attention to finances, this is a village people who want MK should live there

I'd like to see some dog poo bins around the village having open bins is not very pleasant in summer, restrictions on HGV's using Bridge St except for access, upgrading of sports pavilion and its surroundings

Lower End

More regular mowing of communal grass areas of village

Lets improve what there is without introducing urbanisation

Palmers Moor

preserving village assets like the churches, footpaths, hedges, green open areas, lighting has to take priority

Back St

To pay for this would be a missappropriation of public funds, it is common land, if the publican wants to create parking he should pay for it

Parking should be grass-creting such as they have used up at Thornhill
People can't drink and drive so why should a car park be needed
Hardstanding in Sports field to stop grass verges from being parked on

TPC Comments on the Findings

Tam Dougan May 05

There were 204 questionnaires sent out in April. Out of these there were 58 replies.

Question 1. As to what were the priorities of Thornborough residents, paths and lights were seen as the most important. Seating was seen as the least important.

Question 2. Is a Thornborough Web site a good idea?

20 said yes. 17 said no and there were 13 don't know. I conclude from this that a web site is not a good investment of resources at the moment.

Question 3. What are the most important social issues? Litter (including dog fouling) anti-social behaviour and motoring offences came top. Bottom were drug offences and burglaries. In other words our problems seemed to be largely created by the behaviour of a few within our community rather than by agencies from outside?

Question 4. What specific projects would receive the most support?

Since this questionnaire went out, apparently railings in front of the village hall have been commissioned. Clearing out the silt from the village pond came top, closely followed by measures to slow down traffic at the entrances to the village.

Question 5.

The road up to the Lone tree was seen as the top priority in terms of improving traffic management.

Question 6.

3 households voted for keeping the telephone box if a high maintenance cost was introduced. 45 voted against.

Question 7.

Lack of public transport and planning issues came top in terms of what were important issues in the village. Recreational activities came bottom. Low cost housing was mentioned by some as important but was also resisted by many. This is likely to be a contentious issue in the future, especially if a design statement is initiated at some time in the future.

Question 8.

36 households said that we would benefit from having a design statement. 9 said no and 12 weren't sure. I think that perhaps an explanation of what a design statement is and what benefits it might have to the village is needed.

Question 9. Compacted surface on the green to stop cars tearing up the grass in winter. 38 said yes to this and 14 said no and 7 weren't sure. Again this seemed to be a polarising issue with strong views on both sides. Several people stated that if this was implemented then it should be the sort that grass could grow through. Also a couple of people said that as this was mostly to the pubs benefit then they should pay for it.

To implement this measure TPC would have to apply to register the ownership of the common in the name of the parish council.

Question 10. What other improvements would you like to see in the village?
Generally mending potholes, road and path maintenance speed calming at village entrances and cutting back overgrown hedges were popular. There was some desire for separate enclosed dog poo bins. These are expensive to maintain and non-dogs owners will be financially subsidising the needs of a minority, through the precept payment, if this happens. However everyone does benefit from a cleaner and safer environment. Grass verges were seen to be undermined by traffic, especially parking down by the sports field on the verges and on the green.

Lighting was seen as a priority but again is a polarising issue as there were many people who were passionately against sodium lights and against increasing urbanisation. They wanted to preserve visual access to the "night sky" but also there were some who were for as many lights as possible.

As lighting has been singled out as the most important priority. I have analysed the data further. This is as follows

21 households (this is less than half of the survey respondents) were for more lighting though most of these were only for individual positions to be better lit. Only 2 households were for universal improvements to lighting.

11 were very much against, but did want the existing lights maintained in a more reliable way. Most objections to more lighting came from Chapel lane (5) and Back St (3).

For more lighting (Lower End 0) (Green and High St 4) (Chapel Lane 1) (Nash Rd 3) (Palmer's Moor 2) (Bridge St 2) (Back St 4) (Thornhill 5)

For Universal Improvements to all lighting right through the village

(Green and High St 1) (Palmer's Moor 1)

Against more lighting

(Lower End 2) (Green and High St 0) (Chapel Lane 5) (Nash Rd 1)

(Palmer's Moor 0) (Bridge St 0) (Back St 3) (Thornhill 0)

I suggest that there are a few places where more lights are needed. Many people said that the village hall green was badly lit. And also the ford in Back St. TPC had already identified the post outside the chapel as a place that would benefit from more light. A light on the sports pavilion would be useful perhaps. Other places mentioned were

junction of Back St and Thornton rd and Royles cottage Back St. Nash Rd nr the bakery and the stretch of the High St between school and Lower End and one place in Thornhill. Another issue is if we put a new light by the village hall, should it be in keeping with the historic character of the village centre. Perhaps a dedicated Victorian style light rather than modern sodium one on a telegraph pole.

The questionnaires could be examined in more detail in relation to light positions. My suggestions then are limited improvements, in specific places, to lighting. Potholes are AVDC responsibility. I suggest that more people get engaged in reporting them and lights that are out to AVDC a.s.a.p. Potholes by the way will not be repaired until the risk of frost is over. So report them in the spring!

Some people are allowing their hedges and trees to encroach on the public highways. This causes inconvenience and even danger to road users and pedestrians. I urge you all to complain directly to the offenders. It is possible that they might be unaware of the problem. In particular the road up to the Lone Tree on the right hand side is a particular danger. And the road by the ford in Back St will soon become a hazard if the hedge is not cut back. Also hedges in Chapel Lane have been complained about, plus overhanging branches on various pavements around the village.

Some of the comments made I have found somewhat baffling. Many don't involve TPC responsibilities at all. Also we cannot have yellow lines anywhere in the village, as highways policy is that yellow lines can only be painted where that can be policed by traffic wardens. In many ways we are very lucky in our community. Most of the improvements lie easily within our own hands. All it takes is the commitment and responsibility for us **ALL** to do our bit to improve our environment and also to educate our children to care for their public spaces. After all it is the quality of their future that really matters in the long term.