

Thorpe St Andrew Town Council

Thorpe St Andrew Town Council

Town Plan 2009



It is my pleasure to introduce this Town Plan. As you will see from this comprehensive survey of Thorpe St Andrew over the centuries there has been a steady development from a small community living by the river and using it as a trading highway, to our modern town of over 14000 people spread over a wide area.

These developments, and major developments planned for the future, have caused the Town Council to ask “Where do we go from here?” This town plan, drawn up after consulting individuals and a variety of organisations, sets out to answer that question by planning for the future to ensure that Thorpe St Andrew continues to be a good safe place in which to live, work and relax. Its aim is to improve the quality of life for every resident and considers what is necessary to achieve that aim, particularly protecting the environment against the undesirable effects of more residential and commercial developments.

At the time of writing this foreword the economic and political situation, especially the Unitary Authority debate, may cause major changes but I can confidently predict one constant – the Town Council exists to promote our interests and will continue to do so.

The success of this plan depends on your co-operation and support.

I commend it to you.

Russell James, Town Mayor



Thorpe St Andrew Town Council

Foreword



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Why produce a town plan?

All communities undergo change. It is not possible to prevent change, but it may be possible to influence it. The responses and opinions of local people can help their local council to make decisions on their behalf and promote their views when consulting with other organisations.

A town plan helps to provide a vision for the community and should show how this may be achieved. It gives priority to main issues and concerns raised by local people and is developed as a response to the needs of an individual community.

What is the definition of a town?

A town is usually defined as a centre of business and population with an area in excess of 2.5 square kilometres (1 square mile). Some smaller places are also historically considered towns, for example, where they are market or former county towns. (Ordnance Survey Mapzone website).

In 2006 the Parish Council voted to change the administrative title for Thorpe St Andrew to a Town. This reflected the growth seen in the last 20-30 years. In 1954 the name Thorpe St Andrew was adopted (the name prior to that being Thorpe next Norwich) and the number of people living in the area has risen rapidly. The town is now home to over 14,000 people and has one of the largest populations of any parish/town within the Broadland area.

In 2007, the council decided to compile a document called a Town Plan based on the views of the local population.

Every household in the area was sent a questionnaire covering a range of topics in Summer 2008.

The responses were analysed and this is the result!

Thank you very much to all who took part.

Introduction



War Memorial, River Green

History of Thorpe St Andrew



Parish Church, Yarmouth Road



The Folly, Pinebanks

Thorpe St Andrew was mentioned in the Domesday Book and was until the 20th Century a sparsely populated village in the valley beside the River Yare. The whole northern part of the town was, until the Enclosure Act in 1891, part of Mousehold Heath. This area became farmland and it was not until the 20th Century when these farms started to be sold that the housing estates of north Thorpe St Andrew were built – mostly after the Second World War.

Several of today's roads were originally trackways from Mousehold down to the river including Harvey Lane, School Lane, Thunder Lane and Pound Lane. The main Yarmouth Road route was across the heath. It was only after the demolition of the city walls of Norwich and the building of the Carrow (1810) and Foundry (1811) bridges that the gentry of Norwich started to move out to build their villas on the slopes of the valley and the present Yarmouth Road became important.

All of the mansions such as Thorpe Lodge, Pinebanks with its folly tower, Thorpe House and Roxley House still survive but are now offices, schools and residential homes. Pinebanks was a sports and social club but at present is unoccupied.

Over the centuries there have been three churches in the town. The first church was built circa the twelfth century and its remains were discovered in the 1950's on the north of the allotments at Hillside Avenue. Its location was close to the old road to Yarmouth.

The second church, now in ruins in front of the present church was built in the 16th Century when the lower part of the parish became more important. It was one of the smallest in the Diocese and had a thatched nave. The present church was designed by Thomas Jeckyll and consecrated in 1866. The original tall spire was damaged during the Second World War and replaced by a shortened version.

Until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th Century, the manor of Thorpe belonged to the Bishop of Norwich who had his summer palace at what is now Thorpe Hall, hence the ecclesiastical title of Thorpe St Andrew Episcopi. Over the years it has had many owners including the Paston and Harvey families and in the 1980's following a period of neglect it was faithfully rebuilt by Henry Burke.

The river has always been important to the village and was the main means of transport until the 19th Century. The railway line to Yarmouth caused a cut to be made due to the two railway bridges preventing navigation on the river and thus Thorpe Island was created. A serious head on railway crash occurred in 1874 adjacent to the bridge by the Rushcutters and 25 people were killed. There is a plaque commemorating this on Girlings Lane. Many boatyards have existed in the village including Hoboroughs, Wards, Jenners and Harts (later Hearts). These have now gone, although some boat yards are still to be found east of the town.

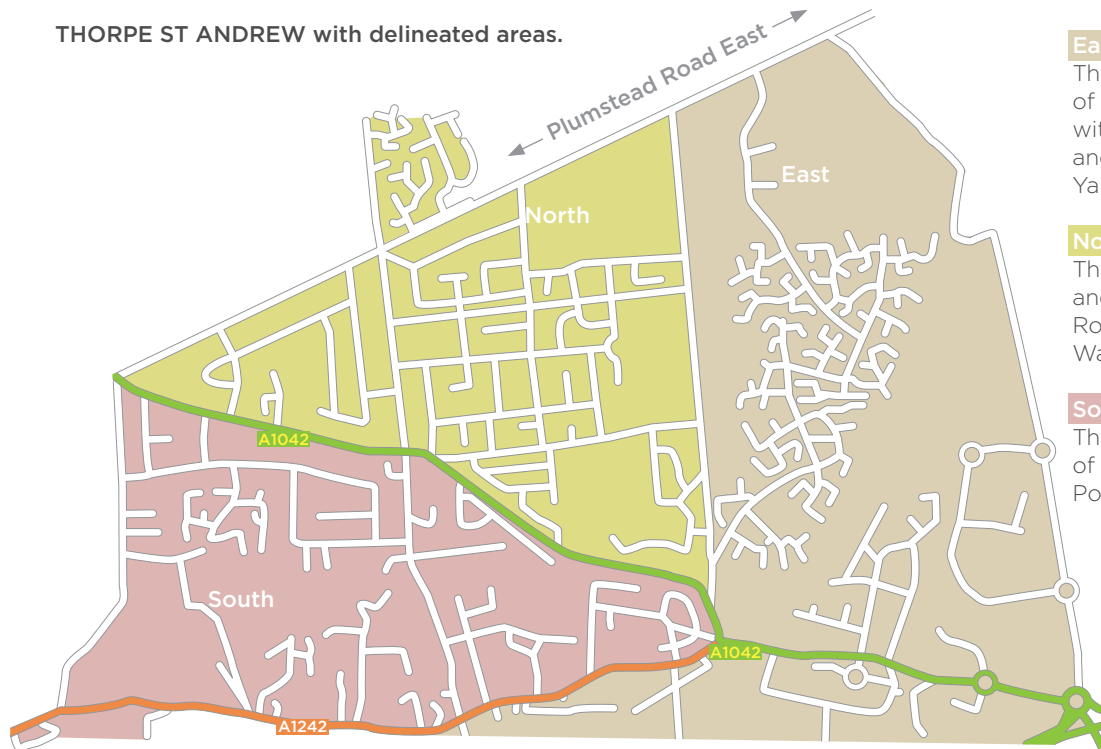
Thorpe St Andrew is seen as an attractive part of Norfolk in which to live. The boundary between the town and the City of Norwich is less clear than it once was, but residents are keen to retain its individual identity.

The overwhelming response from residents was that Thorpe St Andrew is seen to be a pleasant green residential area, close enough to the City of Norwich to enjoy the facilities there, and yet different in character. Local people felt that Thorpe St Andrew had a wide range of facilities and a number of leafy green areas. The River Green and marshland by the River Yare were popular places for walking and we are fortunate to have large recreation grounds and nature reserves such as Cary's Meadow and the Dell on South Avenue.

Definitions

For the purposes of this document, Thorpe St Andrew was divided into 3 geographical areas - North, South and East. See the enclosed map. These 3 areas are referred to throughout.

THORPE ST ANDREW with delineated areas.



East Side

This area covers the district East of Pound Lane, from the junction with Plumstead Road to the North and the small roundabout with Yarmouth Road to the South.

North Side

This area is West of Pound Lane, and is bordered by Plumstead Road to the North and St Williams Way to the south.

South Side

This area covers the district South of St Williams Way and West of Pound Lane.

Current facilities in Thorpe St Andrew



Cary's Meadow



Recreation Ground

Methodology

In 2007 the Town Council recognised that although local people had been informed about matters through the press and were invited to Council meetings, a comprehensive survey had not been conducted to gather views of local residents. A number of issues had arisen such as the possibility of land purchase for recreational use, the receipt of money from planning gains, the possible changes in structure of local government and the possible building of new housing in the area. It was felt it would be helpful to have the views of local residents to help the Council make decisions.

The questionnaire was based on major issues facing Thorpe St Andrew at the time. In 5 years time, it is to be hoped that the plan can be reviewed by surveying the population again.

During July 2008, 6500 households in Thorpe St Andrew were delivered a questionnaire via the Beacon, the Town Council Newspaper. The steps undertaken as part of the process are outlined below:

1. A preliminary article was placed in issue 42 of the Beacon informing people about the town plan. This was distributed in April/May 2008.
2. A questionnaire was compiled based on a wide range of topics and tested with councillors prior to distribution.
3. The Council wrote to local companies asking for prizes to be given to those who complete a questionnaire and we had a number of prizes donated. The date for the prize draw was 4th August 2008 to encourage people to return them.
4. The launch of the questionnaire was publicised widely using the following methods:
 - An article was published in the Evening News*
 - An advert and short article were published in Broadland Life (Summer 2008)*
 - An article was published in the Dussindale Directory (June 2008)*
 - Posters were put up in shops, bus shelters and local businesses and large posters were placed on the council noticeboards.*
 - A large article was placed on the front page of the Beacon Issue 43. The questionnaire was placed inside on the centre pages. The questionnaire could also be accessed on the Town Council website.*
5. Publicity was given to the project at the Town Council Summer Fete held on Saturday 12th July 2008 where copies of the questionnaire were made available.
6. Completed copies could be returned to a large number of addresses in Thorpe St Andrew (Councillors, letter boxes, the Town Council office and all Town Council public buildings).

Results

132 questionnaires were returned from a total of 6500 issued and the results were analysed. Assuming that the questionnaire reached approximately 6500 households, this is a response rate of only 2%. It is recognized that this is a poor response and the results are therefore not statistically significant. However, certain trends emerged from the responses and will be used by the council to help direct its decisions in relation to the matters considered.

The age range of the respondents varied but of those who completed the household data section, the vast majority were households with one or two people living in them, with the greatest number of houses having at least one respondent aged between 55 and 74.

64 streets were represented out of a possible 196. There were therefore responses from 33% of the streets in Thorpe St Andrew. 8 respondents did not give a full postcode, but lived in the NR7 area.

The results from the survey are given under a range of headings. The current facilities in Thorpe St Andrew are described, followed by the results.

In 2007 the Town Council supported Broadland District Council in its aim to extend the Town's Conservation Area to try and help maintain some of Thorpe St Andrew's unique character. The Conservation Area is North of Yarmouth Road and the original designation was awarded in 1976. All trees above a certain size are protected in such areas and the Council must be notified of any intended tree work.

A Conservation Area is defined as an "area of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance." The aim of preserving such an area is to enhance the quality of life of those who live there and to possibly attract visitors which can benefit the local economy. Change will still occur but the special character of the place is respected.

The Broads Authority also has responsibility for some areas in the town, for example from Cary's Meadow to Boundary Lane and the River Yare. The Authority also have responsibility for planning and conservation in an area south of Yarmouth Road, from Thorpe Hall Close to the Rushcutter's Public House.

Thorpe St Andrew has many areas suitable for wildlife, from wooded parks to open grassy meadows and fields. The wildlife here is numerous and varied, ranging from beautiful insects to large mammals such as deer and foxes.

Gardens too are often havens for wild creatures, supporting butterflies, moths and various other wildlife. Soon, when it becomes established, the new broad and nature reserve on Whitlingham Marsh will also become a mecca for various ducks, geese, swans and many other forms of water life.

It should be borne in mind that most wildlife thrives on neglect and does not need to be pampered. However, a helping hand does not go amiss, and mixed seeds in bird feeders and scraps on the lawn are all welcome, especially in hard winter periods. Being clinical and tidy is a trait with us as a species, but do spare a thought for the wildlife too. An overgrown corner with some logs and a few nettles will harbour all sorts of creatures both great and small.

Thorpe is blessed with higher than average tree cover, containing significant areas of woodland and retaining good specimens of individual trees. Some of these remain from the original woodland which was once extensive, and some from field and boundary trees. Others were planted by moneyed magnates who made Thorpe their home. As well as providing a pleasing 'leafy' aspect to the area, these trees are invaluable wildlife habitats.

Together with the woods on the ridge, the abundance of street and garden trees gives Thorpe its special character. There are particularly fine specimens of oak on Thunder Lane, beech in the Spinney Road area and cherry plums on Gordon Avenue. There are increasing pressures on street trees and we need to be vigilant to retain them.

The Town Council is fortunate in having two long serving Tree Wardens to help care for local trees and plant new ones. The Tree Wardens provide a programme of local guided walks in the summer which focus on trees, wildlife and flowering plants as well as local history.

Recreational Open Space and The Natural Environment



Flint Cottages, School Lane



Old School Building, School Lane

North



Belmore Plantation



Recreation Ground, Laundry Lane

Trees

Many trees are covered by Tree Preservation orders (TPO's) and some fall within a Conservation Area. TPO's are placed on trees thought to be at risk and may be made when a planning application is received. It is important, for planning purposes, to differentiate between those trees which are on publicly owned or publicly accessible sites and those which are in private ownership. This information is given in each site description, together with a note on whether they are 'protected' or not. Some areas have few trees so their most important features are described in terms of biodiversity and amenity.

The main Recreation Ground is based at Laundry Lane. It was purchased by the Parish Council in 1936. There are 2 tennis courts, 6 football pitches and a bowling green. The play area has been recently upgraded to provide facilities for children of all ages. This was achieved with the help of local people and by obtaining grant funding from the Local Network Fund, The National Lottery, WREN and Broadland District Council. Thorpe Kite Flyers use the wide open space regularly.

Gargle Hill Woods

South of the Recreation ground are Gargle Hill Woods which are a remnant of old woodland, with newer planting alongside. Many beech trees have been lost as they are over-mature but the site is good for raptors such as sparrowhawks and owls.

Laundry Lane Tree Plantation

The plantation was developed on the site of a former pit and has many non-native tree species including a good red horse chestnut as well as a magnificent English oak. A new mixed-species hedge has recently been planted. The plantation provides a peaceful refuge for quiet walks and contemplation.

The Belmore and Racecourse Plantations

These lie to the South and North of the Plumstead Road, respectively. They are privately owned but there is de facto public access to the Belmore side. There are many sweet chestnut trees here, as well as oak, hazel and beech. The Racecourse Plantation provides a useful wildlife refuge and buffer between the Salhouse and Plumstead roads.

Various types of wildlife may be seen including:

Birds: jay, sparrowhawk, tawny owl, stockdove, wood pidgeon, magpie, jackdaw, black cap, white throat, blackbird, song thrush, mistle thrush, robin, nuthatch, greater spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, tree creeper, chaffinch. **Butterflies:** speckled wood, peacock, painted lady, red admiral, holly blue, orange tip. **Mammals:** fox, hedgehog, muntjac deer, stoat, rabbit, grey squirrel. **Dragon/Damselflies:** migrant hawkler, southern hawkler, brown hawkler, common darter **Snakes:** Grass snake.



Dragonfly

River Green and Thorpe Island

River Green is often considered to be the “jewel in the crown” of Thorpe St Andrew. Thorpe St Andrew was once termed the Richmond of Norfolk because of its attractive location two miles east of the city on the north of the River Yare. River Green was once a vital trading area. Indeed the village moved from the hill to the valley in the late medieval period to take advantage of the huge growth in river trade. Wherries and larger sea-going craft called here to deliver goods and/or take on ballast before going out to sea.

The site is extremely popular with the public all year round, and has a large population of waterfowl and doves. It is used for picnics, bird feeding, conker hunting and messing about in boats. 24 hour mooring facilities are available with Broads Authority permission for leisure boats and fishing is permitted.

Across the river from the Green lies Thorpe Island. This was created by the ‘New Cut’ a stretch of water constructed so that boats could bypass the railway bridge in the late 19th century. This bridge virtually ended the ‘port’ activity in the village. Once the cut was in place a large area of land lay marooned between the two stretches of water. Thorpe Island is owned privately. The moorings are let to boat owners moored along the quay, who have access to electricity, phone services, water, sewerage and rubbish disposal.

Today it is densely covered with large trees, including willows and poplars. In one poplar, there is a massive mistletoe plant, visible clearly from the road in winter. Owls and bee colonies live there and bats from the parish church sometimes sleep under the wooden quay headings.

There are many birds to be found on River Green including:_
Mute swan, Greylag goose, mallard, jackdaw, pied wagtail, coot and waterhen.

It is notable that the Cetti’s warbler, once a very rare bird confined to Kent, has now so successfully colonised all of the river valleys of East Anglia that it may be heard singing on Thorpe Island. Its song is so loud that it can be heard when sitting outside the cafe, above the din of the traffic.

There is a large horse chestnut tree on River Green which was threatened by leaf miner in 2007. The leaf mining moth larvae produce mines within the leaves feeding between the upper and lower surfaces. The tree is sadly reaching the end of its life. There is also a copper beech and a tree planted to commemorate the late Princess of Wales.

South



River Green



Cetti's Warbler



Cows grazing on Cary's Meadow



Fox

Cary's Meadow

Cary's Meadow is an area of land lying between the river and the railway track and Yarmouth Road. The entrance is opposite Broadland District Council's offices. This site has been earmarked for development twice, once for completion of the inner ring road and subsequently for a Sainsbury's store. As a result huge amounts of brick rubble were dumped on this marshy area in preparation. However, the schemes never went ahead and the area was given as publicly accessible open space, and is managed by the Norwich Fringe project by grazing and brushcutting.

The Fringe Project has managed the site since 1999. Cows graze on the meadow thus encouraging a wide variety of grasses to grow as the encroachment of young trees is controlled. The aim of the Fringe Project is to manage the site using traditional conservation methods.

It was designated a Local Nature Reserve in February 2008 by the Broads Authority and Natural England and won an award in the CPRE Norfolk annual Awards for the management of a 22 acre meadow for community use and enjoyment.

To the east of the site a branch of an old canal leaves the river and runs up the back of a new housing development. This was associated with the medieval manor house, and has some fair-sized trees along its length. At the very northern tip of the site, actually underneath Yarmouth Road and hidden in a dense growth of sycamores, is the entrance to a tunnel which once connected the meadow and the canal with the grand house which is now the Council offices. This has been grated off and is an important reserve for bats. At least three varieties of bat are here, in good numbers.

To the west of the site, there is a fair overgrowth of buddleia, which attracts butterflies. Near the entrance, a stand of aspen was planted some years ago and these have been augmented more recently by oaks and other native species.

There is access to the river in the southeast corner and it is popular with fishermen, although only a very small area of river front can be accessed safely.

The rubble has created a calcareous environment ideal for the growth of many lovely flowering plants, especially rare orchids. Bee orchids and about four other varieties can be seen here in late Spring and early Summer. Wild Carrot, burdock, bristle club rush and many other plants are abundant. There are ponds which come and go with the weather, and a good population of insects and birds.

Wildlife which can be seen here include:

Birds: Black cap, robin, white throat, pheasant, sparrowhawk, goldfinch, greenfinch, bullfinch chaffinch, blue tit, great tit, long tailed tit, green woodpecker, greater spotted woodpecker, nut hatch, jay, magpie. **Butterflies:** Brown argus, common blue, peacock, painted lady, red admiral, large white, holly blue, orange tip, small copper, brimstone.

Mammals: Fox, hedgehog, stoat, field vole. **Dragon/Damselflies:** Migrant hawkler, southern hawkler, brown hawkler, 4 spot chaser, black tailed skimmer, banded demoiselle, large red damselfly, common darter. **Reptiles:** Grass snake, common lizard.

Management concerns:

The site requires grazing and/or cutting to allow the orchids to flourish. There is occasional vandalism to trees. There is a large stand of the pernicious weed, japanese knotweed, on the southern boundary near the railway line and also along the footpath leading to the river access. The Fringe Project attempts to control this but it is an ongoing and arduous task.

The Pits

There are dells or pits on the ridge overlooking the River Yare. These used to be part of old quarry workings. It is thought that marl used to be excavated here to spread on farmland. Marl is a mixture of clay and lime which is used to improve acid soils. There were also local lime kilns in Whitlingham woods. Flints may also have been dug out from the pits for housebuilding. Many pits have become overgrown with trees and vegetation and are not always easy to find.

Hillcrest Road, Weston Pits

This is reached by public footpath from Hillcrest Road or from Western Avenue and is open to the public. Trees and brambles are found on the perimeter. This is a site of Special Geological Interest according to English Heritage. Various birds including woodpeckers can be found here.

Weston Wood once had a viewing tower or belvedere on the summit which fell down 40 years ago. There are mature oaks and sweet chestnut trees in the woods.

Tower Hill Pit

There is a pit south of the Pinebanks building which can be seen from the public footpath running from the old school on Yarmouth Road to White Farm Lane. It is very steep and work had to be undertaken to stabilise the bank. Plenty of birds live here including jays and greenfinches.

Chapel Lane Pit / South Avenue Dell

There are pits on South Avenue which is the old driveway to High House. One is open to the public and is to be found behind the houses to the West of the road. Public Access is via Chapel Lane. A group of local residents have cleared the pit, thinned out the trees and removed some ivy, with the help of a Heritage Lottery Grant. The Norwich Fringe Project and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers provided help and advice. In the pit are varieties of ferns and fungi at the right time of the year. Sycamore, crab apples, guelder rose, hazel and spindle can be found.

Marshes

There is a significant area of wetland flanking the River Yare. This is a quiet area for walking and observing wildlife. There is a footpath running along the banks of the River Yare. Fishing is permitted in certain areas and there are 24 hour free moorings for leisure boats at Commissioners Cut south of Whitlingham Lane. Thorpe Marshes lie to the East of Whitlingham Lane.

Whitlingham Marsh

A new Broad was created South of Whitlingham Lane in 2008 following the completion of aggregate extraction. The aim is to create an area for conservation of wildlife and birds in particular and public access to water in the broad will be limited. There will be footpaths and bird hides on the site. The creation of local nature reserves is of particular interest at the moment with



South Avenue Dell



Marshes



Hillside Allotments



Cemetery

the number of green spaces dwindling in England. The Norwich Fringe Project and Natural England are working with the Town Council on this at present.

Another section which was not worked remains to the East. Until recently this area was also full of wild flowers, including orchids, but with the cessation of grazing in recent years it has become very overgrown. Cattle have recently been reintroduced but the water table has remained stubbornly high even in summer. There is an inaccessible area of willow scrub, full of birds, in the South East corner next to the river. There are also one or two oak standards on the marsh itself.

The marsh is criss-crossed with drainage ditches, some of which hold a population of a nationally rare water snail. There are also great crested newts, and water voles. These mammals are critically endangered in the UK. Birdlife is already abundant and likely to be even more so once the broad and nature reserve is properly established. It is already a popular site for birdwatchers.

Various types of wildlife can be found here including:

Birds: Water hen, water rail, coot, mute swan, kingfisher, heron, mallard, teal, sparrowhawk, pheasant, pochard, tufted duck, barn owls, marsh harriers. There are at least seven varieties of warblers (including the Cetti's warbler, once a rarity but now happily common). barn owls, marsh harriers, kingfishers, herons and much else besides. **Butterflies:** Swallow tail, peacock, painted lady, brimstone, red admiral. **Mammals:** Fox, otter, water vole, rat, field vole, water deer. **Dragon/Damselflies:** Migrant hawkler, southern hawkler, brown hawkler, 4 spot chaser, black tailed skimmer, banded demoiselle, blue tailed damselfly, common darter. **Reptiles:** Grass snake, great crested newt.

Management concerns:

The details of how these areas of marshland are to be managed are yet to be finalised. The public path needs regular maintenance, and complaints are received from the nearby sailing club about the growth of trees along the riverbank, which interfere with the wind flow. It has been agreed that few trees, if any, should be planted on the marsh because they are inappropriate in this environment.

Woodland

Weston Wood near Pinebanks is a County Wildlife Site and has regional importance. There is also some ancient woodland near Thorpe Tower. The Pinebanks Site is currently being considered for housing development. It has many good oaks on the periphery, particularly where the site abuts the remnant of Weston Wood and Weston Pits.

Allotments

One of the Town Council allotment sites is on Hillside Avenue and dates from the 1930's. Currently they are being rented by the Town Council on a half-plot basis to reduce the waiting list. There are some good oak trees on the periphery of the Hillside field.

At the top of the Hillside allotment field the Churchyard Close Nature Reserve can be found. It was created in the 1990's but does not have any clear public access. At the heart of this small area lie the buried remains of the original Saxon church of Thorpe St Andrew. This area is currently home to a large population of foxes and quite a few trees have also been planted here.

Yarmouth Road Cemetery

This is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council, and the Town Council provides an annual grant towards its upkeep. There are several large trees on the site, but the horse chestnuts are badly affected by the leaf miner pest.

The main open space linked to the Dussindale estate is the Dussindale Park recreation area. When the development was built, one of the conditions which had to be met by the developers was the provision of open space.

East

There are 2 football pitches and a cricket ground on the site. Both are maintained by the Town Council. There are benches for pitch spectators. The whole park is enclosed by a tree belt, separating the park on the North and East side from the houses. The council has been implementing a project to manage the tree boundaries and the first phase has been completed. This involved the thinning and removal of selected trees some of which were encroaching on property boundaries from Montrose Court to the junction with the footpath on Hampden Drive. The area below these trees has been opened up and it is hoped that bulbs such as Snowdrops and Bluebells can be planted here.

The next phase of the tree project is to tidy up the tree belt stretching from Hampden Drive southwards towards the park boundary with Roundhead Court/Cavalier Close.



Dussindale Park and The Fitzmaurice Pavillion



Youth Shelter

To the South side is a dell with some indigenous woodland. There is a children's play area for those aged under 10 years old.

There is a youth shelter to the West of the park close by the car park entrance at Pound Lane. This was put in up in 2006 following consultation with local young people and funded by the a grant from Broadland District Council and money from the Town Council budget. There is an enclosed hard football pitch to the South side of the park, which is well used by young people. The Dussindale Park has small green spaces and 2 basketball courts, off Dalbier Close and Vane Close. There is another allotment site on Dussindale which dates from the 1980's.

St Andrews Hospital Site - North Side

This is now the St Andrews Business Park and further development of this site is scheduled. It contains a cricket ground designated as green open space and an avenue of lime trees which were once an important landscape feature.

The South Side

This site has been developed for housing and retains several large specimen trees (protected) as well as several listed buildings.

General

Open Gardens events are held in Thorpe St Andrew in aid of charity.

Unfortunately fly tipping can be a problem for the council. Sites such as the Recreation Ground, Gargle Hill Woods, Dussindale Park, the Allotments and the Tree Plantation have been used for the illegal dumping of waste such as garden and domestic rubbish. This spoils the environment and is a criminal offence carrying penalties. The Town Council organizes a town skip, provided by Broadland District Council for a weekend every month. This is for the disposal of household refuse only.

Results

The conservation of the natural environment is of concern to local residents. It was clear from the survey that people value the remaining small areas of countryside such as the marshland beside the River Yare, and the tree plantations and wooded areas.

72% of respondents were in favour of the council pursuing plans to manage the area of marshland located between the south end of Whitlingham Lane and the River Yare, as a recreational and conservation area.

55% of respondents said they thought that the play areas were well maintained and fit for purpose. 39% said they did not know if they were, suggesting that a number of these people do not use the recreational facilities in the town. Of those who suggested that improvements could be made, most mentioned improving the play facilities for people.

64% of people said they would like to see a community garden in Thorpe St Andrew.

When residents were asked which two projects they would most like to see money spent on, 96 said they would like to see the management/purchase of the marshland by the River Yare for walks and wildlife conservation.

The second most popular project was to build a new community building or improve the existing ones (56 responses), and the third was to make improvements to River Green (51 responses).

North

St Williams Way and Plumstead Road are now major roads leading in and out of Norwich city centre. Recent developments in 2007 have seen the inclusion of a cycle lane along St Williams Way and division of the road into lanes near the junction with Pound Lane. Improvements have also been made to the Thunder Lane/St Williams Way crossroads.

A pedestrian crossing was put in on Thunder Lane near the junction with Spinney Road in 2007 in conjunction with the Safer Journeys to School initiative promoted by Norfolk County Council. Mini roundabouts were installed to improve the junction between Thunder Lane and Plumstead Rd.

South

Yarmouth Road (A1042) is the main route into Norwich City centre from Thorpe St Andrew, and connects to the A47 in the East. The road borders the Parish Church and River Green. There is a River Bus service along the River Yare from Griffin Lane into Norwich city.

East

Pound Lane marks a natural division between the older housing styles and the Dussindale estate. Throughout the estate a series of residential roads was built with 5 roundabouts put in to slow the flow of traffic. There is a bus service running regularly to and from the city centre during the day. Cycle lanes form a network through the estate connecting it to the Broadland Business Park and footpaths are well maintained by the Town Council. A cycle lane marks the boundary of the development, with a railway line running next to this.

New roads have been built to serve the new developments on the business park linking to Green Lane which was originally a small rural road. Future plans could see the building of a link road to connect the business park to Plumstead Road and a Northern Distributor road acting as an outer boundary for the business park. There is also a proposal for a new business park (Broadland Gate) to be built to the east of Broadland Way.

General

There are public rights of way in the town which are registered with Norfolk County Council. Pleasant footpaths and include:

School Lane north to the Pinebanks road through good tree cover.

Cottage Drive from Thunder Lane to Pound Lane (good old oak trees)

Hillcrest Road to Western Avenue through the pits and past Weston Woods.

Boundary Lane to Postwick Grove which was once one of the most famous beauty spots for city day trippers.

Whitlingham Lane along the river bank and return via Bungalow Lane or across the marshes, water levels permitting.

Common Lane, once the major road of the village and now a narrow track overhung with trees and full of birds.

Transport



First Bus



Anglian Bus

Results

Traffic volume in Thorpe St Andrew has been steadily increasing.

72% of respondents were in favour of siting a station halt on the Bittern Line to serve the Business Park and Dussindale housing area. This is a project which has been under consideration for some years, and a possible site is marked on the Local Plan. Should this scheme go ahead, it may help to reduce traffic flow in this area.

64% of respondents were in favour of the County Council's plan to build a Northern Distributor Road to help reduce traffic volumes in suburban areas around Norwich.

Encouraging people to cycle more would be one way of reducing the volume of motor vehicles on the road. 53% of respondents wanted to see more cycle stands in Thorpe St Andrew in shopping and recreational areas. 38% of respondents said that they would like to see more dedicated cycle lanes in the area to encourage cycling.

48% of respondents said that the bus service in the area was essential to them and a further 36% said that it was important. People were keen to see some improvements to the bus service such as the introduction of regular evening and Sunday services. It was pointed out that it is cheaper for people to drive to the park and ride site in Postwick to use buses going into the city, particularly if more than one person is travelling, than it is to use the local First Bus service.

Roadside parking and slow traffic flow on Yarmouth Road by the River Green area was identified as a specific problem by 27 people. The Town Council has been aware of this problem for some time and has made representations to the County Council Highways Department before. Local bus companies have notified the department of the issue as well. A solution is currently under consideration and may involve parking restrictions in the area.

Parking issues were raised by 67% of respondents and sites across the area were identified. The most common parking problems cited related to traffic outside schools during opening and closing times.

Residents also had concerns about vehicles parking on grass verges and causing damage.

Areas thought to be a problem where accidents could occur were at River Green, Harvey Lane, the Heartsease roundabout, and the mini roundabouts at the North end of Thunder Lane.

A County Council Initiative entitled the Speed Awareness Message (SAM) was invited to set up on a temporary basis in Thorpe St Andrew in 2008. Speed awareness signs light up to give the speed of any vehicle travelling over the residential speed limit of 30 mph. The results are useful in identifying roads where there are particular problems with speeding motor vehicles. 43.2 % of vehicles exceeded the speed limit on entering the roads checked (Thunder Lane, Laundry Lane and St Williams Way). Signs were placed later in 2008 on Spinney Rd, Booty Rd and South Hill Rd.



Cycle Lane, Dussindale



Public Footpath from Pound Lane to Cottage Drive

Housing, Planning and Development

North

Much of the housing built North of St Williams Way dates from the 1930's. There is a mix of bungalows and detached housing with good sized gardens.

South

Some of the houses on Yarmouth Road date back to medieval times. This is the area of Thorpe St Andrew with the oldest houses, as the original village developed on the banks of the river Yare.

There are leafy roads leading down to the river and some houses have large gardens. Small areas of woodland give Thorpe St Andrew a rural feel.

There have been newer developments added over time ranging from Victorian terraces to much grander houses built to have a good view of the river and fields in the distance. More modern developments have included blocks of flats.

There have been some small new housing developments in the last 5 years, and the renovation of some older buildings has taken place. Some large gardens have been developed.

East

This area has seen the greatest number of developments in the last 20 years, and is the area most likely to see further change. A large residential development termed the Dussindale housing area was built in sections, with the first houses put in 20 years ago. The housing is a mix of modern styles, ranging in size, affordable homes were also built. St Andrews Park residential area was built in 2002 and is to the South of Yarmouth Road. It is possible that further housing development could occur within this area.



Dussindale Housing

Results

One third of respondents said that they would not like to see any further development in Thorpe St Andrew, as it was already becoming overpopulated. The main sites identified for possible future development were nearly all North East of Thorpe St Andrew, near Dussindale Park and the Business Park. If future development were to take place, respondents felt that the most important issues to take into account were transport infrastructure, (67 responses) and the need to integrate buildings into the existing environment (54 responses).

Comments concerning future development indicated a good understanding of the issues including the need to consider sufficient provision of community facilities, adequate water supply, the need for affordable housing and good housing design, wildlife conservation and provision of green space.

70% of people felt that large gardens should not be subdivided to provide new development sites, and 59% would not support the placing of new telecommunication masts in Thorpe St Andrew to improve mobile phone coverage.

The council has been fortunate to receive sponsorship for some projects from local businesses. These include the Oaklands Hotel, Shalom Residential Care, GoWise Print, KallKwik, Computer service centre, Eyre Electrical, Lucas Fettes accountants, Wherry Housing, Radio Norwich, Tops Hairdressers and the RHP Partnership.

North

Businesses are mainly clustered on Thunder Lane, Plumstead Road and South Hill Road. These roads have newsagents, beauty salons, florists and hairdressers offering a friendly local service. There is a repair garage and petrol station on Thunder Lane, and a post office. Nearby is a printers and a shop selling articles for pets. Plumstead Road has the Woodside Pub, a shoe repair shop, DVD rental and take-away food shops. The Cottage pub occupies a site between Thunder Lane and Spinney Road. On the North side of St Williams Way are small businesses such as the Plug and Socket, a restaurant specializing in Thai food and The Millhouse pub. Norwich Camping has a 2 acre site on South Hill Rd.

South

A range of small businesses can be found along Yarmouth Road, Gordon Avenue and on the South side of St Williams Way. On St Williams Way there is a car sales garage, veterinary surgery a funeral parlour and a bank. On Gordon Avenue is the Gordon Pub, beauty salon, hairdressers and newsagent. Yarmouth Road boasts a range of hotels and public houses a newsagent, a post office and small businesses including architects, insurance and printing services. The Buck public house, Harley's café, the Rushcutters, and the Rivergarden, are all to be found adjacent to the river. The Oaklands Hotel, the Old Rectory and the Townhouse all have large attractive gardens and offer a range of food and accommodation.

Many of the pubs, hotels and restaurants occupy buildings of historic significance, and are sited in beautiful locations overlooking the River Yare.

East

Sainsbury's supermarket was built in the 1980's on Pound Lane, south of the Dussindale development and is currently the main superstore in Thorpe St Andrew.

On the north of Pound Lane is a popular gym and social club called the Oasis Sports and Leisure Club.

The land to the East of Dussindale has been primarily marked for business development. The St Andrews Business Park is north of the old St Andrews Hospital site off Yarmouth Road. Businesses here include Bannatyne's gym, Archant Print and Wherry Housing.

The Broadland Business Park is owned by Lothbury Property Trust. Businesses set up in the business park now include Brewsters, a Travelodge, Homeserve, Aviva (Norwich Union), Makro, Norfolk County Council Children's services department, Royal Bank of Scotland, Start-Rite Shoes, Bertram Books and the Café Ritazza. The park is gradually expanding on the North Site as new businesses looking for accommodation away from Norwich City move in and transport links develop.

Business



Radio Norwich Studio in Yarmouth Road



Furze Road Shops

Business (continued)

The Meridian business park lies south of Yarmouth Road and now houses a number of firms including St John Ambulance, Audi and Kester Cunningham John.

On Yarmouth Road is the Griffin Pub. Nearby, Griffin Lane runs to the river where City Boats and moorings can be found. City Boats run daily river trips to Norwich and the Broads. There are also other boatyards off Griffin Lane, and the Broads Authority has a base there.

Residents have good access to other market towns such as Aylsham, South Walsham and Wymondham via the A47 bypass.

The Town Council

The Town Council exists to serve and represent the community, and is the lowest tier of local government.

It does this by:

Liaising with other statutory bodies such as the District and County Councils and the Police

Ensuring that the precept (council tax) is spent wisely

Representing local people in relation to planning and development issues

Putting on community events

Maintaining the recreation grounds and community facilities

Dealing with street lighting and highways matters

Managing the allotments

Issuing bus passes and senior railcards

Liaising with people via newspapers and other forms of communication.

Every year the Council is required by law to hold a public meeting (the Annual Town Meeting) to inform people of the work carried out over the past year. The annual accounts are circulated and questions are welcomed on any subject concerning the Council's work.

Thorpe St Andrew is divided into 2 wards for district and town council political purposes - North West and South East. Elections are held which are always contested. The Town Council has 16 serving councillors. 8 are elected for each ward. It employs 9 staff and in 2008/9 managed a budget of £338755.00. The tax raised from each band D household in the same financial year was £53.69, and the total precept for the year was £281805.00. The precept is the money claimed from Broadland District Council.

The Town Council comes under the governance of Broadland District Council and is represented by 6 Broadland District Councillors. At County level, Thorpe St Andrew is governed by Norfolk County Council and represented by 2 Norfolk County Councillors. It is in the Norwich North parliamentary constituency.

Since 2007 the government has been considering introducing a Unitary Authority structure in Norfolk. A Unitary Authority would be responsible for all the services in its area.

Should Norwich become governed by a Unitary Authority, there is a possibility that Thorpe St Andrew could become part of a Greater Norwich conurbation.

The Government instructed the Boundary Committee to report back on the subject by mid-July 2009. Since then, further delays have occurred and the final outcome is uncertain.

Results

79% of respondents said they thought that council organisations should be left alone. Only 9 people indicated that they would like to see the introduction of unitary councils.

80% of respondents said they were happy with the services provided by Thorpe St Andrew Town Council. Some gave helpful suggestions as to how the council could improve its service to residents.

70% of respondents said they felt well informed about decisions and actions taken by the Town Council.

The council tax for Thorpe St Andrew is relatively low compared with other similar sized councils in Broadland. 60% of respondents said they knew what the tax was used for. The council may need to try and improve information given out, however, as 40% of people did not know. An overwhelming number of residents responding (83%) said that they would not be willing to pay more council tax to support new developments.

There was little support from respondents for the introduction of a youth council, but the number of responders with young people aged 11-21 in the household was very low.

According to the 2001 census figures there were 13,762 people in Thorpe St Andrew. 3063 (22%) were aged 0-19, 7895 (58%) were aged 20-64 and 2804 (20%) were aged 65 and above.

A large number of clubs and societies meet in Thorpe St Andrew, including Scout and Guide organisations, St John Ambulance, Thorpe Players, religious organisations, playgroups and nurseries, health organisations and social organisations such as gardening clubs, art clubs, the Rotary Club, the Royal British Legion branch, a Probus club (for professional and businessmen), a club for 5-10 year olds and a youth café for 10-14 year olds run by the Salvation Army, the Norfolk Botanical artists and a Bridge club.

The sports clubs include the St Andrews Cricket Club, St Andrews Football Club, Thorpe Rovers, Thorpe United, the Recreation Bowling Club, Thorpe (Kite) Flyers, Frostbite Sailing Club, Broadland Boat Club, Yare Boat Club, Badminton Club, Stanmore Tennis Club and a Petanque Club.

North

A new Morse Pavilion was built and officially opened by Sir Jeremy Morse in October 2005 to replace the old thatched building on Laundry Lane Recreation Ground. The original pavilion was donated to the parish in 1937 by Lady Morse who was a member of the Steward and Patterson brewing family.

The new pavilion has four team changing rooms, changing rooms for officials, a club room, a kitchen and external spectator toilets. There is also a grounds staff office and mess room in the building. It was funded by a grant from the Football Foundation and a loan from the Public Works Loan Board.

There is a bowls club to the south of Plumstead Road. The church of the Good Shepherd is located off Thunder Lane and an indoor Farmers Market is held regularly at the St Andrews Centre next to the church. There is a newly refurbished library called St Williams Way Library - the entrance is off St Williams Loke.

South

The parish church of Thorpe St Andrew Episcopi is located on the North side of Yarmouth Road opposite the River Green. There is also a chapel on Hillcrest Road and a Catholic church on St Williams Way.

Unfortunately the Norwich Union Pinebanks sports and social facility situated off White Farm Lane closed in September 2008 and at the time of writing the future of the site is uncertain.

The Village Hall situated on Yarmouth Road was built as a timber frame First World War Hospital Hut in 1916. It is becoming increasingly expensive to heat and maintain, and although well loved, and extremely well used, it is due for replacement.

It does not provide the facilities required of a modern community building in a large populated area in the 21st century. A review carried out by Norfolk Property Services in 2006 indicated that although the hall has had money spent on it, it will need even more spent on it in the long term.

A wide range of clubs and societies use the village hall, including Thorpe Players, a thriving amateur dramatic group.

Social and Community Facilities



Thorpe Players



Morse Pavillion, Laundry Lane

East

The Fitzmaurice pavilion is in the centre of Dussindale Park recreation area and was built in 1994 providing hall and kitchen space. This is hired by various community groups such as the Thorpe Playgroup and the Fusion youth café. Changing facilities are used by the Thorpe Rovers Football club and the cricket teams.

The Dussindale Centre was built in 1990 and has meeting room space, a large hall, kitchen, toilets and changing facilities. It is well used by a number of clubs and societies. It is managed by the Dussindale Park Community Trust. The Town Council Office is situated in the Centre and is open from Monday to Friday. (office@thorpestandrew-tc.org.uk) Further information about the Town Council's activities can be found on the website.



Village Hall, Yarmouth Road

Future Provision

One consideration for the town is the provision of community facilities. As mentioned, the Roxley Village Hall has a limited lifespan. The possible options for the future are:

1) Leaving things as they are and making no changes.

A large number of people in the community would continue to have restricted access to use of a community centre and the costs of running the old village hall will continue to increase.

2) Developing and updating the Village Hall.

The costs would be significant to update the building. The hall has insufficient meeting rooms and there is no room on the site to extend the building without reducing the car park to a very small size. There is limited disabled access and it is difficult to use for the partially sighted.

3) Building on the Recreation Ground at Laundry Lane.

The ground is owned by the Town Council and could be potentially built on. However, the space is currently used by Football Clubs and local residents and taken up by football pitches. There is insufficient parking and residents would be closer to the new building and more likely to be disturbed.

4) Building a new community building on the Dussindale Park site.

This site is central for Thorpe St Andrew and on higher ground than the existing village hall. There is currently some parking provision linked to the sports pavilion near the site. Building a new building could be the most cost effective option in the long term providing that the design is sustainable and maximises the use of renewable energy technologies. A new building could be linked with the current Fitzmaurice Pavilion.

Thorpe St Andrew has a population of approximately 14000 people of mixed ages. It requires a community hall which meets the current and future needs of local people. This would be a challenging and exciting project which would make a huge difference to the area.

Civic Award

In summer 2008 the town council introduced a Civic Award scheme. The council recognizes the value of clubs, societies and social activities because they bring the community together. The award is designed to give recognition to some of the people who devote hours of their time to keep these running.

The first people to be awarded the Civic Award in 2008 were Mr and Mrs Tarring who work tirelessly for the Thorpe St Andrew Royal British Legion Branch.

Results

69% of respondents wanted to see a new community building provided to replace the village hall, and 40% of people wanted to see the new building on the current village hall site. 16% said that they would like to see a new building in central Thorpe St Andrew. Some respondents pointed out that if facilities were all sited in the centre of Thorpe St Andrew, those in the south would be left without any community facility at all.

Unfortunately the number of households responding to this survey who had young people aged 11-21 living with them was very low. When asked if there was enough for teenagers to do in Thorpe St Andrew, 69% said that there was, or that they did not know.

In 1995 celebrations were held to mark the centenary of the Parish Council. The first Council meeting was held on 4th January 1895.

The Town Council has an Events Committee which was formed in 2001. Celebrations held in various locations in Thorpe St Andrew have included the Golden Jubilee celebrations (2002), musical evenings, fetes and football tournaments. In 2005 Trafalgar Day celebrations were organised, and in 2008 a successful St George's Day event was held for the first time.

In 2007 the Council held its first ceremony to switch on the Christmas lights at River Green. It has held a Christmas Concert annually for many years, and a Spring and Summer Event.

The Council believes that these events are instrumental in bringing the community together, and many local clubs and organisations are involved.

Events



St George's Day

68% of respondents said that they had attended an event organised by the town council and many added ideas for improving events held in the future.

Results

Public Facilities - Education, Police Services, Health Services



Thorpe St Andrew Secondary School



Dussindale Primary School

North

The main primary school in this area is St Williams Way which was built in the 1950's and the main entrance is St Williams Loke. Hillbillies Breakfast and After School Club is based here, taking pupils from St Williams, Hillside Avenue and Dussindale Schools.

The main secondary school for the whole area is Thorpe St Andrew School, which takes in pupils from a large surrounding area including the neighbouring villages of Postwick and Thorpe End. There are approximately 1700 pupils. The school occupies 2 sites and offers a wide range of subjects. It is a specialist sports college and in 2007 expanded its facilities to include an all weather football pitch which is also available for hire. The school also has status as a technology college and in 2007 a new technology building was built on the site. The school received a good rating in its latest Ofsted Report.

There is an Adult Education Centre on Longfields Road, and a Health Centre sited on St Williams Loke.

South

Hillside Avenue Primary and Nursery School was built in the 1950's. The grounds run west of Town Council allotments, between Hillside Avenue and Elizabeth Avenue at the North.

East

A new primary school built by the county council in 2007 also serves Thorpe St Andrew. This was the first new school to be built in Norfolk since 1978. Designed by Norfolk Property Services, the school is in the style of a ship and boasts brand new facilities and an Astroturf playground. The school will be open to all year groups by 2011.

Many residents in the East of Thorpe St Andrew are registered with a GP surgery on Woodside Road, just north of the Thorpe St Andrew boundary. The surgery linked with this is next to the Sainsbury's supermarket on the Pound Lane site. In addition, since 1998 there was an NHS Walk-In Centre on the same site. This was staffed by specialist nurses providing health care and advice from 7 am till 10pm. Approximately 5000 people a month used this facility, many of them travelling from outside Thorpe St Andrew. Sadly, the future of this centre was under review and it was eventually closed in 2009.

There is a dental surgery on Mary Chapman Close providing an NHS service. The Norvic Clinic is adjacent to the Business Park and the Norfolk Primary Care Trust has its main offices on the Business Park.

Policing

This is undertaken by Norfolk Constabulary who have responsibility for crime detection and prevention. The area police constables are based at Sprowston and there is a small base at Thorpe St Andrew High School.

The Community Safety Partnership comprises members of statutory organisations who work together to reduce crime and disorder. Individual organisations may not always have the power to resolve local issues, but by working together with the community and other organisations more problems can be resolved and more solutions found. Parish and town councils have a duty to consider the impact of all their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

There is a Broadland Homewatch Association which co-ordinates all Home Watch schemes in the area. These schemes are run by a committee of local volunteer co-ordinators.

In April 2007 Norfolk police introduced a community policing initiative as part of the Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative. The Thorpe St Andrew neighbourhood includes the parishes of Postwick and Witton. We have a team of 2 police constables and 4 Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) dedicated to the area and the team operates between 8 am and 12 midnight.

In August 2007 the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel (SNAP) met for the first time. The aim is to gain information about problems in Thorpe St Andrew and look at ways of tackling them. The public are warmly invited to attend and two members of the Town Council are part of the panel. Issues that have been given priority so far include anti-social behaviour, the irresponsible use of motor vehicles on residential roads and measures to improve the maintenance and discourage possible misuse of the public toilets on River Green.

In Summer 2008 local volunteers set up a Community Speedwatch Team. This is a Norfolk police initiative, which involves training members of the local community to check the speed of vehicles at certain times at designated points in their area.



Few questions were asked specifically about public services in the survey. No-one commented on school provision. The main comments about the health services were related to the possible closure of the NHS Walk-In Centre at Pound Lane, which was an extremely well used service. The NHS Walk-In Centre has closed and is due to open as a Sure Start childrens centre in Spring 2010. The NHS Walk-In Centre is now located at Castle Mall, Norwich.

Other issues raised related to policing. Crime in Thorpe St Andrew is in fact at a low level. The main remarks were about young people gathering and acting anti-socially and some residents said they would like to know who their local police were.

62% of respondents said that speeding traffic was a problem in their area and 29 people said that they would be willing to operate a speed gun to deter speeding motorists. Speeding was thought to be a problem on St Williams Way, Yarmouth Road, Dussindale Drive at the Plumstead Road end, Laundry Lane, South Hill Road, Spinney Road and Booty Road.

67% of respondents said that they would like their residential area to be in a No Cold Calling Zone.

Results

Action Plan



Action Plan

This is based on the responses given by local residents to the issues raised in the town plan questionnaire. The aim is to give priority to the views and needs of residents when making future decisions. The Action Plan will be circulated to all households via the Newsletter and placed on the website. A yearly appraisal will be undertaken at the Annual Town Meeting.

A number of objectives were identified along with the actions needed to achieve them, and some of these are already being implemented.

This is a summary of the aims and objectives of Thorpe St Andrew Town Council for January 2009 - April 2014.

Recreational Open Space and the Natural Environment

Objectives

- To aim to provide and maintain recreation areas for use by the local population.
- To support all projects which aim to enhance and preserve the character of Thorpe St Andrew.

The council will aim to:

- Protect open spaces and land where possible to allow the public to enjoy these areas.
- Support projects to maintain local marshland and important wildlife locations for the enjoyment of the population.
- Support projects which aim to seek grant funding to provide improved leisure facilities for the population.
- Promote the importance of the Conservation Areas.
- Consult and work with relevant organisations such as the Broads Authority, the CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England), the Norwich Fringe Project, RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) and DEFRA (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and Natural England.
- Support tree planting and preservation and liaise closely with the Town Tree Wardens and Broadland District Council.
- Support a scheme to provide a community garden within the boundaries of the Tree Plantation on Laundry Lane.
- Support a scheme to improve the environment at River Green while maintaining its unique character.
- Consider the possibility of producing a Green Plan for the town.
- Promote recycling in the town.
- Provide a Town Council skip in various locations at different times to discourage fly tipping.
- Take action if fly tipping is observed.
- Help keep the town litter free by maintaining and providing litter bins and employing a litter picker.

Action Plan

Transport

Objective

- To consider the overall impact on Thorpe St Andrew and outlying areas of new developments and plans issued by the County Council Highways department.

The council will aim to:

- Support all plans which aim to provide a safe, continuous flow of traffic through the area.
- Fully consider the needs of pedestrians and cyclists.
- Support the development of improved public transport networks.
- Work closely with local police and residents to address speeding issues in the town.
- Consult closely with the County Council Highways Department regarding traffic flow and intensity in relation to future development.
- Look at improving provision of cycle racks in the town.
- Work to support the provision of pedestrian crossings and any new highway safety measures.
- Continue to maintain bus shelters and look at the possibility of improving bus shelter provision.
- Monitor the provision of street lighting and give priority to less polluting lighting when new lights are required.

Housing and Plans for Future Development

Action Plan

Objective

- To consider the needs of residents when looking at proposed new planning developments for the town and to strive to preserve the character of the area.

The council will aim to:

- Work closely with all relevant authorities including Broadland District Council, Norfolk County Council, the Greater Norwich Development Partnership, the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), the Broads Authority and communications companies.

Action Plan

Political Structure and Finances

Objectives

- To provide a service for people in the town by utilising the precept wisely and ensuring that people receive value for money.
- To aim to consult with and represent the local population and work with them to make Thorpe St Andrew a pleasant place in which to live.

The council will aim to:

- Provide open and transparent accounts.
- Provide all staff employed by the council with good working conditions.
- Try and encourage town sponsorship for the financing of projects beneficial to the local population.
- Maintain a working relationship with local businesses, voluntary and church organisations, and improve communication with them and local people.
- Maintain a website with details of the Council's work and facilities available in Thorpe St Andrew.
- On notice boards provide written information to residents about the council's work and ensure that a regular publication goes out to all households in the town with details of the Town Council's work.
- Produce a progress report at the end of the year.
- Take into account the views of the majority of the local population on major local issues.
- Hold public meetings in addition to the Annual Public Meeting when there are major issues to discuss with local people.
- Continue to promote the Civic Award Scheme in the town, and an Achievement Award for younger people.
- Support the view that Thorpe St Andrew should remain as part of Broadland District Council and that no changes should be made to the current system of local government.
- Have plans in place to give guidance in the event of an emergency situation occurring involving any of the following:

Loss of electricity

Loss of water

Extreme weather

Fuel Shortage

Flooding

Chemical Spillage

Transport collision

Fire/explosion

Structure Collapse

Environmental pollution

Avian Influenza

Swine Flu

Social and Community Facilities

Action Plan

Objective

- To ensure that the town council buildings available for use by the population are maintained and in good working order.

The council will aim to:

- Check council owned buildings on a regular basis to ensure that they are clean and well maintained.
- Review the long term provision of such facilities, and consider the possibility of providing new ones.

Action Plan

Events

Objective

- To continue to provide a series of yearly events for the social well-being of people in the town.

The council will aim to:

- Continue to provide a Spring, Summer and Winter event each year in the town.

Crime and Policing

Action Plan

Objective

- To work closely with the police in conjunction with SNAP (the Safer Neighbourhood Action Plan) to monitor crime within the area and to promote initiatives which will help to make Thorpe St Andrew a safe and pleasant place to live in.

The council will aim to:

- Encourage and support initiatives such as Homewatch and Community Speedwatch which involve local people.
- Promote policies recommended by the police to address anti-social behaviour.
- Promote a multi-agency approach.
- Encourage residents to phone the Police on 0845 456 4567 to report crimes and incidents should they occur.

The Future

It is possible that Thorpe St Andrew could see further development. The Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 published by Norfolk County Council suggests that the Norwich sub region will see growth. The Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) have been consulting on where expansion could take place. The GNDP has brought together Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council, South Norfolk Council, Norfolk County Council and the Broads Authority to ensure that growth is carefully managed, and a Joint Core Strategy is to be produced.

Potential sites have been identified in and on the fringe of Thorpe St Andrew. Funding has been asked for from the government for the building of the Northern Distributor Road and Postwick Growth Hub. It is likely that there will be growth in the North East of the City.

It is important that the views of people are heard at the very early stage of the planning process.

The whole structure of local government in the region is currently under review and may well be changed. It is important that people engage in this process to ensure that the outcome produces a system of government which is beneficial to the local population.

One of the main challenges facing the population is climate change and its effects. Thorpe St Andrew Town Council is committed to playing a role in trying to reduce the risks of climate change. This involves working together with larger councils and the local community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Measures such as reducing waste and recycling, using energy saving devices and encouraging more sustainable methods of transport are all part of this.

The Norfolk Association of Local Councils announced in November 2008 that grassroots councils are best placed to reinvigorate local communities by rebuilding community spirit, stimulating local business and promoting local initiatives to tackle the global problem of climate change.

Communities are under more strain to survive than they once were and it is local people who are best placed to identify the problems and think of ways to tackle them.

Number of questionnaires analysed = 132

Recreational Facilities

1. The village hall on Yarmouth Road is old, energy inefficient and needs frequent repairs. Would you like to see a new community building to replace the village hall?

Yes	91
No	34

If you answered yes, where would you like to see a new building sited?

Current village hall site	53
Central Area of Thorpe St Andrew	21

If you answered no, would you like to see extensions or improvements to our existing community buildings?

Yes	9
No	8

2. Do you think that the play areas in Thorpe St Andrew are well maintained and fit for their purpose?

Yes	73
No	7
Don't know	52

3. Would you like to see any improvements to the recreation grounds?

Yes	37
No	31
Don't know	55

4. Do you use any local clubs or community centres?

Yes	72
No	58

5. The Council is considering the possibility of managing an area of marshland located between the south end of Whitlingham Lane and the River Yare. This could be developed into a recreational and conservation area, but would require funding and possibly volunteers in order to do so. Do you think the council should pursue this?

Yes	96
No	14
Don't know	21

Questionnaire Results

The statistical results are displayed here. A large number of comments were also received and are available on request from the Town Council office.

Transport

6. Would you like to see a station halt built on the Bittern Railway line close to the Business Park?

Yes	95
No	15
Don't know	22

7. Are you in favour of the County Council's plan to build a Northern Distributor road?

Yes	84
No	28
Don't know	20

8. Would you like to see more cycle stands in Thorpe St Andrew?

Yes	70
No	54

9. Are you aware of any parking problems or issues in your area?

Yes	89
No	34
Don't know	8

10. How important is the local bus service to you? (tick one box only)

Essential	63
Important	47
Not important	14
Do not use	8

11. Is speeding traffic a problem in your area?

Yes	82
No	49

12. Would you be willing to operate a speed gun occasionally as part of a programme to deter speeding motorists?

Yes	29
No	79
Don't know	22

13. Do you think there are any major 'danger spots' on the roads in Thorpe St Andrew?

Yes	88
No	18
Don't know	24

Local Government

14. Would you like to see unitary councils in Norfolk, or do you think the council organisations should be left as they are?

I'd like to see unitary councils	9
I think the council organisations should be left alone	104
Don't know	15

15. Are you happy with the service provided by Thorpe St Andrew town council?

Yes	106
No	11
Don't know	16

16. Do you think you are well enough informed about decisions and actions taken by the town council?

Yes	93
No	35

Planning and Development

17. Do you think large gardens should be subdivided to provide new development sites?

Yes	21
No	93

18. Would you support the placing of new telecommunication masts in Thorpe St Andrew to improve mobile phone coverage?

Yes	30
No	78
Don't know	23

Finance

Thorpe St Andrew Town Council charges a relatively low precept (annual tax) each year for the size of the community. We will receive £53.69 from each Band D household the 2008/9 financial year.

Do you know what your money is used for?

Yes	79
No	41
Don't know	11

Would you be willing to pay more council tax to support new developments?

Yes	20
No	110

If the council receive extra money not raised by council tax, which 2 projects would you most like to see it spent on? (tick two boxes please)

Improvements to River Green	51
Purchase of marshland by River Yare for walks and wildlife conservation	96
Improvements to our recreation grounds	30
New community buildings/improvements to current buildings	56

Community involvement and events

If you have a young person aged 11-21 in your household do they think the town council should have a youth council branch?

Yes	11
No	8
No one aged 11-21 in household	85

Do you think there is enough for teenagers to do in Thorpe St Andrew?

Yes	25
No	41
Don't know	66

Would you like your area to be in a no cold calling zone?

Yes	88
No	7
Don't know	12

Would you like to see more clubs/activities provided for older people in Thorpe St Andrew?

Yes	86
No	12
Don't know	34

Would you like to see a community garden in Thorpe St Andrew?

Yes	85
No	41

The town council has organised a number of events in the town (Christmas concert, Christmas light event on River Green, Spring fair, summer events). Have you attended any?

Yes	90
No	42

Would you like to be more involved in voluntary community activities such as helping the council with events?

Yes	22
No	105

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this area?

A: Agree

B: Disagree

C: Don't know

	A	B	C
People around here are friendly	119	8	5
People around here are willing to help	54	23	40
There is a strong community spirit	50	41	38
This area is changing for the better	31	41	46

Which of the following bother you at all in this area? (tick more than one if required)

Noisy neighbours	16
Dog noise and mess	45
Being pestered while walking around	5
Broken paving stones pavements	30
Rubbish/litter lying around	65
Street lighting	7
Traffic noise	27
Graffiti	11
People sniffing solvents	5
None of these	21

The Town Plan publication

A copy of this town plan has been sent to the main organisations which currently liaise with the council. These include Broadland District Council, Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Police, the Committee for the Protection of Rural England, The Norwich Fringe Project and The Broads Authority.

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Steven Ford – Town Clerk

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Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden

The Rushcutters

Norwich Theatre Royal

Norwich Castle and Museums service

Sainsburys

Butterflys Beauty Salon

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