



Community Groups Event Planning

Thurston Parish Council

Paper: Agenda Item 11 b – Feedback from recent meeting of community groups to initiate an event working group and consider a follow up meeting.

Reason: To enable continued progression of the creation of a community working group to organise a village event.

Period covered: None specified

Presented to Council: Full Council Meeting Wednesday 7th October 2026

Date: 02 October 2026

Author: Deputy Clerk

Community Groups Event Planning

Background

The Open Space & Leisure Committee supports the potential of a future event aimed at bringing together all Thurston residents, whilst recognising that such an event would rely on support and participation from a wide range of local groups, organisations and volunteers.

Following a resolution to determine any enthusiasm from local groups and organisations for coming together to plan and stage such an event the committee noted that any consideration of the format such an event would take would be down to any group created from an initial meeting with the intention that this be a collaborative working group and not a parish council run event.

A meeting of interested community groups was held on 8 September 2026 and opened by Cllr Rainbow with the intention that attendees input ideas and establish if there was an appetite for them to come together in forming a working group to take forward the planning of a village event.

During the meeting, attendees put forward a range of ideas and suggestions regarding the event. No proposals were made for the leadership or formation of a group to take responsibility for planning the event. However, approximately four or five attendees expressed an interest in participating in a working group if one were to be established.

The possibility of the Parish Council taking a lead role in planning the event was raised by some attendees. For context, the purpose of convening the meeting, as agreed by both the Open Space & Leisure Committee and the Full Council, was to bring together community groups and interested individuals to explore the potential for a community-led event, rather than for the Parish Council itself to organise and deliver it.

The meeting concluded with no group formed and no date fixed for a subsequent meeting.

Next steps

With some interest generated by the initial meeting it is thought that with some additional input from the parish council as one of the “community groups” this is a working group that can be established. Cllr Marsh is prepared to be on the group as a member of the public, with Cllr Smith also expressing an interest in joining the group.

For the avoidance of doubt, representation by parish councillors on the working group would not mean that the Parish Council is leading the planning or delivery of the event. Responsibility for developing proposals and determining whether and how an event proceeds would rest with the working group itself.

Another meeting now needs to be initiated to ensure that the people who expressed an interest in joining a working group can move forward.

Recommendation

Councillors are asked to consider the opportunity to invite residents and businesses, alongside community organisations, to participate in the establishment of a working group to explore and, if appropriate, develop proposals for a community event.

Councillors are also asked to consider whether to support the participation of Cllrs Marsh and Smith within the working group in a personal capacity as members of the community, rather than as representatives of the Parish Council.

Subject to agreement, a date will be agreed with councillors able to attend. Officers will support engagement and the call for volunteers to form the working group via social media posts, posters and an article for inclusion in the November newsletter