**Village Open Space Survey**

Thurston Parish Council is committed to ensuring that our public open spaces provide inclusive, accessible, high-quality sites that meet the needs and aspirations of our residents — now and in the future.

Our open spaces — including playgrounds, playing fields, green corridors, recreation areas — are vital to our physical and mental wellbeing. They also play a key role in:

* Promoting health and fitness
* Providing habitats for wildlife
* Supporting community events
* Offering safe spaces for children and families
* Encouraging local pride in our village

We are currently reviewing how these spaces are used, how they are maintained, and how they can be improved. As part of this process, we are seeking the views of residents to gather community feedback on:

* **Access and inclusivity**: Are our facilities accessible to all?
* **Usage patterns**: How are our open spaces currently used
* **Facilities**: Are there adequate amenities
* **Safety and maintenance**: How safe and well-kept are our open spaces?
* **Environmental sustainability**: How can we make these spaces eco-friendlier?
* **Future opportunities**: What would you like to see added or improved?

Your input will help inform future investment, development, and maintenance priorities.

**How to Take Part**

**Online Survey**: Use the link on our website <https://thurstonparishcouncil.uk>

**Paper Copies Available At**: Parish Council Office and Thurst Café at New Green Community Centre or The Library, Norton Road.  
**Email Feedback To**: admin@thurstonparishcouncil.gov.uk   
**Post Comments To**: Parish Council Office, New Green Centre IP31 3TG or drop in the letter box outside the door.

**Deadline for responses**: 31st October 2025

**What Happens Next**

All responses will be reviewed and used to inform the development of Open Space and Leisure facilities, and a summary of findings and next steps will be published on our website.

Thank you for your time and your input. Together, we can make our open spaces better for everyone.

# Section 1: About You

1. What age group do you belong to?

Under 11

11 – 17

18–30

31–50

51–70

Over 70

# Section 2: Current Use of Open Spaces

2. Which of the following open spaces do you use regularly? (Tick all that apply)

New Green Open Space

Thedwastre Play Park, New Green

Wildlife Garden, to the NE of New Green

Church Road Recreation Ground

Heath Road Play Area

Thurston Park Open Space,

(between Church Road and Norton Road)

Public Footpaths

Cycle Paths

Other (please specify)  …………………………………

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3. What activities do you typically engage in? Tick all that apply

Walking

Sports

Dog walking

Relaxation

Socialising

Other (please specify)  …………………………………………………………………….

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4. How often do you use public paths for walking, cycling, or other activities?

(Frequently, occasionally, never) ……………………………………….

5. How often do you use the play equipment at New Green, Heath Road or Church Road Recreation Ground?

(Daily, weekly, monthly, rarely, never) ….………………………………

6. How often do you use the open green spaces at New Green, Thurston Park or Church Road Recreation Ground?

(daily, weekly, monthly, rarely, never) …………………………………..

# Section 3: Satisfaction and Accessibility of local open spaces

7. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of local open spaces?

(Rate from 1 – Very Dissatisfied to 5 – Very Satisfied):

Cleanliness \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Safety \_\_\_\_\_\_

Accessibility for all ages and abilities \_\_\_\_\_\_

Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_\_

Biodiversity and natural features \_\_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you feel that the current playgrounds meet the needs of your children, family and friends?

(Yes/No/Not sure) …………………….

# Section 4: Future Improvements for local open spaces

9. What improvements would you like to see in our village open spaces? (Tick all that apply)

More seating

Improved paths

More trees and planting

New play equipment

Nature areas

Other (please specify)  …………………………………………….

10. What types of activities or amenities do you feel are missing from our open spaces?

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11. Would you support community-led initiatives to enhance our open spaces?

(e.g., volunteer days, biodiversity projects)?

Yes  What type of project? ……………………………………………………………

No

12. Should additional open space become available in the village how would you like to see

this developed? (For example – formal parkland, informal nature reserve, dog walking

areas, Multi Use Games Area, Wheeled sport)

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Section 5: Playgrounds

13. What improvements would you like to see in our playgrounds? Tick all that apply

More equipment

More shade

Better safety features

More natural play areas

New sensory equipment

Other  ………………………………………………………

14. Do you feel there are enough spaces for teenagers to socialize, play sports, or relax in

public areas?

(Yes/No/Not sure) ………………………………..

15. What types of facilities would make public spaces more attractive for teenagers?

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| **Section 6: Public footpaths**  16. Are the public footpaths easy to access from your home or stating point?  (Yes/No/Not sure) ………………………………..  17. Have you encountered any accessibility issues (e.g. stiles, gates, uneven surfaces?)  No ☐  Yes (please describe) ☐ ………………………………………………………………………..  18. What types of improvements would encourage you to use public paths more often?  ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………  ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………  …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….. |

# Section 7: Final Thoughts

Do you have any other comments or suggestions about open space provision in the village?

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