

# Thornton Community Council

# Local Place Plan For Thornton June 2024

V2.0

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# 1 Statement of Proposals

## 1.1 Thornton – Our Place

This Local Place Plan (LPP) has been prepared by Thornton Community Council (TCC).

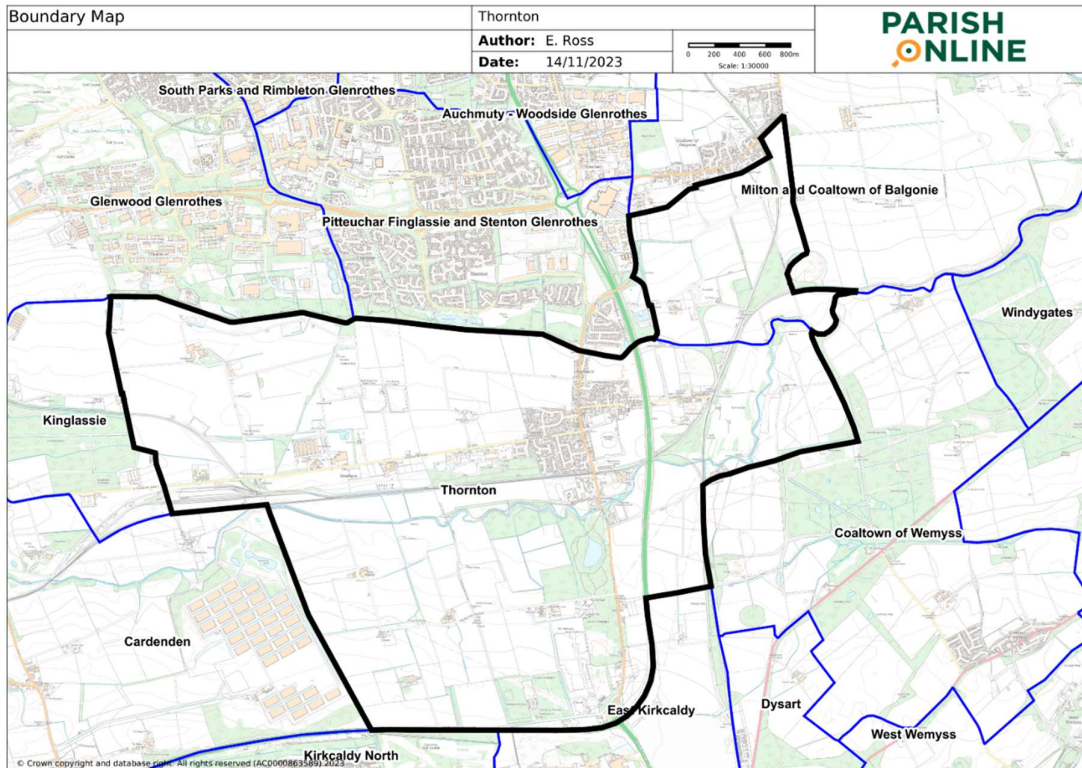


Figure 1 - Boundary Map of the LPP

## 1.2 Boundary Map of the LPP

The boundary of this LPP extends beyond Thornton’s Community Council boundary. This boundary recognises Thornton’s identity as a distinct village and its rich history and heritage which is important to the people of Thornton. It also recognises that Thornton people value highly their relationship and connection to the neighbouring village communities of Coaltown of Balgonie and Coaltown of Wemyss and treasure the important and historic paths and rights of way connecting and binding these communities together. The opinions and feelings of the people of Thornton inform this LPP and were gathered in a variety of ways. This engagement and resulting data are contained in Appendix 2. Thornton sits between the towns of Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy. Thornton people value the positive aspects of proximity to these towns but wish to remain distinct from them and retain their village identity.

This historic record of the boundaries of the village is dated 1877 and pasted inside the Town Hall Minute Book:

*“Commencing at the centre of the new bridge over the River Orr and proceeding southwards along the old public road to the boundary of Markinch boundary, thence eastwards and northwards along said boundary to the east boundary of North Moor, thence northwards to the middle of the River Orr, thence westwards along the middle of the River Orr, to the centre of new bridge afore said thence northwards along the public road to “Muriespot” footpath, thence westward along said footpath and north boundary to Lochty side Farm to “Tykeburn” thence northern of Markinch and Kinglassie boundary to Carleton, thence westward along said common boundary to “Warout” thence due south along road and fence to “Over Stenton Road” thence westward along said road to fence a few yard east of “Over Stenton” steading, thence southwards along said fence to the centre of Lochty Burn, thence westwards along middle of said burn to the west boundary of “Skeddaway” thence southward along said west boundary to the middle of the River Orr and thence eastwards and northwards along the middle of said River to the starting point at the centre of new bridge over River Orr”*



This description of Thornton’s historic boundary starts and finishes in the middle of the “new bridge” more commonly known now as the Barrel Brig, which remains of historical significance to our community today.

Figure 2 - Barrel Brig

### 1.3 History and heritage

Historically the people of Thornton were involved in farming, weaving, and mining. Agricultural land is still very much a part of the Thornton landscape, as is the mining heritage. Most recently open cast mining has impacted our landscape with a pond, trees and paths now on land to the south of the village where open cast mining was carried out.

### 1.4 Railways, roads, and rivers

Mining brought the railway to Thornton and Thornton became a ‘railway town’. Thornton has and continues to be shaped by the railway. Roads have also played a part in Thornton’s development and the proximity of the Thornton Bypass and A92 Trunk Road remains an important influence. The River Ore and the Lochty Burn must be mentioned here too as they also define the village. It is crucial that any developments in and around Thornton involving, or with proximity to, our railways, roads and rivers considers the impact for our village. These railways, roads and rivers define our landscape and could unintentionally act as hard barriers disconnecting our community from our neighbours and from access to nature and greenspaces.

## 1.5 Thornton today

Thornton is a lively village with many shops and businesses in Main Street. There is a small industrial estate, and many businesses operate in and around the village offering employment opportunities. Primary education is provided at Thornton Primary school.



Figure 3 - Thornton Main Street (looking south)

The people of Thornton are proud of their village and there is a sense of community, people would like to build on this. Our public buildings and spaces, including the Public Hall, the Pensioner's Hut and Memorial Park provide essential places for people to gather and connect.

Thornton relies on neighbouring towns for health care and other services which means people must travel to access these services. This can be challenging for the 25% of the population who don't have access to a car or van, Fife Council (2022).

The percentage of home ownership and privately rented properties are very slightly lower than the average for Fife with Social rented properties making up 28% of the total slightly above the 23% average for Fife, Fife Council (2022).

The age spread of Thornton's population almost mirrors the picture for Fife generally with 18% being children (0-15 years), 62% are of working age and 20% are aged 65 or over, Fife Council (2022).

Poverty and deprivation are above average for the Thornton area in comparison to the wider Fife data. 26% of children (15 and under) in Thornton are living in relative poverty. 18% of Thornton's total population is income deprived. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) looks at the extent to which an area (usually referred to as a small area or data zone) is 'deprived' across seven domains: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime, and

housing. If an area is identified as 'deprived', this can relate to people having a low income, but it can also mean fewer resources or opportunities. SIMD data indicates that some of the Thornton area is within the 20% most deprived in Scotland, Fife Council (2022).

We think Thornton is a great place to live, work and to grow up and we want it to be a brilliant place to live, work and grow up. Considering the above data, along with engagement with and feedback from our community we have put together some proposals.



Figure 4 - The Grand Marquess

## 2 Statement of Proposals

The proposals within this LPP are made with the intention of maintaining all that is good about our place and improving where we can. They reflect the thoughts and ideas of the people of Thornton who shared their aspirations for the future of our village. We believe that these proposals are consistent with the six qualities of successful places:

**Healthy:** Supporting the prioritisation of women’s safety and improving physical and mental health.

**Pleasant:** Supporting attractive natural and built spaces.

**Connected:** Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency

**Distinctive:** Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted, literally or creatively, into designs to reinforce identity.

**Sustainable:** Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience, and integrating nature positive, biodiversity solutions.

**Adaptable:** Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can be changed quickly to accommodate different uses as well as maintained over time. S. Gov (2023)

### 2.1 Structure of Proposals

| Reference  | Proposal          | Further Detail                     | Designation  |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Corresponds with the map detail in associated map. | The Main Proposal | Additional Information and Details | Suggested Approach or Designation. The designation may evolve or change as more information emerges. |



Figure 5 - Southend Welcome Planter

## 2.2 Community areas/spaces

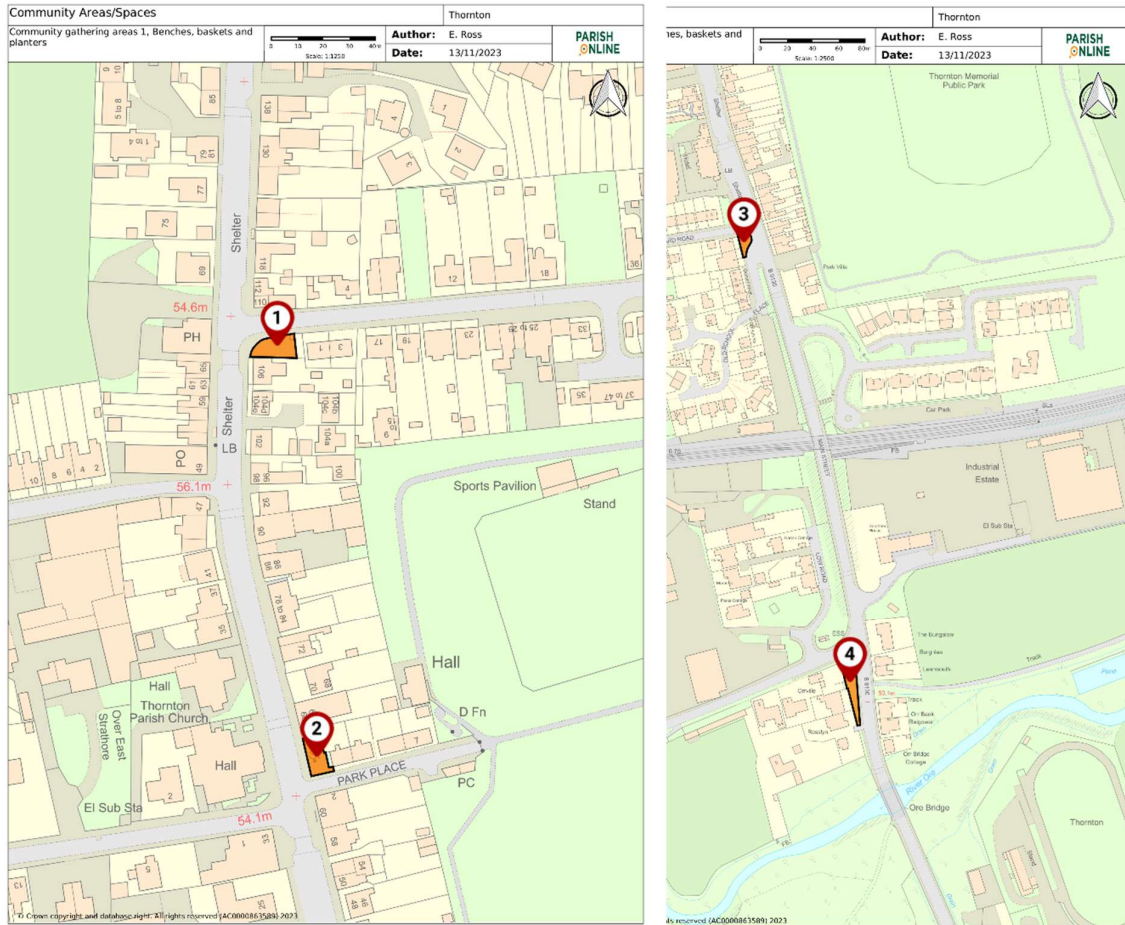


Figure 6 - Community Spaces

| Reference | Proposal       | Further Detail   | Designation |
|-----------|----------------|--|-------------|
| 1         | Community Area | Station Road Square- a community gathering space with benches planters and art.          | LDP         |
| 2         | Community Area | Park Place Square- a community gathering space with benches planters and a notice board. | LDP         |
| 3         | Community Area | A green community space with a large bespoke community planter                           | LDP         |
| 4         | Community Area | A community space with provision for hanging baskets.                                    | LDP         |

Table 1 - Community Spaces



Figure 7 - Northend Welcome Planter

These Community Areas are spaces where people naturally pause and gather, and they are also where our community chooses to share their pride in their village and its heritage with planters, benches and art. Retaining and marking out these spaces where people stop for a chat beside our community noticeboard or sit for a blether is important to us. This will support our village to be healthy, pleasant, and distinctive and will recognise our sense of identity S. Gov (2023).

## 2.3 Community Assets

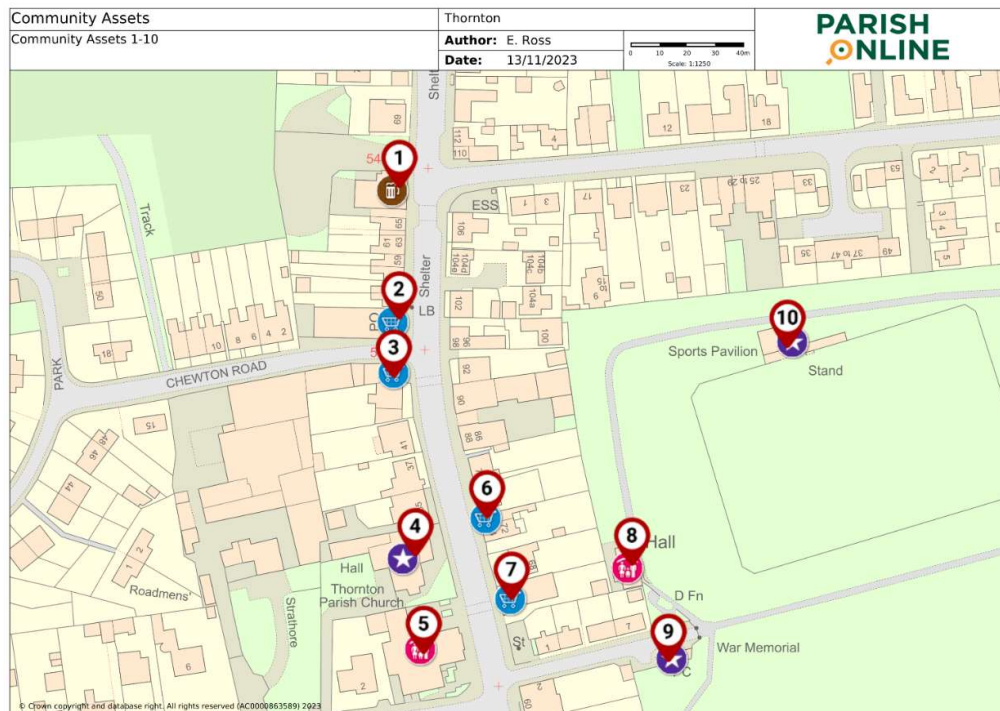


Figure 8 - Community Assets Map 1



Figure 9 - Thornton Public Hall (Ref. 5)

| Reference | Proposal  | Further Detail                        | Designation |
|-----------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1         | Community Asset                                 | Pub -Station Hotel                    | LDP         |
| 2         | Community asset                                 | Shop-SPAR                             | LDP         |
| 3         | Community Asset                                 | Shop- Clock Shop                      | LDP         |
| 4         | Community Asset & Listed Building               | Church- Thornton Parish Church        | LDP         |
| 5         | Community Asset & Non-designated Heritage Asset | Hall-Thornton Public Hall             | LDP         |
| 6         | Community Asset                                 | Shop/Service-Pharmacy-Davidsons       | LDP         |
| 7         | Community Asset                                 | Shop- Morrisons                       | LDP         |
| 8         | Community Asset                                 | Hall- Pensioner's Hut                 | LDP         |
| 9         | Community Asset                                 | Storage-Thornton Highland Games Store | LDP         |
| 10        | Community Asset                                 | Sports Pavilion                       | LDP         |

Table 2 - Community Assets List 1

Community Assets one to eight are located on Main Street. This is a busy street with shops, hairdressers, other services and businesses, and a pharmacy. Our church and hall are also located on Main Street.

Community Assets nine and ten are in nearby Memorial Park. All ten of these assets contribute to our community's wellbeing and contribute to our cultural, social, recreational, and sporting interests. Retaining and marking these buildings as Community Assets will help Thornton to be a sustainable place to stay where we can live, work, play and benefit from local living.

These proposals align with NPF4 Policies 14 and 15 S. Gov (2023).



Figure 10 - Community Assets Map 2

| Reference | Proposal        | Further Detail          | Designation |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 11        | Community Asset | Sports Pavilion         | LDP         |
| 12        | Community Asset | Sports Facility         | LDP         |
| 13        | Community Asset | Play Equipment          | LDP         |
| 14        | Community Asset | Bowling Club & Bar      | LDP         |
| 15        | Community Asset | Thornton Primary School | LDP         |
| 16        | Community Asset | Play Area & Equipment   | LDP         |

Table 3 - Community Assets List 2

Community Assets 11,12,13 14 & 16 contribute to our community’s sporting and social interests too. Thornton Bowling Club number 14 is a great asset for our community encouraging local living through providing a social and sports facility within the village. Our Bowling club also offers support to the wider community through the Warm Spaces initiative and Café Inc. This offers children and families the opportunity to have a free meal when schools are closed and provides a regular warm space for anyone who needs this.

Protecting this Community Asset aligns with NPF4 Policies 14 & 15.

Thornton Primary School is marked as Community Asset 15. It is essential that Thornton retains its primary school and that children have access locally to high-quality education in a suitable building. More children and families in Thornton live in relative poverty than elsewhere in Fife.

Relative poverty indicates reduced opportunity and access to services alongside lower incomes. Our Primary School has a rich history and sense of community which would be diminished should Thornton lose its primary school.

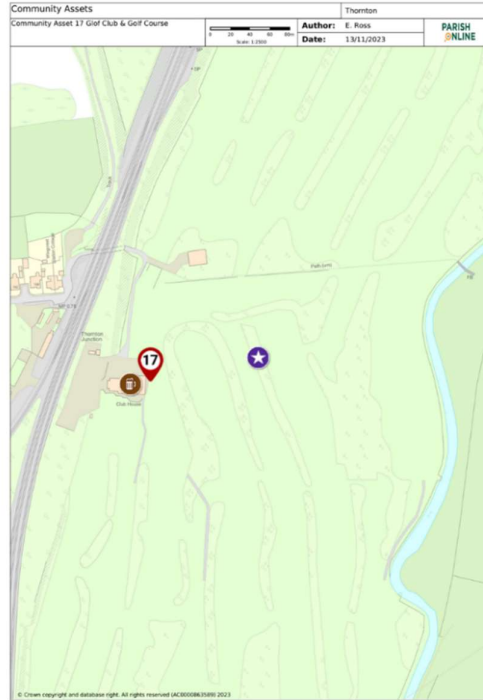


Figure 11 - Community Asset Map 3

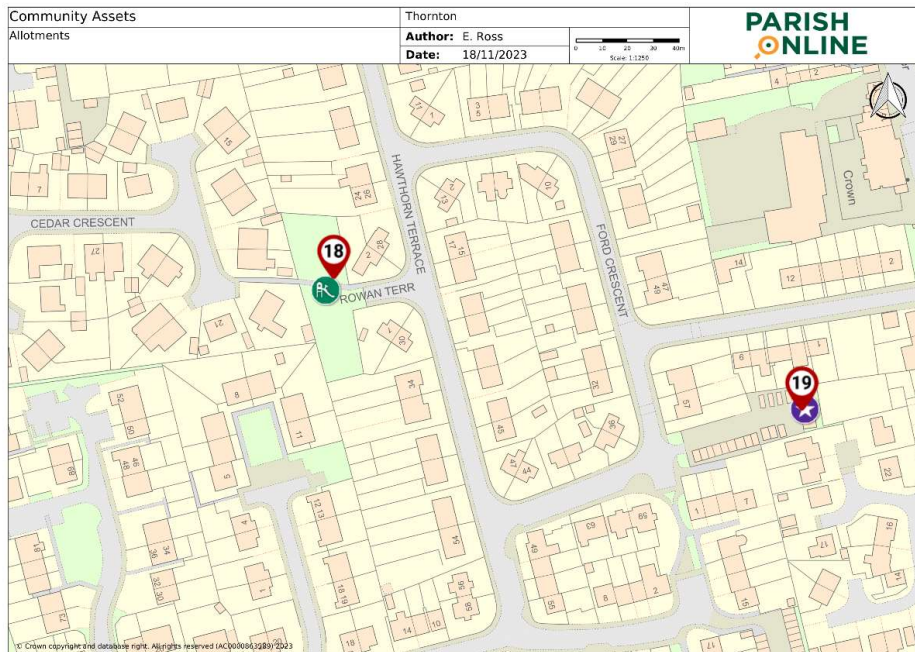


Figure 12 - Community Asset Map 4

| Reference | Proposal        | Further Detail                    | Designation |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 17        | Community Asset | Golf Club House/Bar & Golf Course | LDP         |
| 18        | Community asset | Play Equipment                    | LDP         |
| 19        | Community Asset | Allotments                        | LDP         |

Table 4 - Community Asset List 3

Community Asset 17 is Thornton Golf Club and Golf Course this provides a fantastic social and sporting resource for our community and provides employment opportunities. We propose that our sports and leisure facilities are protected as community assets and are considered as important to our community in any planning decisions.

Community Asset 18 is an important play park with play equipment as it provides a space for children who live on the east side of the village to play without crossing Main Street first. Recent feedback from our community reinforced how much they value this playpark and the provision of play equipment here. Again, this proposal aligns with NPF4 policies 14 & 15. Community Asset 19 is our allotments. NPF 4 (S. Gov. (2023) outlines the importance of spaces for food growth and allotments.



Figure 13 - Thornton Primary School

## 2.4 Flooding

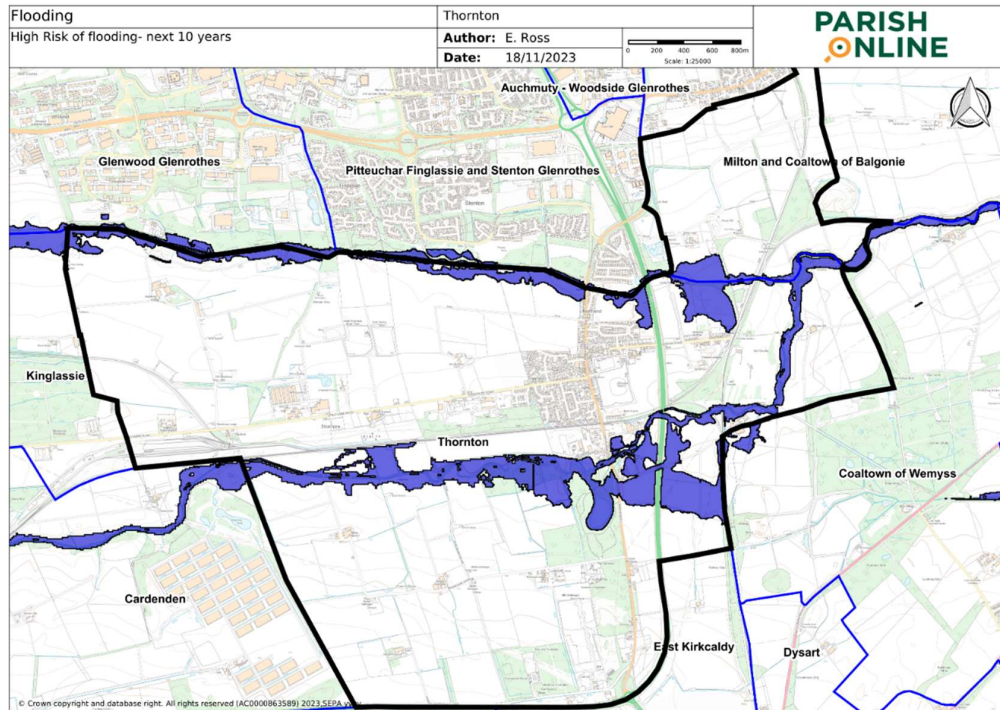


Figure 14 - Areas within LPP boundary at high risk of flooding in the next 10 years

Flooding is a concern for many members of our community, and this was raised in our engagement and feedback sessions and has been an ongoing topic at TCC meetings. The above map of predicted areas at a high risk of flooding for the next 10 years gives an indication of why this is a concern for us. In recent times homes at the north and south ends of the village have been affected by flooding and access to the village by road has been severely impacted. The issue of access for emergency services during these times has been raised as a major concern.

Our community would like to see flood mitigation measures put in place for the Lochty Burn and the River Ore where it sits within our LPP boundary. The silt levels in both the River Ore and the Lochty Burn under the bridges to the north and south of the village should be regularly checked and dredged if necessary to help prevent flooding.



Figure 15 - Flooding at Beech Inn, Thornton (2020)

Figure 15 shows the serious impact for people and their homes affected by flooding in Thornton.

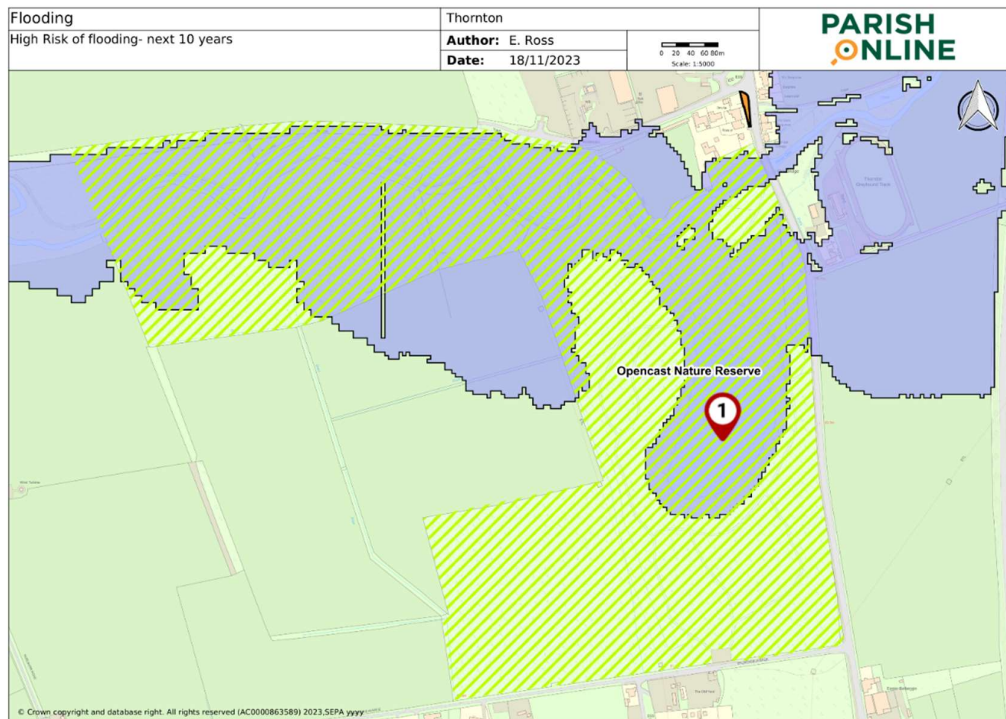


Figure 16 - Former open cast mine nature reserve

| Reference | Proposal                             | Further Detail  | Designation |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| 1         | Protected Green Space/Nature reserve | Opencast nature reserve with flood mitigation measures and full public access | LDP         |

Table 5 - Flooding mitigation proposal

Site marker 1 shows an area which was open cast mined and then reclaimed and purposed into a green space with a pond, trees and pathways. In the planning conditions for this open cast mining this area was designated to be ‘gifted’ to our community. Through our LPP engagement it has come to light that this land is privately owned and is not under community control. This was a surprise to many members of our community. Our community would like to ensure that the spirit and integrity of this planning condition is honoured despite this disappointing discovery. We propose that this land is allocated as a nature reserve and is used to implement flood mitigation measures at the south end of Thornton. We propose that paths giving public access to this proposed nature reserve are also preserved and maintained. A sustainable drainage system is supposed to be in existence here, we propose that this is improved and extended and that innovative architectural flood mitigation measures are implemented for the Active Travel Cycleway and B9130 that run alongside this proposed nature reserve and pond.

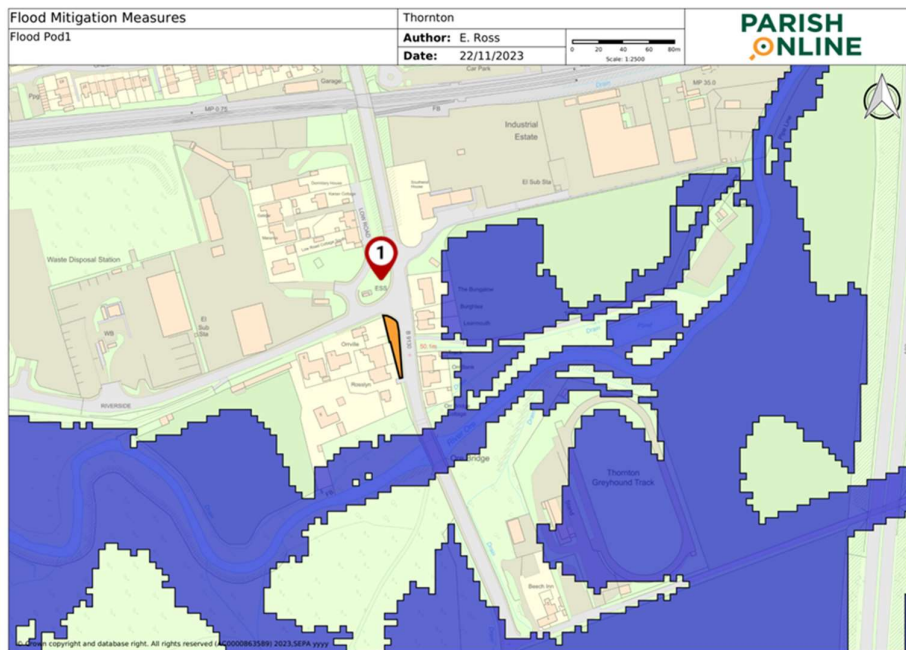


Figure 17 - Flood mitigation measures Map 1 (South end)

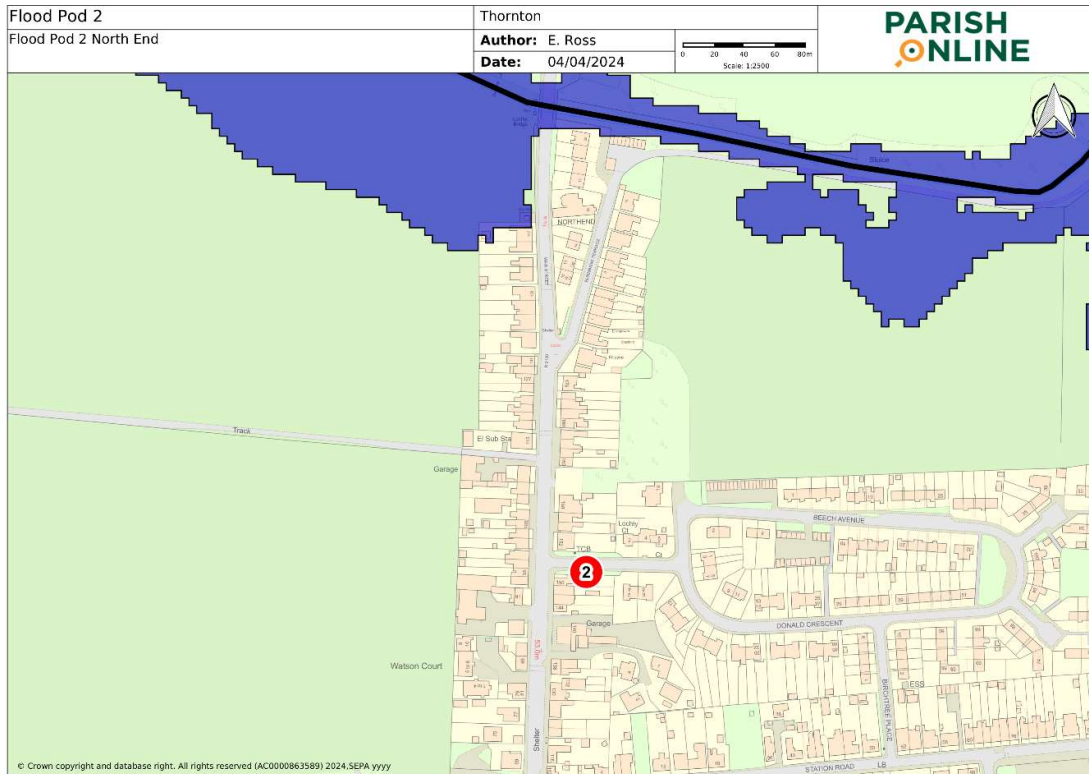


Figure 18 - Flood mitigation measures Map 2 (North end)

Alongside flood mitigation measures our community requires the tools to enable us to be resilient in adverse weather. We propose that flood pods are installed at site markers one and two at the north and south ends of the village. Homes are in real danger of flooding here and this would support our community to help project their own properties from flooding.

These proposals align with Fife Council Policy 12- Flooding and the Water Environment (Fife Council, 2018).

## 2.5 History and Heritage



Figure 19 - History & heritage Map 1

Thornton has a rich history and heritage and several listed buildings. Many of these buildings have already been identified as community assets. Our community propose that identified specific buildings continue to have the statutory protection awarded to them and propose that further specific buildings of particular architectural and historic interest are designated as ‘listed’ Historic Environment Scotland (2023).

These proposals align with NPF4 “We will protect and enhance our historic environment and safeguard our shared heritage for future generations.” S. Gov (2023).

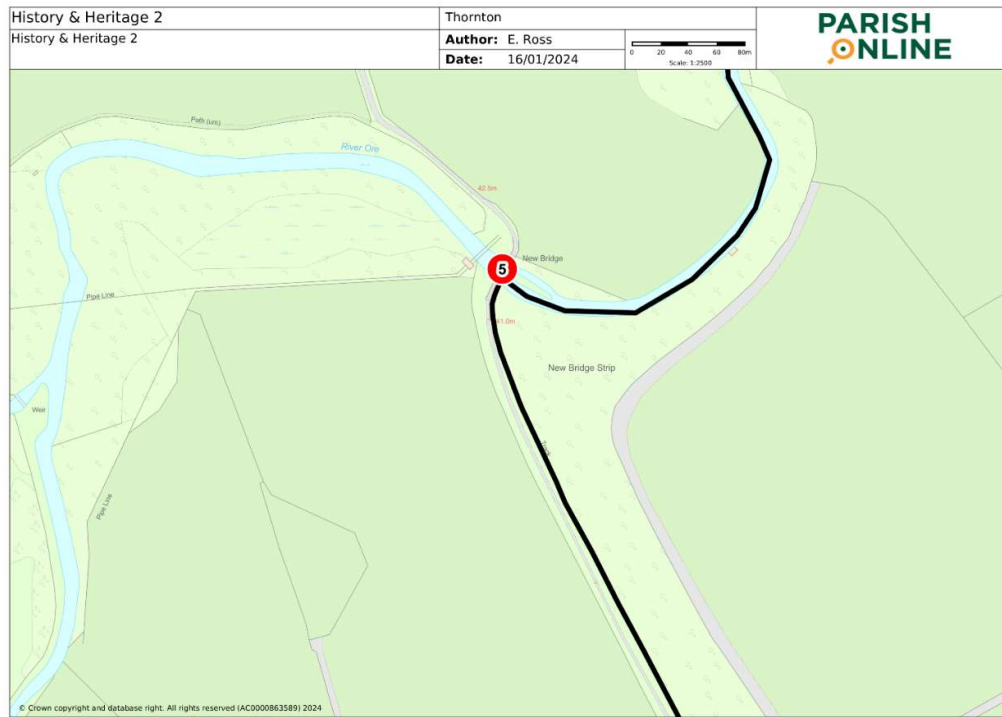


Figure 20 - History & heritage Map 2

| Reference | Proposal                      | Further Detail                      | Designation |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1         | Listed Building               | Clock Shop                          | LDP         |
| 2         | Listed Building               | Thornton Parish Church              | LDP         |
| 3         | Non-designated Heritage Asset | Thornton Public Hall                | LDP         |
| 4         | Listed Building               | Thornton Primary School             | LDP         |
| 5         | Scheduled Ancient Monument    | Barrel Brig                         | LDP         |
| 6         | Listed War Memorial           | Memorial Park & Memorial Park Gates | LDP         |

Table 6 - History & heritage list



*Figure 21 - The Clock Shop*



*Figure 22 - Thornton Parish Church*

The Clock Shop, Site Marker 1 is of special architectural interest and is a local landmark remarked upon and admired by our community. We propose that this remains as a listed building with statutory protection.

Thornton Parish Church, Site Marker 2 is of architectural interest and has unique stained-glass windows commissioned in 1972. We propose that this remains as a listed building. The community are also aware that the Church is to be sold. Our proposal is that the only preferred option for change of use would be for housing. There is parking provision adequate for this purpose to the rear away from Main Street. Any other designated use is likely to put pressure on our already busy and congested Main Street.

Thornton Public Hall, Site Marker 3 is proposed as a non-designated heritage asset. This building has a degree of heritage significance and merits consideration in planning decisions.

Thornton Primary School, Site Marker 4, is proposed as a listed building. This building is of particular interest and has been sympathetically extended. It is a highly visible and accessible part of our rich heritage, which also expresses our social and economic past and present.

The Barrel Brig, Site Marker 5, is an early 18th century double arch bridge with cutwater buttresses to centre pier. Rubble spandrels with squared and coursed rubble soffits. The Barrel Brig is 'listed' as a pack horse bridge, which was erected prior to 1725 when it was described by a Laird of Balfour as the "New Bridge". The Old Statistical Account notes "there are several bridges within the bounds of this parish; but 3 only of such consequence as to deserve notice; one over the Orr....is very old and narrow"; built by James Bethune some 260 years earlier (than the OSA) this probably refers to an earlier bridge on or near this site. Formerly, a scheduled monument. Scheduled on 19/01/1979 and de-scheduled on 23/03/2016. We propose that this bridge retains its statutory protection and that it is rescheduled as an ancient monument then urgently repaired and restored. This bridge is a visible part of our rich heritage. It also has strong links to our economic past being part of the ancient historic main route from Wemyss Castle to Falkland Palace. The Barrel Brig contributes significantly to our sense of place and is mentioned as the start and finish point for our community's historic boundary line. It remains of great significance today as despite its state of disrepair it is well used by walkers and cyclists as part of a right of way. The need for urgent repair on this bridge is supported in FIFEplan and Fife Council and Scottish Natural Heritage's Green Networks Report (2014). There is also a wonderful image of the Barrel Brig included on page 18 of FIFEplan's supplementary guidance Making Fife's Places (Fife Council, 2018) which illustrates Fife Council's Policy 13- Natural Environment and Access. Fife Council's Policy 14 relates to built and historic environment we believe it merits protection as a Scheduled monument. During any works to repair the Barrel Brig a parallel bridge must be provided for our community as the Barrel Brig forms part of a public right of way.

Site Marker 6, indicates the War Memorial which is Memorial Park Gates, we want to ensure that these gates and the area around them has the statutory protection required to ensure that the significance of this designated heritage asset for our community is respected.

These proposals align with NPF4- "LDPs, including through their spatial strategies, should support the sustainable management of the historic environment. They should identify, protect and enhance valued historic assets and places" S.Gov (2023)

## 2.6 Housing and services

Within Fife Council’s current Local Development Plan (FIFEplan) there is significant allocation of land for housing within Thornton and mention is made of good employment opportunities and good access to local and regional services. However, relative poverty in Thornton is above the Fife average and this relates not only to income but also to access to services. This reference to good services is also contradicted in the Glenrothes Area Local Strategic Assessment “In terms of transport and infrastructure, Glenrothes is not well served by rail services” Fife Council (2022). There is also no longer a GP practice in Thornton, meaning residents must travel to Glenrothes for healthcare. This is a disadvantage for the 25% of the population who don’t have a car. There are mixed feelings within the community about the allocation of such a large amount of land for housing, with one site proposing 900 houses. There is currently a live planning application for 300 houses and a new primary school.

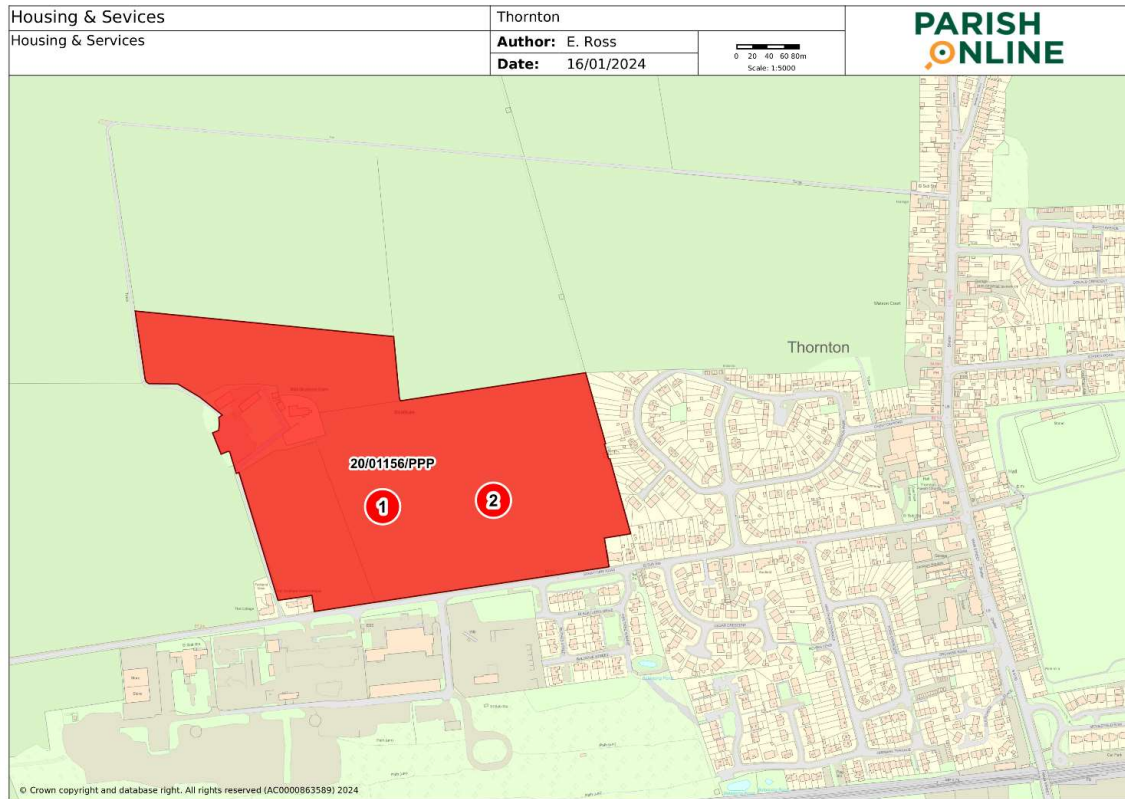


Figure 23 - Intended new housing development

| Reference | Proposal                             | Further Detail                                 | Designation |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| 1         | Land allocated to primary healthcare | Primary healthcare building - Doctor's Surgery | LDP         |
| 2         | Community School                     | New primary school with community facilities   | LDP         |

Table 7 - New facilities list

Site Marker 1 indicates the proposal that land is allocated for primary healthcare facilities within the area of proposed new housing.

Site Marker 2 indicates that the proposed new school considers how the building can be used to bring the services required by the community back within reach. This proposal is supported by our GP Practice and correspondence from Rothes Medical Practice is contained within Appendix 6.

These proposals align with NPF4 Policy 15. “Planning must also enable the delivery of good quality, affordable homes by allocating enough land in the right locations to meet current and future needs and aspirations.” S. Gov (2023)

“Access to health and social care facilities will need to be built into our future places” S. Gov (2023)

They also align with FIFEPlan Policy 1 and the 6 qualities of a successful place. Including the concept of lifetime neighbourhoods. Fife Council (2018)

## 2.7 Green spaces, parks, paths, and access to nature



Figure 24 - Green spaces & parks

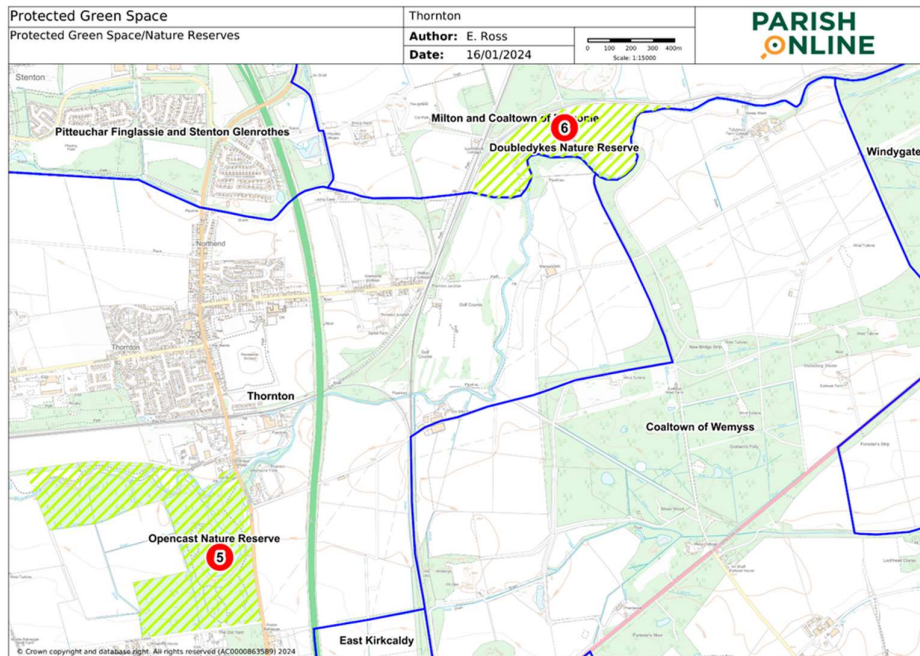


Figure 25 - Nature reserves

| Reference | Proposal                             | Further Detail             | Designation |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1         | Community Asset                      | Memorial Park              | LDP         |
| 2         | Community Asset                      | Rowan Terrace Playpark     | LDP         |
| 3         | Community Asset                      | Donald Crescent Playpark   | LDP         |
| 4         | Community asset                      | Allotments                 | LDP         |
| 5         | Protected green space/Nature Reserve | Opencast Nature Reserve    | LDP         |
| 6         | Protected green space/Nature Reserve | DoubleDykes Nature Reserve | LDP         |

Table 8 - Parks, protected green space & nature reserves

Proposals in relation to site markers 1 to 6 relate to a desire within our community to have a pleasant place to live with access to green spaces and nature and places for community growing. These proposals align with NPF4 - “Local living. We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally.” S. Gov. (2023)

Proposals for protected green space or nature reserves site marked 5 & 6 are ambitious and we have justified our case for the Opencast Nature Reserve earlier in this document. Nevertheless, it is crucial that our community has better access to our natural capital and site marker 6 the proposed DoubleDykes Nature Reserve is of particular importance to our community. This site has been impacted on by the major development of the Levenmouth Rail Project and will be rendered inaccessible for people unless action is taken. Our proposal is that this land is allocated as a nature reserve and that full public access is facilitated. NPF4 outlines the importance of the natural environment for our health and wellbeing and the importance of biodiversity and crucially the importance of this being accessible.



Figure 26 - Thornton Memorial Park



*Figure 27 - Thornton Memorial Park play equipment*

## 2.8 Transportation

Thornton could be considered as well served by rail and bus services. The choice of destinations is limited however with great opportunity to improve.

### 2.8.1 Rail

Glenrothes with Thornton Railway Station is positioned to the south of the village. Opening in 1992, the station acts as the Fife terminus of the “Fife Circle”. Until 2023, the station saw a frequent service of up to three trains per hour arriving and departing from and to Edinburgh via Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline respectively.

In 2023, a revised ScotRail timetable was implemented which sees all but very few services run via Dunfermline, making Kirkcaldy and the other coastal stations inaccessible by rail. The station is now only served by one train per hour despite at least three trains each day travelling from Cowdenbeath that don’t stop at Thornton, but simply reverse direction and return to Cowdenbeath and subsequently Edinburgh. This is also true of some other services that terminate at Thornton and then run as empty coaching stock to Edinburgh, Perth and Dundee, depriving the village of valuable services.

The situation is unlikely to improve with the reopening of the Levenmouth railway line.

We propose that the numerous services arriving or departing from Glenrothes with Thornton station as empty coaching stock, or running through for signalling purposes should be reviewed with an outlook of increasing the frequency of passenger services calling at the station. This aligns with NPF4 policy 13 for sustainable transport.

### 2.8.2 Bus

Thornton benefits from a frequent quarter-hourly bus service in both directions, terminating either in Kirkcaldy or Glenrothes. However, this is where the benefit ends.

Many “express” bus services by-pass Thornton every day, running to destinations such as Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, St. Andrews and Halbeath Park & Ride (which provides access to numerous national coach services).

If these services were to transit Thornton Main Street, stopping at only one bus stop (not all five), connections to and from the village would be vastly improved. None of these bus services ignore Woodside which they could also by-pass utilising the A92.

Thornton residents are also disadvantaged in terms of cost of the available bus services. “DayRider” tickets for either the Kirkcaldy or Glenrothes zones cost £4.20. Despite there only being Kirkcaldy or Glenrothes to travel to and from, Thornton sits outside both of these fare zones, resulting in bus users from Thornton having to pay £8.50 for a “DayRider” ticket, or single tickets which cost £3.60 each way.

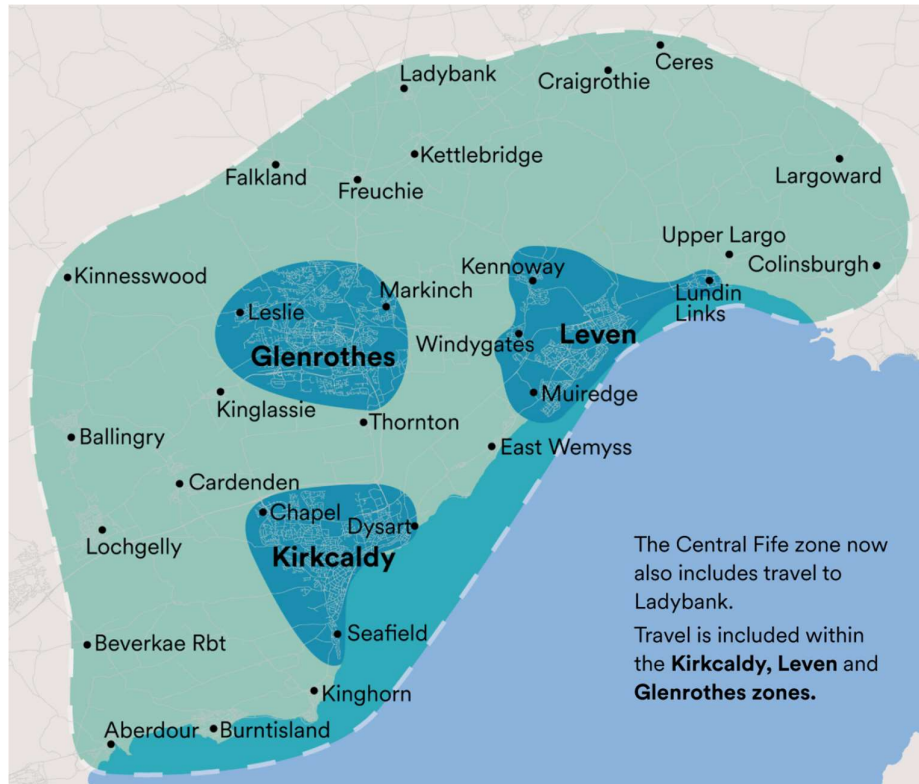


Figure 28 - Stagecoach Central Fife DayRider Map

Our proposal is that these “express” bus services should no longer by-pass Thornton, thus providing several additional direct links to destinations further afield via a sustainable transport method and increasing opportunities for the car to be left at home. This aligns with the NPF4 policy 13 for sustainable transport.

We further propose that the fare structure of Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes “DayRider” tickets be reviewed to include Thornton within either or both fare zones, removing some financial barrier to these sustainable transport services.

## 2.9 Paths

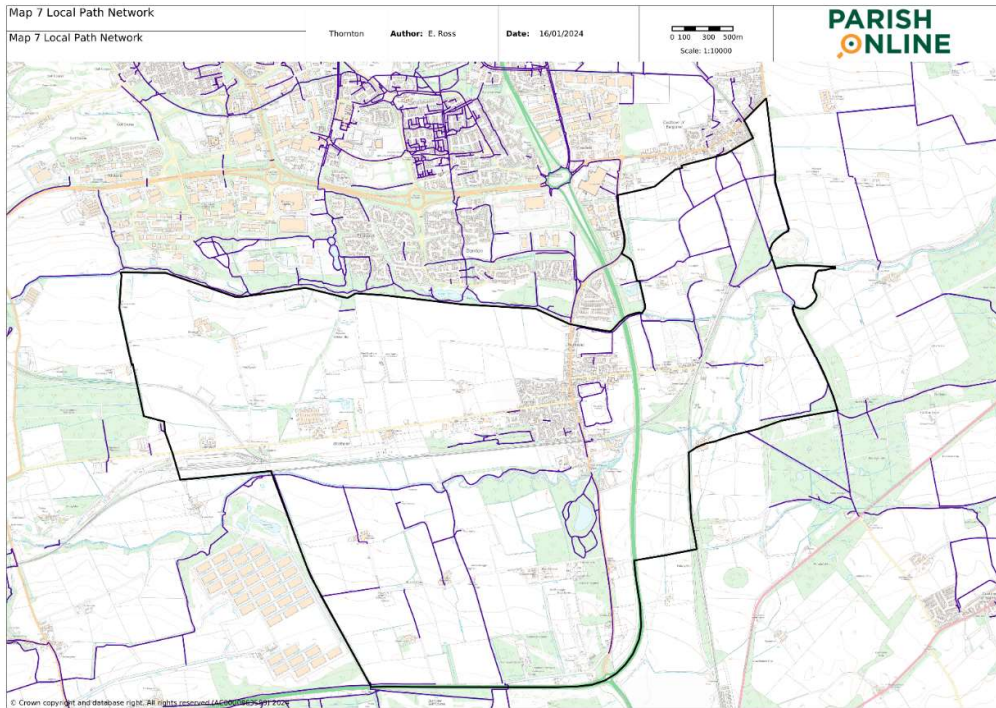


Figure 29 - Recognised local path network

| Reference                     | Proposal        | Further Detail                                     | Designation |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------|
| 7 (map of local path network) | Community Asset | Protect, preserve, and maintain Local Path Network | LDP         |

Table 9 - Local path network

Map (7) of local path Network – Proposes that our local path network is protected preserved and maintained. We have outlined that our community is disadvantaged, and this often coincides with poor access to nature. We want to ensure that future planning decisions consider and impact our existing path network, and that Fife Council actively protects and expands this network and our community’s access to nature.

LAND REFORM ACT-Section 13: Duty to uphold access rights Section 13(1) of the Act places a duty on local authorities to uphold access rights which entails asserting, protecting, keeping open and free from obstruction any route, waterway or other means by which access may reasonably be exercised. This duty applies to all land over which access rights are exercisable and not just core paths.

“Disadvantage, child poverty and poor health outcomes are concentrated in parts of Scotland where life expectancy is significantly lower than in more advantaged areas. Access to the natural environment varies, and pollution and derelict land is concentrated in some places.” S. Gov (2023)

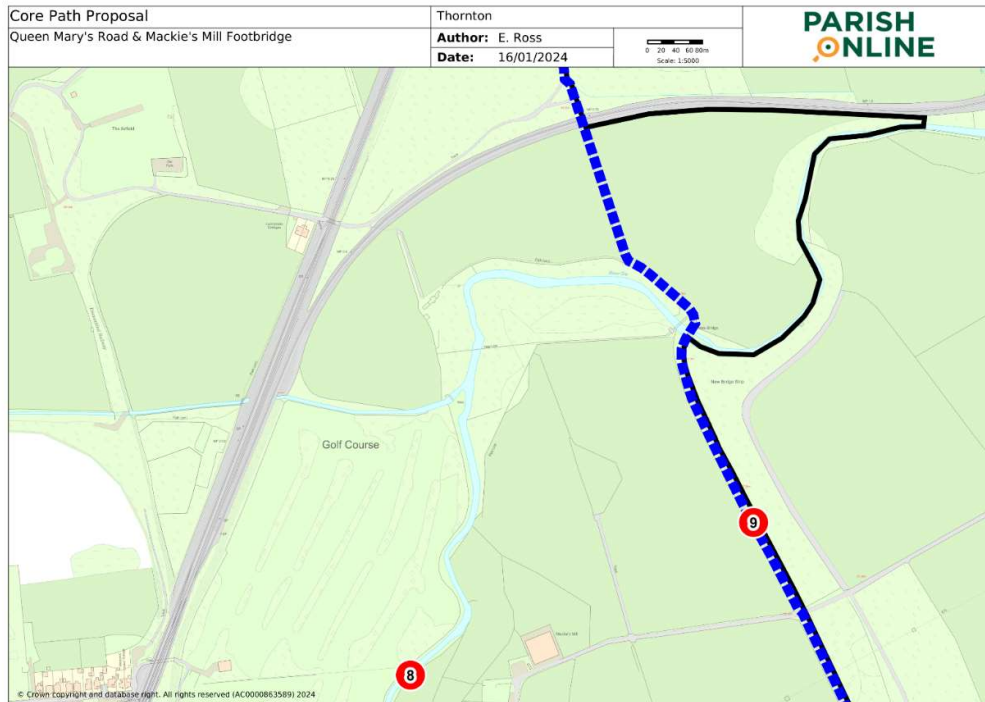


Figure 30 - Core path proposals

| Reference | Proposal  | Further Detail   | Designation |
|-----------|---|--|-------------|
| 8         | Mackies Mill Bridge is adopted by Fife Council  | Protect, preserve and maintain Local Path Network and Rights of Way by adopting Mackies Mill Bridge.   | LDP         |
| 9         | Award Core Path Status to the route from Coaltown of Wemyss to Coaltown of Balgonie and recognise this corridor as a Green Network. | Award Core Path Status to this route and uphold public access over this right of way by ensuring a safe crossing is provided across the rail line at DoubleDykes. Recognise this as a Green Network protecting nature and affording public access. | LDP         |

Table 10 - Core path proposals

Site Marker 8 indicates the proposal that Fife Council adopts Mackies Mill Bridge. Existing rights of way in this area are recorded and discussed in the adopted supplementary guidance for FIFEplan. “Rights of way connect east across the A92 and railway line, to connect to Queen Mary’s Road. Connections to west are limited due to mining” Fife Council (2014).

Site Marker 9 and the blue line indicate Queen Marys Road including DoubleDykes Railway Crossing. Our proposal is that Fife Council awards Core Path Status to this route and upholds public access over this right of way. This will be facilitated by ensuring a safe crossing is provided over the rail line at DoubleDykes. This safe crossing will require a foot and cycle bridge over the railway line to be installed. This proposal further outlines that this corridor is recognised as a Green Network protecting nature and affording public access.

This proposal aligns with FIFEplan, our current Local Development Plan. There is even an aspiration within FIFEplan to develop new routes where possible for Thornton. However, our

proposals for these paths would at least safeguard our community’s access to the natural capital on our doorstep.

“There is a shortage of round recreational routes in and around Thornton – there is an aspiration to develop new routes where possible” Fife Council (2014).

Our community must be considered in all plans for this green area. This aligns with NPF 4 which asserts that local community benefits of biodiversity and/or nature networks should be considered.

FIFEPlan’s supplementary guidance Making Fife’s Places (Fife Council, 2018) in particular Policy 13- Natural Environment and Access aligns with these proposals.

“The natural environment is fundamental to our health and wellbeing from the benefits we get from being in nature to the design and delivery of blue and green infrastructure. Policies 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 manage the effects of development on biodiversity and on natural places. Policy 20 supports development that will provide good quality, accessible greenspaces, and nature networks” S. Gov. (2023)



*Figure 31 - Glenrothes Ramblers at Doubledykes crossing*



*Figure 32 - Mountain Bikers at Doubledykes crossing*

## 2.10 Active Travel, Roads, Paths and Pavements-

We suggest that the following proposals are adopted to make it safer and easier for everyone to move around our village.

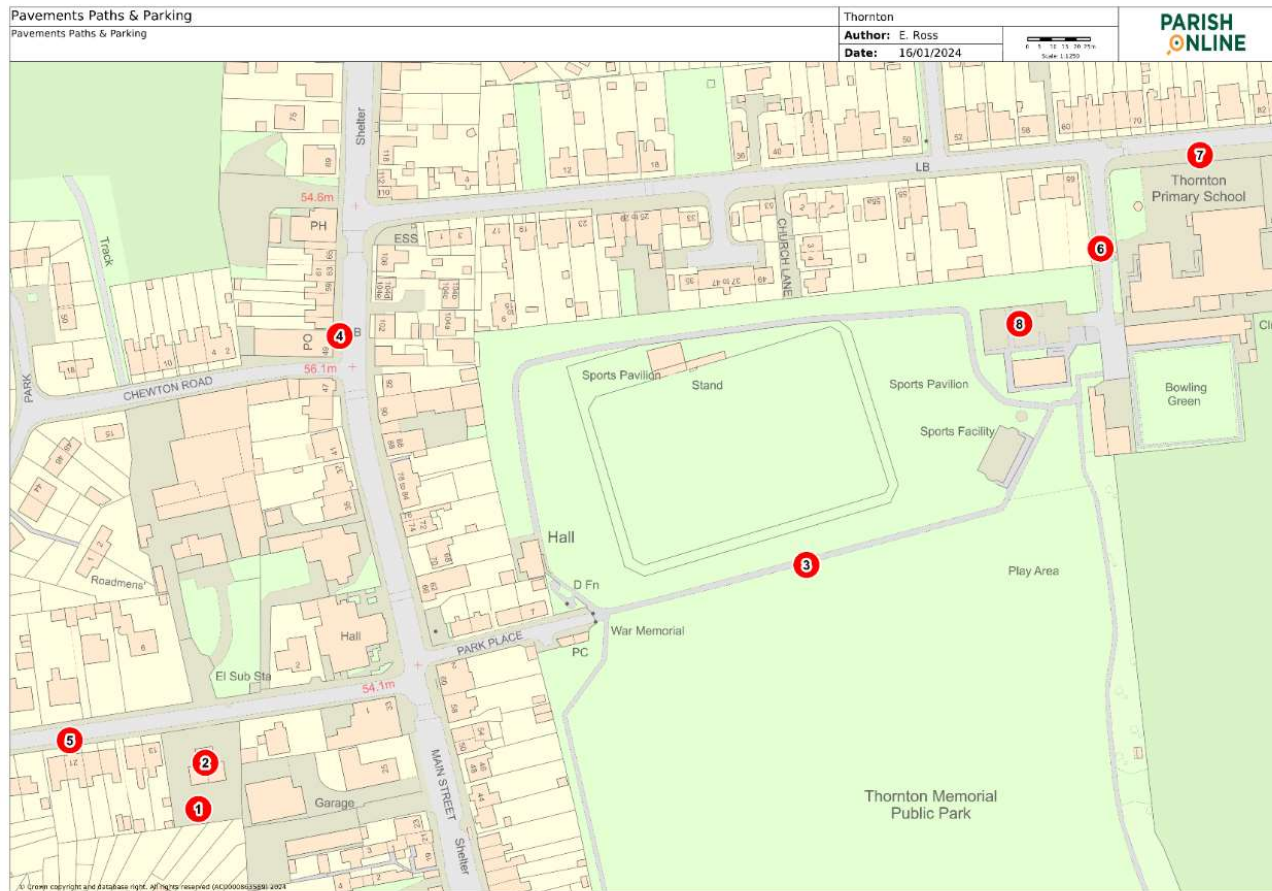


Figure 33 - Improvement proposals

| Reference | Proposal   | Further Detail   | Designation |
|-----------|--|--|-------------|
| 1         | Electric vehicle and bicycle charging points and parking       | Strathore Road Car Park and electric vehicle charging points to be installed. Electric bicycle charging and parking to be installed  | LDP         |
| 2         | Listed building  | Listed building -consider use is restricted to purposes which benefit the community of Thornton.   | LDP         |
| 3         | Lights Memorial Park   | Light the path through Memorial Park providing a safe walking route segregated from traffic.   | LDP         |
| 4         | Accessible pavements for Main Street                           | Upgrade pavements and crossings so they are accessible for all users. Dropped kerbs and up ramps must be fit for purpose so that they can be used by mobility scooters and walking frames. Pavement width must be adequate for people to use and pass by safely. | LDP         |
| 5         | Accessible pavements for Strathore Road                        | Upgrade pavements and crossings so they are accessible for all users. Dropped kerbs and up ramps must be fit for purpose so that they can be used by mobility scooters and walking frames. Pavement width must be adequate for people to use and pass by safely. | LDP         |
| 6         | Fife Council to adopt road adjacent to Thornton Primary School | Fife Council should adopt the road running beside Thornton Primary School. This road should be made safe with adequate pavements, traffic calming measures and double yellow lines.  | LDP         |
| 7         | Prevention of pavement parking at Thornton Primary School      | Measures to prevent pavement parking at Thornton Primary School should be put in place and this should be enforced.  | LDP         |
| 8         | Electric vehicle and bicycle charging points and parking       | Thornton Primary School Car Park - electric vehicle charging points to be installed. Electric bicycle charging and parking to be installed   | LDP         |

Table 11 - Improvement proposals



Figure 34 - Thornton road sign

Site marker 1 indicates the proposal that Strathore Road Car Park is developed to include electric vehicle charging points and electric bicycle charging. The parking spaces should be laid out appropriately to maximise the parking area.

Site marker 2 indicates a listed building which was originally a school then more recently was used as a Public Library and GP Surgery. All of these uses had a direct benefit to the people of Thornton, and we wish to specify our desire that any future use of this building should be of direct benefit to the Thornton community. We would consider demolition of this building to maximise electric vehicle and bicycle charging

and parking of direct benefit to the community. This it would alleviate congestion and improve road safety by reducing poor parking on Main Street.

Site marker 3 indicates the main path through Memorial Park. This path runs between Station Road and Main Street and links Thornton Primary School and Thornton Bowling Club to Main Street. We propose that this path is lit to provide a safe walking route segregated from traffic.

Site markers 4 & 5 indicate Main Street and Strathore Road and propose improvement of the pavements on these streets to make them accessible for everyone to move around and access shops and services safely. This proposal suggests an upgrade of pavements and crossings, so they are accessible for all users. Dropped kerbs and up ramps must be fit for purpose so that they can be used by mobility scooters and walking frames. Pavement width must be adequate for people to use and pass by safely.

Site markers 6, 7 & 8 focus on an area near to Thornton Primary School and concentrate on improving this area. Fife Council should adopt the road running beside Thornton Primary School. This road should be made safe with adequate pavements, traffic calming measures and double yellow lines. Measures to prevent pavement parking at Thornton Primary School should be put in place. The car park next to Thornton Primary School should have electric vehicle and bicycle charging points installed.



*Figure 35 - Thornton residents who have raised issues with poor pavements and shop accessibility*

The proposals suggested above are supported by NPF4 Policy 13 which states “Proposals to improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multi-modal hubs will be supported. This includes proposals for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle forecourts, especially where fuelled by renewable energy.” S. Gov 2023

FIFEPlan’s supplementary guidance Making Fife’s Places (Fife Council, 2018) sets out a number of policies which also align with our proposals relating to Active Travel, roads, paths and pavements. Our proposals align particularly well with Policy 11 -Low Carbon Fife.

The proposal to light the path through Memorial Park also aligns with S. Gov. NPF4 which advocates the provision of direct, easy, segregated and safe links to local facilities via walking, wheeling and cycling networks. This segregated route would make it safer for everyone to walk wheel and cycle in the darker winter months and dark evenings year-round. It also fits well with the six qualities of successful spaces set out in NPF4. In particular “Healthy: Supporting the prioritisation of women’s safety and improving physical and mental health.

The proposals in respect of accessible pavements are consistent with S. Gov’s six qualities of successful places set out in NP4. Ensuring our place is well connected and people can move around easily without being dependent on cars. Making these particular pavements accessible and suitable for all would also be sustainable ensuring the people of Thornton can live work and stay in their local area. Members of our community with mobility issues are finding that the existing pavements on Main Street are not suitable for people with mobility issues. The image below features some of our residents who raised the issues they are having accessing shops on Main Street.

Thornton Community Council are proud to publish and submit this Local Place Plan. The creation of this document has come about because the people of Thornton care about their village and expect that any new developments should improve their lives. It is intended that the proposals and content of this LPP influence and inform Fife Council’s Local Development Plan.

## 3 References

**Fife Council (2023), FIFEplan,**

Available at : <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/planning-and-building2/planning/development-plan-and-planning-guidance/local-development-plan-fifeplan> (Accessed 23/11/2023).

**Fife Council (2019), Plan 4 Glenrothes Area Local Community Plan (2019-22),**

Available at: [https://our.fife.scot/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0032/187646/Glenrothes-Plan.pdf](https://our.fife.scot/_data/assets/pdf_file/0032/187646/Glenrothes-Plan.pdf)  
(Accessed 10/11/2023).

**Fife Council (2022), Thornton Community Council Profile (Know Fife Hub),**

Available at: [https://know.fife.scot/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/417061/Thornton-Community-Council-Profile.pdf](https://know.fife.scot/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/417061/Thornton-Community-Council-Profile.pdf)

(Accessed 14/11/2023).

**Fife Council (FC) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), (2014) Green networks in Fife Report',**

Available at [https://www.fife.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0014/162320/Making-Fifes-Places-Supplementary-Guidance-Appendix-H.pdf](https://www.fife.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/162320/Making-Fifes-Places-Supplementary-Guidance-Appendix-H.pdf)

(Accessed 10/11/2023).

**Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003,**

Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2003/2/contents>

(Accessed 10/11/2023)

**Scottish Government (2023), National Planning Framework 4,**

Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

(Accessed 05/11/2023).

**Historic Environment Scotland (2023), Portal,**

Available at: <https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB42980>

(Accessed 18/11/2023).

## 4 Appendices

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## Appendix 1 – Thornton Community Council Contact Details

Thornton Community Council can be contacted via email at:

[enquiries@thorntoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@thorntoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

This is our main contact email and the address for all correspondence from the planning authority.

## Appendix 2 – Initial Engagement & Consultation

Thornton Community Council is an active Community Council comprising of local people and this local place plan was developed with the unanimous support of the Community Councillors and during development was discussed at public meetings of Thornton Community Council. In addition, the following engagement and consultation with the wider community was undertaken in November 2023:

- A notice was posted on the Thornton Community Council and the Thornton Community Facebook pages informing the public and inviting engagement and involvement in the development of the LPP.
- A notice was displayed on the Thornton Community Council Notice Board in Main Street informing the public and inviting engagement and involvement in the development of the LPP.
- A letter and poster were emailed and/or delivered in person. This invited recipients to engage fully in the development of the plan and informed them of the engagement events. Hand delivery also gave an opportunity to speak in person with a substantial proportion of these people and to record firsthand their feedback and thoughts. These were delivered/sent to:
  - Local landowners and land managers
  - Local businesses
  - Shops
  - Rothes Medical Practice
  - SEPA
  - Network Rail
  - Transport Scotland
  - Fife Health and Social Care Partnership
  - Thornton Bowling Club
  - Thornton Golf Club
  - Thornton Primary School
  - Markinch and Thornton Church
  - Fife Council
  - All Councillors in the Glenrothes Area Committee
  - All active Community Councils in the Glenrothes Area
  - All Regional MSPs for Mid Fife and Glenrothes
  - Peter Grant MP
  - Jenny Gilruth MSP
- The Secretary of Thornton Community Council engaged in person with older members of the community on Monday 23rd October 2023 and Wednesday 1st November 2023 at the Pensioner's Coffee Morning. Feedback was gathered, printed surveys were shared and details of further engagement and consultation opportunities were highlighted.

- The Secretary of Thornton Community Council met with Emily Tall the headteacher of Thornton Primary School on Friday 3rd November. Surveys were shared for the attention of the Parent Council and feedback proformas for the pupils to complete were also delivered. Comment and feedback from Mrs Tall was also gathered.
- A Microsoft Forms Survey was shared on Thornton Community Council and Thornton Community Facebook pages and printed copies were made available in the Spar Shop in Main Street Thornton
- Members of Thornton Community Council attended Milton & Coaltown of Balgonie Community Council meeting on Thursday 9th November to discuss this LPP at this public meeting.
- Two face-to-face consultation and engagement events were held in Thornton Public Hall on Monday 6th November 7-9pm and Saturday 11th November 12-2pm.
- In early November 2023 one of our Community Councillors took the opportunity to get out and about in the village and spoke to members of the community in the street to gather their views. This Community Councillor also took photographs of important community assets and (with permission) some of the people she spoke to.

## Appendix 3 – Pre-submission Notice



# Thornton Local Place Plan, Pre-submission Notice

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024

A Local Place Plan (LPP) has been created by Thornton Community Council (TCC) which reflects the thoughts and ideas of the people of Thornton who shared their aspirations for the future of our village.

### Area covered by this LPP:

The boundary and scope of the LPP mainly covers the TCC area and follows the TCC boundary with an additional small area bounding into Milton and Coaltown of Balgonie Community Council area. A full detailed boundary map is included within the LPP document.

### Key Proposals included in the LPP relate to:

- Recognising community areas and spaces and community assets, for example Thornton Public Hall and The Pensioners Hut.
- Mitigating flooding in and around the village.
- Recognising and preserving our built history and heritage.
- Recognising a need for housing while ensuring appropriate and adequate services are in place.
- Protecting our green spaces, parks, paths, and ensuring and facilitating access to nature and the outdoors.
- Ensuring roads and pavements are accessible and fit for purpose, making it easy for everyone to move around our village in a connected way.

These proposals are mapped, detailed, and set out within the LPP document.

**The purpose of this LPP** is to give our community the opportunity to create proposals for the development and use of land in and around our village. Once registered by the planning authority, they are intended to be taken into account in the preparation of the local development plan.

The LPP and feedback form can be accessed via our website: [www.thorntoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.thorntoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk). Printed copies of the LPP and feedback form have also been placed in Thornton Pensioners Hut and Thornton Bowling Club.

**Any representations** on the content of the Local Place Plan should be made by **8<sup>th</sup> May 2024** via the feedback form. It can either be emailed to: [enquiries@thorntoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@thorntoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk) or printed forms can be dropped off at the address on the form.

## Appendix 4 – List of Councillors Contacted

(with copies of email correspondence -evidence of compliance)

Ward Councillors, Glenrothes Central and Thornton

- Cllr Derek Noble
- Cllr Ross Vettraino
- Cllr Daniel Wilson

Ward Councillors, Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch

- Cllr John Bear
- Cllr Peter Gulline
- Cllr Lynn Mowatt
- Cllr Jan Wincott

Additional Ward Councillors Contacted (additional contact made, not mandatory)

- Cllr Tom Adams
- Cllr Ken Caldwell
- Cllr Altany Craik
- Cllr Julie Ford
- Cllr David Graham (contacted via Member's Services)
- Cllr John O'Brien
- Cllr Craig Walker

---

**From:** enquiries@thorntoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

**Sent:** 08 April 2024 10:02

**To:** Cllr Altany Craik; Cllr Craig Walker; Cllr Daniel Wilson; Cllr David Graham; Cllr Derek Noble; Cllr Jan Wincott; Cllr John Beare; Cllr Julie Ford; Cllr Ken Caldwell; Cllr Lynn Mowatt; Cllr Peter Gulline; Cllr Ross Vettraino; Cllr Tom Adams

**Subject:** Local Place Plan -Thornton

Good morning,

Thornton Community Council have developed a Local Place Plan (LPP) which we are pleased to share with you. The pre submission notice for our LPP is attached for your information and this is a link to our full [Local Place Plan](#).

During 2023, we held engagement sessions with the community, along with distributing paper and online surveys for completion. We endeavoured to give everyone an opportunity to have their say, from our schoolchildren to the retired members of our community and everyone in between. All this work has culminated in our draft Local Place Plan, this document will become very important, as we would like it to be considered by Fife Council when they develop the Local Development Plan for Fife.

We welcome your representations regarding the content of our LPP and these can be made via the feedback form available [here](#). The feedback form can either be emailed to: [enquiries@thorntoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@thorntoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk) or printed forms can be dropped off at the address on the form. Any representations must be made by **8th May 2024**.

Kindest regards

Please **"Reply-to-all"** when responding

Jean Laird

Secretary | Thornton Community Council

---

**From:** Jean Laird  
**Sent:** 16 April 2024 20:10  
**To:** cllr.john.obrien@fife.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Local Place Plan- Thornton

Good evening Councillor O'Brien,

We are sending through details of our Local Place Plan for your information as you are a Councillor in our neighbouring ward. We hope you might be interested to see this work going on in Thornton.

Thornton Community Council have developed a Local Place Plan (LPP) which we are pleased to share with you. The Information Notice for our LPP is attached for your information and this is a link to our full [Local Place Plan](#).

During 2023, we held engagement sessions with the community, along with distributing paper and online surveys for completion. We endeavoured to give everyone an opportunity to have their say, from our schoolchildren to the retired members of our community and everyone in between. All this work has culminated in our draft Local Place Plan, this document will become very important, as we would like it to be considered by Fife Council when they develop the Local Development Plan for Fife.

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Kindest regards

**Please "Reply all" when responding**

Jean Laird  
Secretary  
Thornton Community Council

## Appendix 5 – List of Community Councils Contacted

(with copies of email correspondence -evidence of compliance)

- Auchmuty Community Council- (Inactive-not contacted)
- Cardenden Community Council
- Coaltown of Wemyss Community Council
- East Kirkcaldy Community Council- (Inactive- not contacted)
- Glenwood Community Council- (Inactive- not contacted)
- Kennoway Community Council- (inactive- not contacted)
- Kinglassie Community Council
- Kirkcaldy North Community Council- (Inactive- not contacted)
- Markinch Community Council- (Inactive- not contacted)
- Milton and Coaltown of Balgonie Community Council
- Pitteuchar, Finglassie, and Stenton Community Council
- Star of Markinch Community Council- (Inactive- not contacted)
- Windygates Community Council

---

**From:** enquiries@thorntoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

**Sent:** 08 April 2024 10:05

**To:** Cardenden Community Council; Coaltown of Wemyss Community Council; Kinglassie Community Council; Milton & Coaltown of Balgonie CC; Pitteuchar, Finglassie & Stenton CC; Windygates Community Council

**Subject:** Local Place Plan -Thornton

Good morning,

Thornton Community Council have developed a Local Place Plan (LPP) which we are pleased to share with you. The pre submission notice for our LPP is attached for your information and this is a link to our full [Local Place Plan](#).

During 2023, we held engagement sessions with the community, along with distributing paper and online surveys for completion. We endeavoured to give everyone an opportunity to have their say, from our schoolchildren to the retired members of our community and everyone in between. All this work has culminated in our draft Local Place Plan, this document will become very important, as we would like it to be considered by Fife Council when they develop the Local Development Plan for Fife.

We welcome your representations regarding the content of our LPP and these can be made via the feedback form available [here](#). The feedback form can either be emailed to: [enquiries@thorntoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@thorntoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk) or printed forms can be dropped off at the address on the form. Any representations must be made by **8th May 2024**.

Kindest regards

Please **"Reply-to-all"** when responding

Jean Laird

Secretary | Thornton Community Council

## Appendix 6 – Level and Nature of Support for Local Place Plan

(evidence of compliance)

Through the initial engagement and consultation work undertaken in November 2023 (see Appendix 2) it was clear that our community wanted their voices to be heard and to have the opportunity to create proposals for the development and use of land in and around their village. Feedback from face-to-face engagements with our community and online surveys were collated and directly informed the development of this LPP. This has ensured that there is positive support from the community for this LPP. The feedback data from the initial engagement is set out in the following graphs:

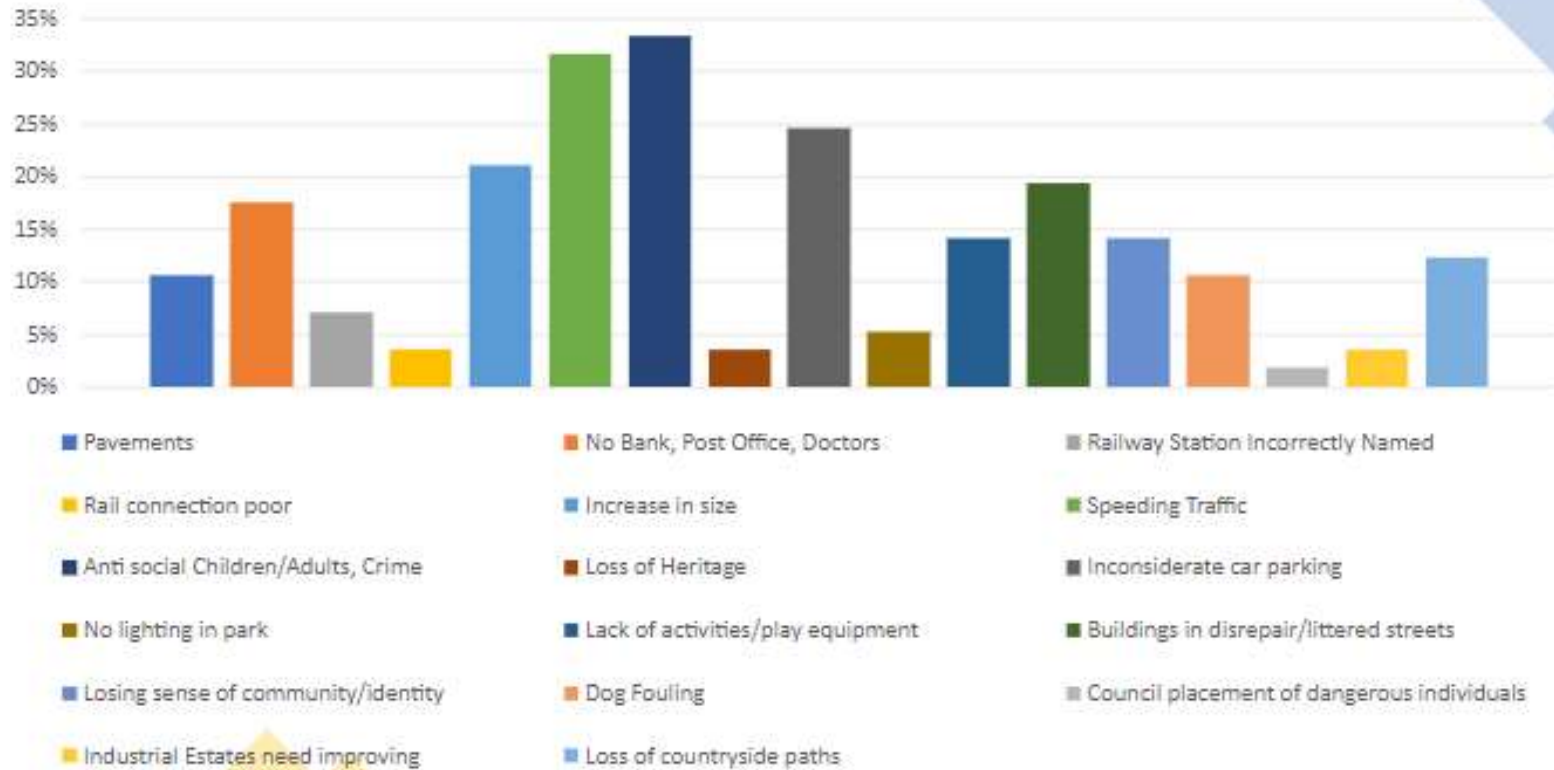
### What do you like about Thornton?

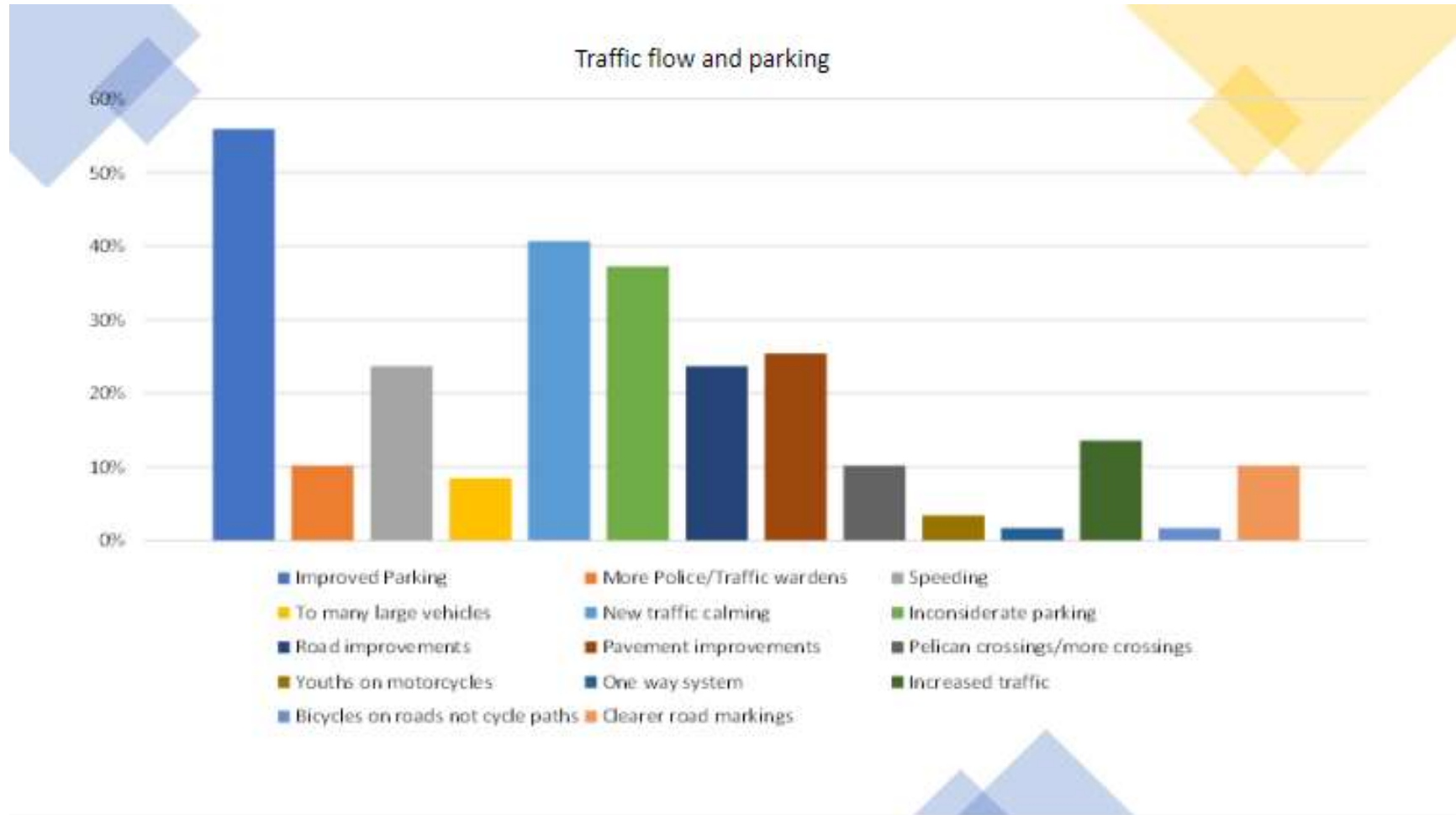
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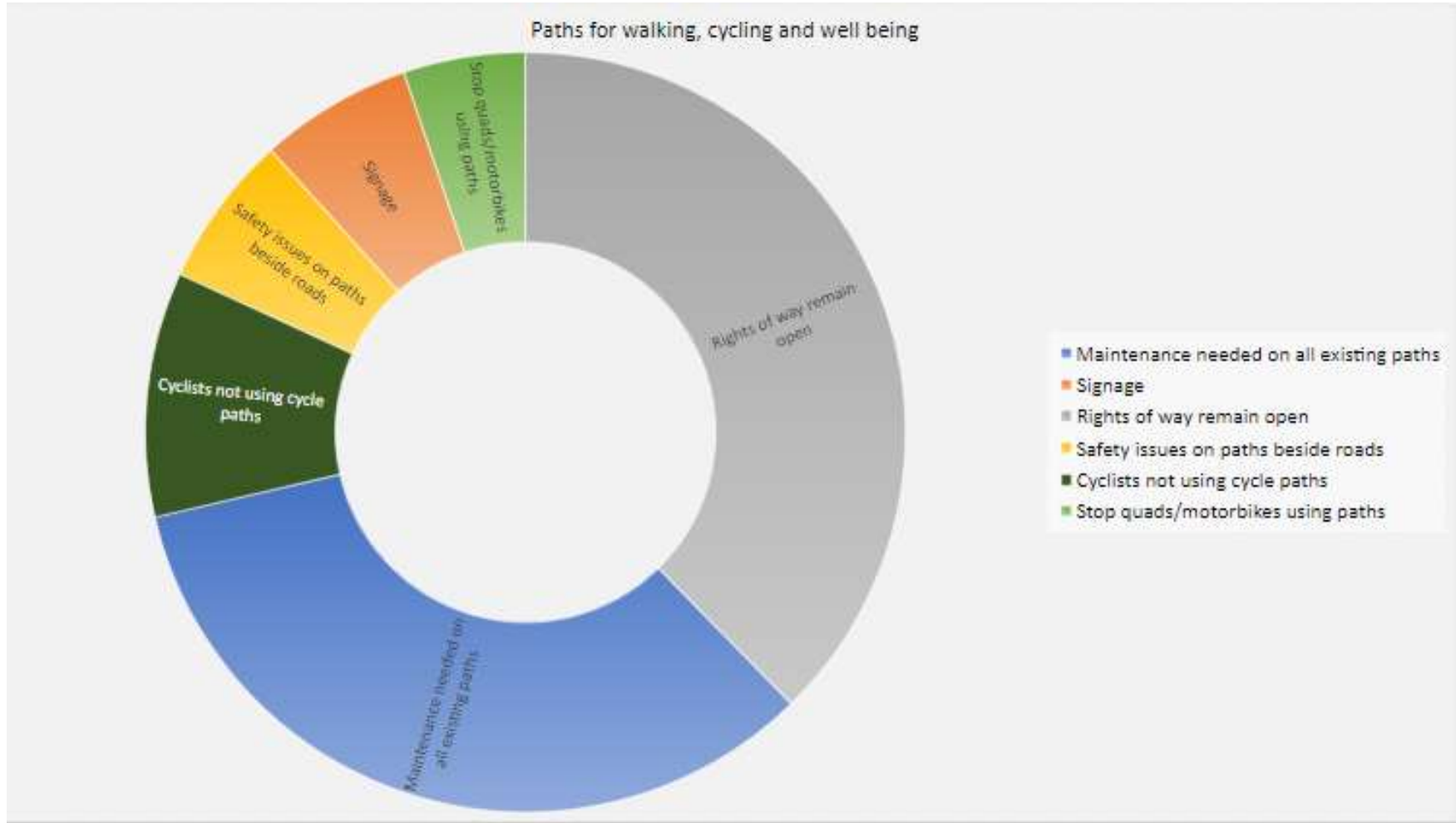
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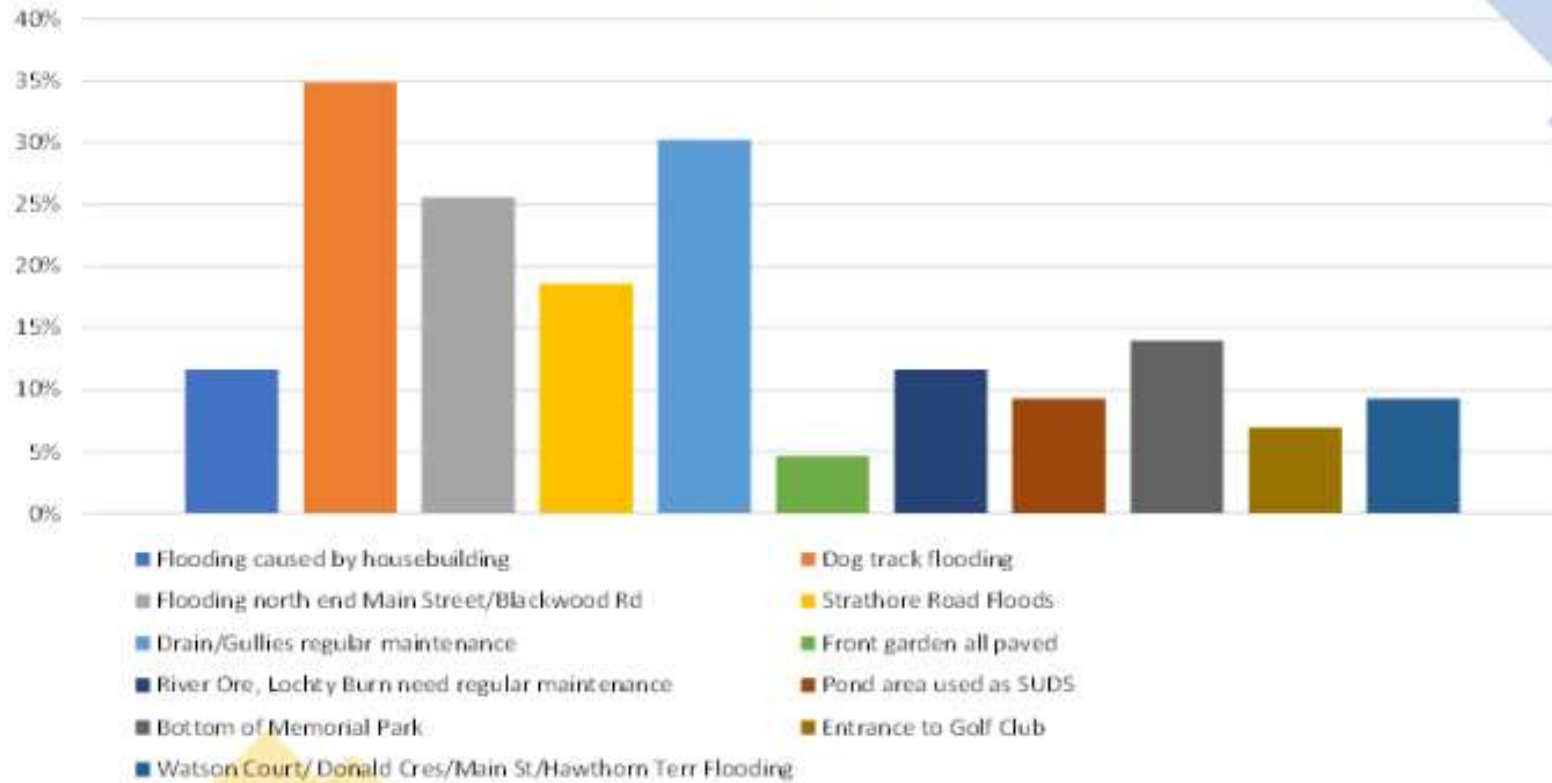
### What do you not like about Thornton?

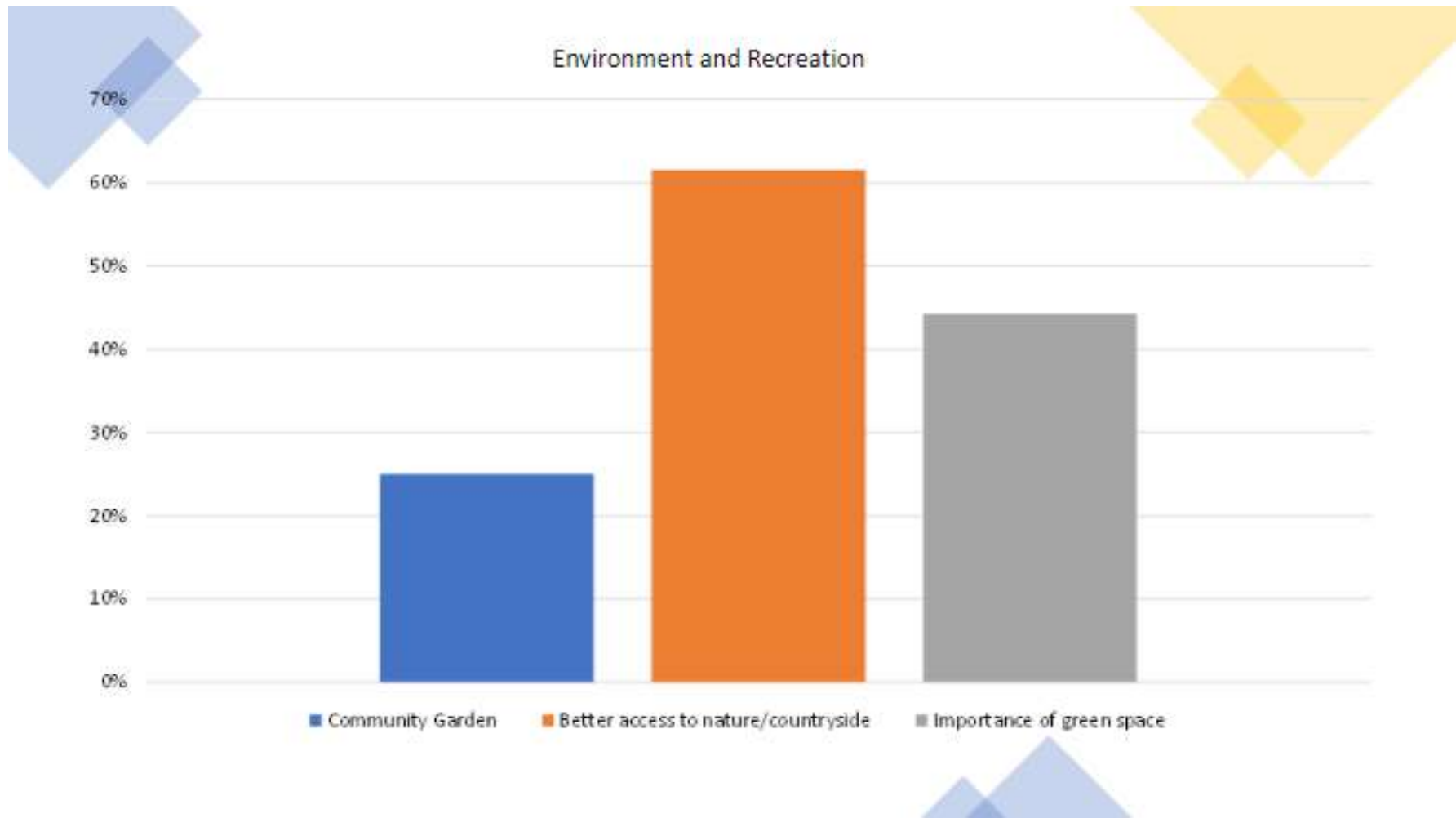




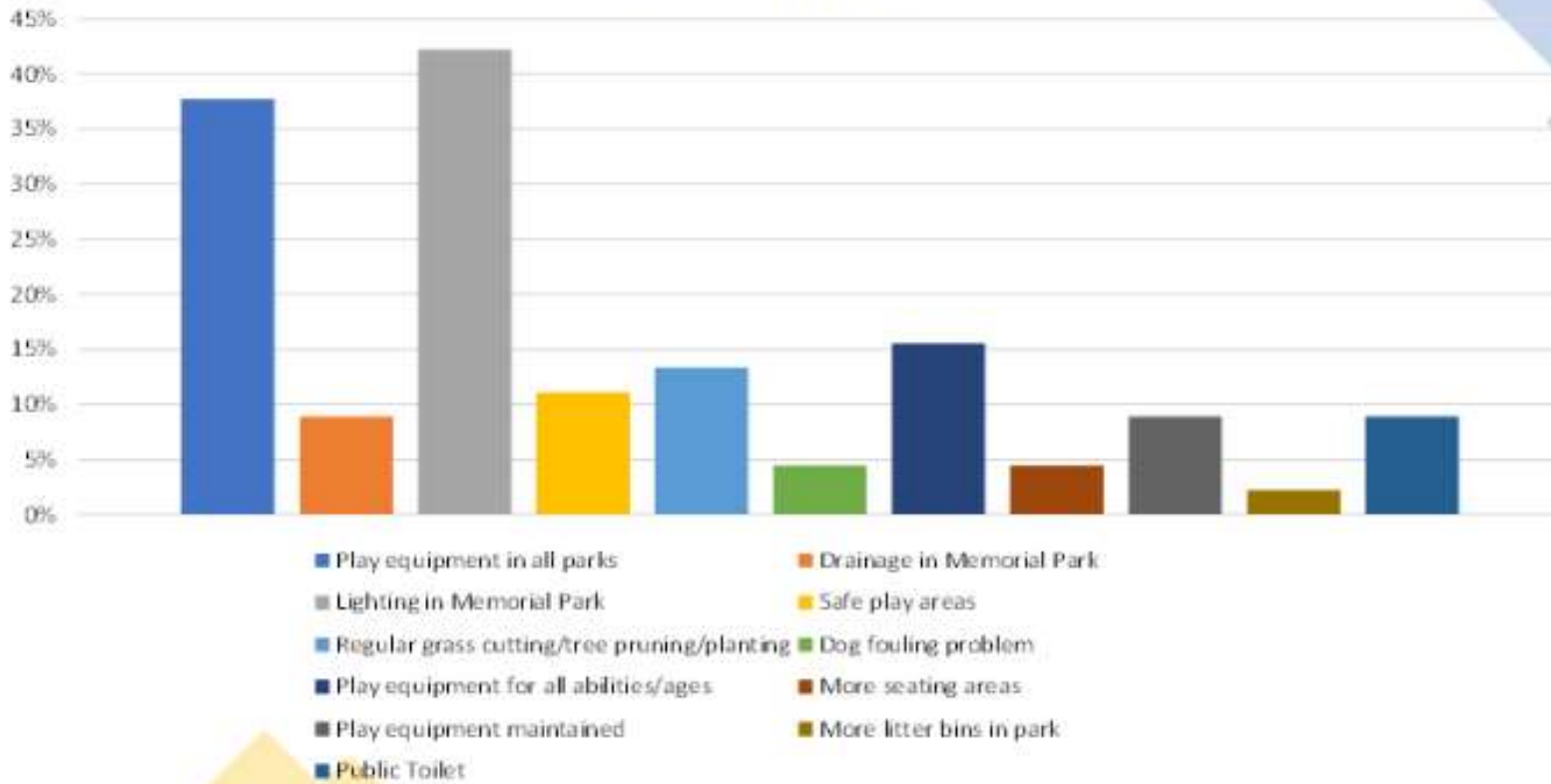


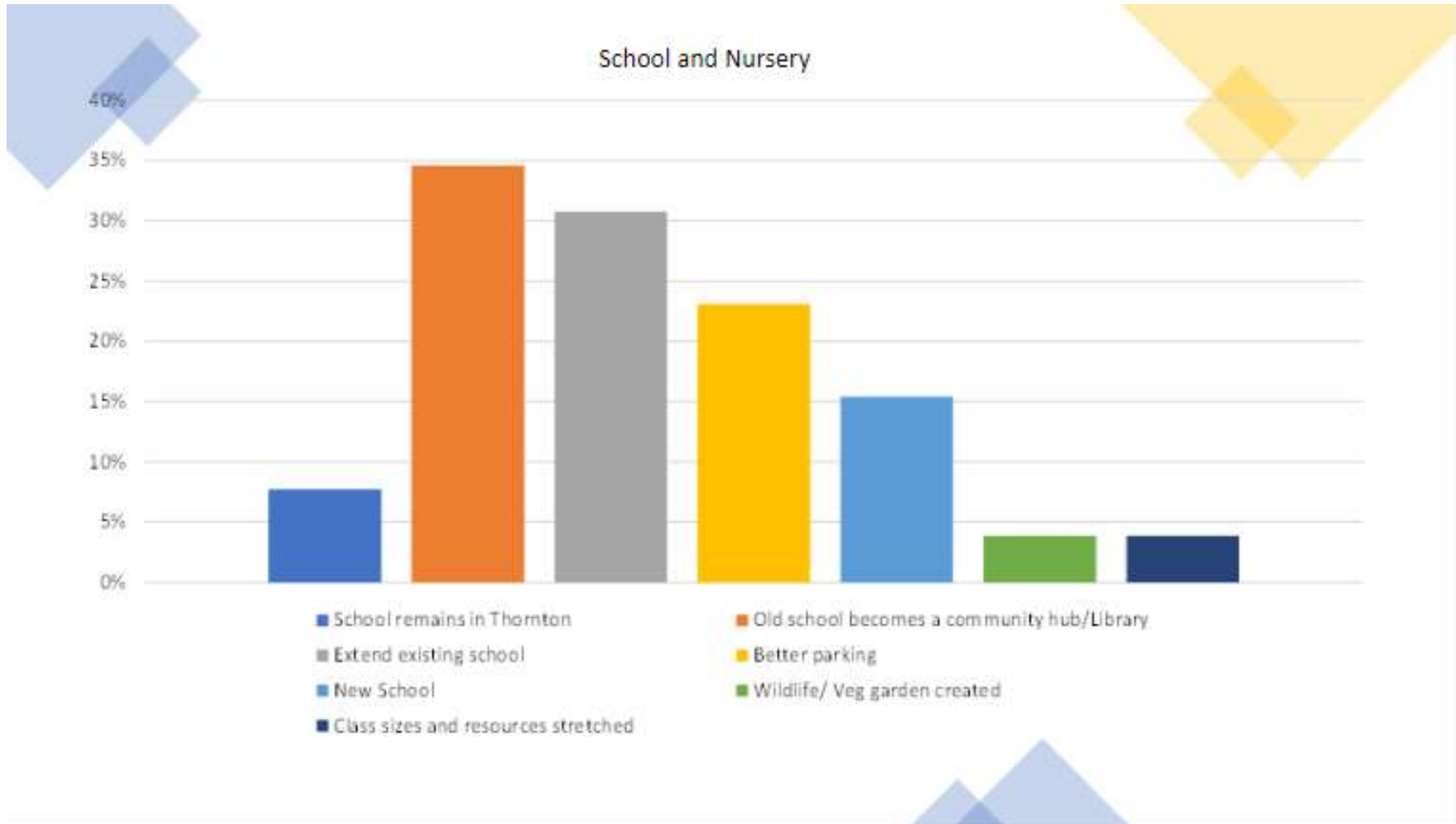
### Flooding

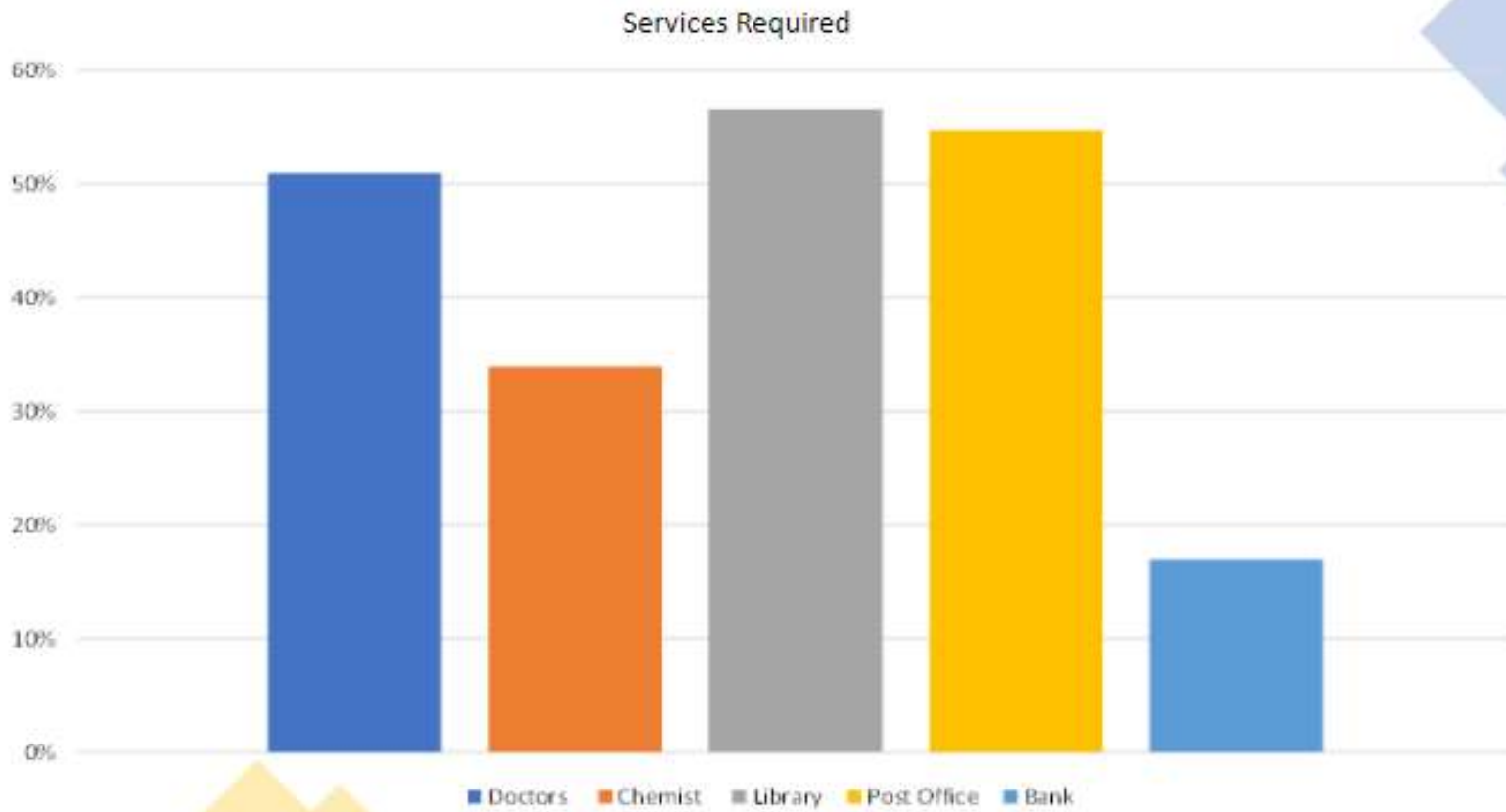


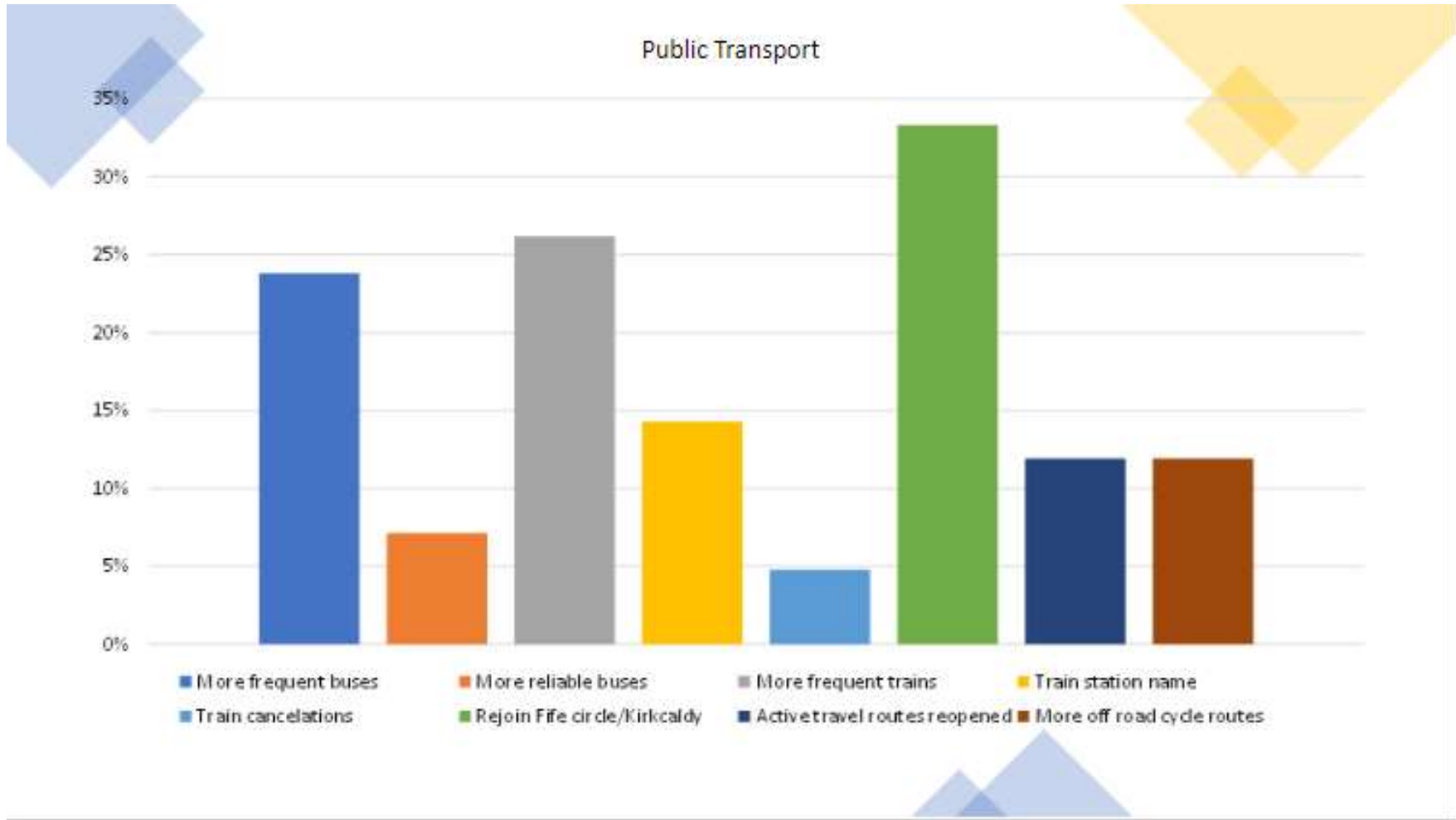


### Parks and Play Equipment









During the final consultation stage in April and early May 2024 statutory elements were fulfilled with the appropriate Ward Councillors and Community Councils contacted by email and supplied with the Information Notice and a digital copy of the LPP. In addition, the LPP and Information notice were posted on the TCC website and Facebook page and on other local community Facebook pages. The Information Notice was also posted on the community notice board in the village. Printed copies of the LPP and Information Notice were be made available at local coffee mornings. TCC received a letter of support from Jenny Gilruth MSP, which is included in this appendix. The Information Notice and the LPP were also shared at public meetings of TCC on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 and 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024. The Information notice and LPP was also presented for perusal and comment, and paper copies made available at the public meeting of Milton & Coaltown of Balgonie Community Council on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

This LPP has the support of our local community as it has been shaped around the community's feedback. This feedback and the resulting data were collated after the extensive engagement process described in Appendix 2. Representations received are detailed below.

#### **This feedback was received from Rothes Medical Practice**

**fife rothesadmin** <fife.rothesadmin@nhs.scot>

1 November 2023 at 17:06

To: "jeanthorntoncc@gmail.com" <jeanthorntoncc@gmail.com>, "thorntoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <thorntoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

Dear Mrs Laird,

Thank you for passing on the concerns you have heard regarding our appointment system. I can surmise the difficulties you are referring to because people do let us know directly. However, it is difficult to be specific in replying without knowing the precise problem. If someone has had difficulty getting through, they need to keep trying, and then if there have been for example problems with the phone line they should let us know. We keep a log of any such issues to flag up with our IT provider.

Our biggest change is a reduction in the proportion of GP sessions we are able to offer. As doctors have left the practice it has been a struggle to recruit new ones due to the nationwide shortage of working GPs. We have however recruited several Advanced Nurse Practitioners, who are trained to be able to deal with almost all acute medical problems and can manage many chronic ones. We are the only practice in the local cluster to have our own full time Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. We also have support from a practice Pharmacy Team. Our appointment system is therefore much more complicated than it used to be, and our receptionists are trained to take more time and ask patients questions about their issues in order to ensure they are seen by the most appropriate clinician.

We have a limited number of appointments available for booking in advance, strictly for follow-up of known problems. We cannot increase that proportion without reducing the availability of appointments for acute problems on the day. You may recall that prior to 2020, when most of our appointments were booked in advance, you would have to wait 4 weeks for an appointment. On top of that, people would

still get acutely unwell and the pressure to fit additional patients in on the day was not sustainable, directly contributing to staff leaving the practice.

I am pleased to hear of the Local Place Plan project and would agree that access to Primary Care facilities should be considered alongside the developments proposed in Thornton. Rothes Medical Practice is currently the only GP surgery available for Thornton residents to register with.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Andrew Halpin MBChB  
Partner, Rothes Medical Practice

Rothes Medical Practice  
Pitteuchar Health Centre  
Glenrothes  
KY7 4RH

01592 771177

This feedback was received from Jenny Gilruth MSP



Fife Council Planning Services  
Fife House  
North Street  
Glenrothes  
KY7 5LT

Tuesday, 14 May 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to offer my support for Thornton Community Council's Local Place Plan.

Having reviewed their detailed plan for the Thornton area, covering everything from transport, housing and green spaces to active travel routes, I firmly believe that this plan will bring about many benefits for the local community.

I look forward to the views of the people of Thornton being taken into account and the Local Place Plan feeding into the preparation of Fife's Local Development Plan.

Best wishes,



**Jenny Gilruth MSP**

