

Village Open Space Survey - What you told us & What happens next.

Over the past couple of months, we asked for your thoughts on our open spaces and play facilities in a bid to help inform the use, maintenance and development of these leisure facilities in Thurston. Unfortunately the number of responses was low however we are very thankful to those households who took the time to reply showing that they care about our community.

Key findings:

- **Access and inclusivity:** Some suggestions were put forward for new sensory equipment and extra equipment for older children. 75% of you felt there was not enough spaces for teenagers to socialise, play and relax.
- **Usage patterns:** 85% of respondents use the public footpaths with 73% saying the public path network was easy to access from their home. New Green Open Space and Church Road Recreation Ground are popular venues with open spaces mainly used for socialising, walking and dog exercise by those who responded.
- **Facilities:** Many of you would like to see more seating, more trees and planting and additional nature areas together with areas for teenage socialising and sporting activities and more natural play equipment.
- **Safety and maintenance:** The majority of people are more than satisfied with the safety, cleanliness and maintenance of the open areas and 42% feel that the current playgrounds meet the needs of family and friends.
- **Environmental sustainability:** There is a strong interest in providing bird boxes, rewilded areas and wildlife benefits.
- **Future opportunities:** Many people are keen to promote the benefits of providing a multi use games area and a wheeled sport facility. Others would like to see a designated dog walking area.

Top Feedback:

- More seating, bird boxes, rewilding.
- More natural play equipment and teenage social areas.
- A MUGA and a wheeled sport facility
- A designated dog walking area and continued improvements linking public footpaths.

Myth busting:

- There are already dog bins and litter bins provided and emptied by the parish council.
- There are circular walk footpath maps already available. You can pick up a hard copy from many of the community buildings in the village, the parish council office or access them online via the website <https://thurstonparishcouncil.gov.uk> or www.discoversuffolk.org.uk and search for Thurston walks.
- Our ranger works hard to keep pavements clear and edged back and swept of leaves.
- Potholes, uneven paths, flooding, broken street lights, overhanging vegetation, when reported to us, are promptly passed onto the relevant departments responsible for these issues at the District and County Councils.

Next Steps:

- Use all the input to inform future investment and development.
- Continue to seek suitable land and funding to provide the major projects.
- Promote the Biodiversity Open Day and Bird Box Project.
- Rewild, sow and plant.
- Look at the provision of natural play equipment.

Thank you for your input, your feedback helps shape change. We'll keep you updated as usual through the village newsletter, noticeboards, and our Website.