

# Thornhill Futures Questionnaire April 2021

## 1. Introduction

The Thornhill Futures Group comprises of Thornhill residents from all walks of life who have come together to prepare a vision for the future of Thornhill. A questionnaire was developed to ask the entire community what they like about the area and how they would like it to be in the future. It also asked residents how life had been for them during the past year when the COVID-19 pandemic had had such an impact. The questionnaire was circulated to all households, and also available online. It took place in April 2021.

## 2. Main Findings

- There were 110 household responses to the survey from the Thornhill Community, representing the views of 303 individuals.
- The exact number of households within Thornhill and its surrounding area is estimated to be around 375, giving a response rate of approximately 30%, which is significantly higher than the typical response rate of between 15-20% for this type of survey.
- The largest age group of individuals whose ages were submitted in the questionnaire responses was 31-45 (21.5% - 65 persons), closely followed by those aged 46-60 (21.1% - 64 persons). The age brackets with the least were age 12-18 (4.6% - 14 persons) and age 75 and over (5.9% - 18 persons).
- As well as obtaining the views from across all age brackets. The survey was completed by 50 households, comprised of two or more adults with no children, and 47 households containing one or more adults with dependent children. A further 11 were one-person households.
- The number of individuals working from home has almost doubled from 56 to 102 since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and it is anticipated to increase again to 124 persons working from home either full time or part week in the future.
- Over three quarters (76.1%) of respondents said that what they liked most about living in Thornhill was the countryside, the views and wildlife. This was closely followed by how Thornhill is a friendly place with a strong sense of community (70.6%).
- The top three things which respondents felt would make Thornhill a better place to live were: better amenities – café, larger shop, village hub (43.5%); improved paths and cycleways (30.6%); and traffic calming, and/or bypass/less traffic on Main Street (26.9%).
- The most difficult problem faced by the COVID-19 pandemic was the inability to see family and friends (33.3%) followed by social isolation/loneliness (15%), a lack of activities (14%) and juggling child care (10%). A further 10% of respondents stated that they had not faced any difficulties.
- Respondents felt that the thing that had improved the most during the COVID-19 pandemic was community spirit (67%). Conversely, 7% of respondents felt that nothing had improved.

## 3. Methodology

A paper questionnaire was developed and piloted by members of the Thornhill Futures Group and a copy can be found in Appendix 3.

There were four key questions in addition to obtaining demographic information.

- **What do you most like about living in Thornhill?**
- **What would make Thornhill a better place to live?**
- **What has improved during the Covid pandemic?**
- **What have been the most difficult problems during the Covid pandemic?**

A Microsoft Forms version was also created which included an additional question at the start to establish that those responding lived in Thornhill and its immediate surrounding area. This enabled residents to complete the questionnaire either online or on paper and ensured that everyone had the opportunity to express their views.

The survey asked respondents to include the views of everyone in their household so that the opinions of the whole community, young and old alike, were obtained.

The paper version of the questionnaire was included in the Thornhill Views newsletter issue 43, which was distributed to all households over the weekend of 2-4<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Households were asked to either, complete the paper version and drop it into the village store, or to complete the online version. The original closing date for the questionnaire was the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, however, to maximise returns this was extended until the 19<sup>th</sup> of April.

To further publicise the questionnaire details of the electronic link was emailed to all members of the Thornhill Community Trust. Texts were sent to various community groups including Thornhill Village Help, Thornhill Primary School Parents and Thornhill Toddlers and Playgroup. It was advertised on the Thornhill Views and Thornhill Community Facebook pages and an article was included in the Stirling Observer.

Once the closing date had passed all paper forms received were input to the Microsoft Form by volunteers. The data was then extracted and input into an Excel spreadsheet where the analysis took place. A thematic analysis was undertaken of the qualitative questions to identify key themes for each of the four questions.

## **4. Respondents Profile**

### **4.1 Total number of respondents**

112 paper or electronic forms were completed. Of these, two of the respondents to the electronic survey indicated that they did not live within Thornhill or the surrounding area. They have been excluded from this analysis.

The exact number of households within Thornhill and its surrounding area is unknown. Through looking at dwellings on the most recent OS map of the area and considering the distribution of the local Thornhill Views newsletter, it is estimated that the number of households is between 350 and 412. The overall response rate from eligible households is between 27% - 32%. This is a high response rate for surveys of this nature that typically receive response rates of between 15 – 20%.

### **4.2 Household details**

#### **Household age profile**

When completing the questionnaire, each respondent was asked to take account of the views of everyone in their household. Therefore, the responses represent the views of 303 individuals. Figure 1 illustrates the number of individuals within each age band.

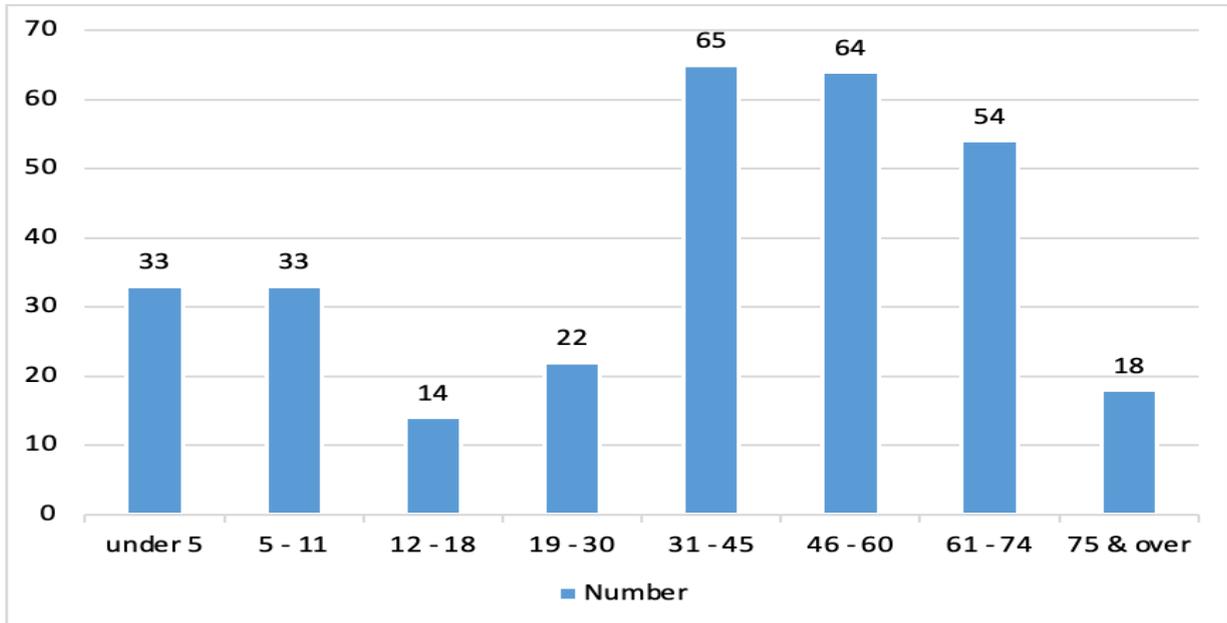


Figure 1: Age breakdown of respondents

### Household composition

Figure 2 illustrates the household composition of each household that responded to the questionnaire.

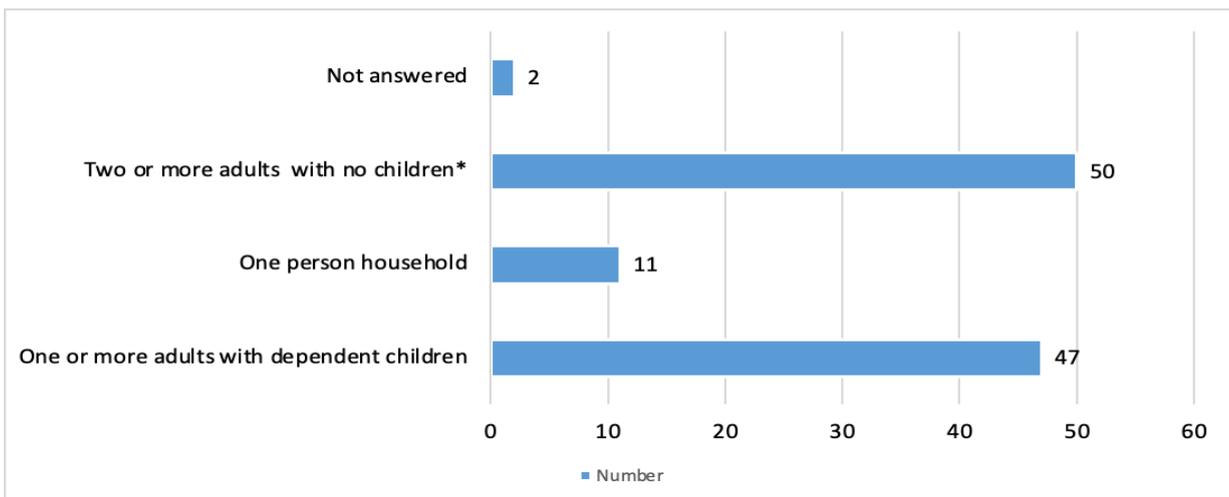


Figure 2: Household Composition

### 4.3 Home working

Respondents were asked a range of questions regarding the home working patterns of their household. Currently 41 households (37%) have no-one working from home, 35 households (32%) have one person and 34 (31%) have two people.

Figure 3 illustrates how the number of individuals working from home has almost doubled since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and how this is anticipated to increase again when pandemic restrictions cease.

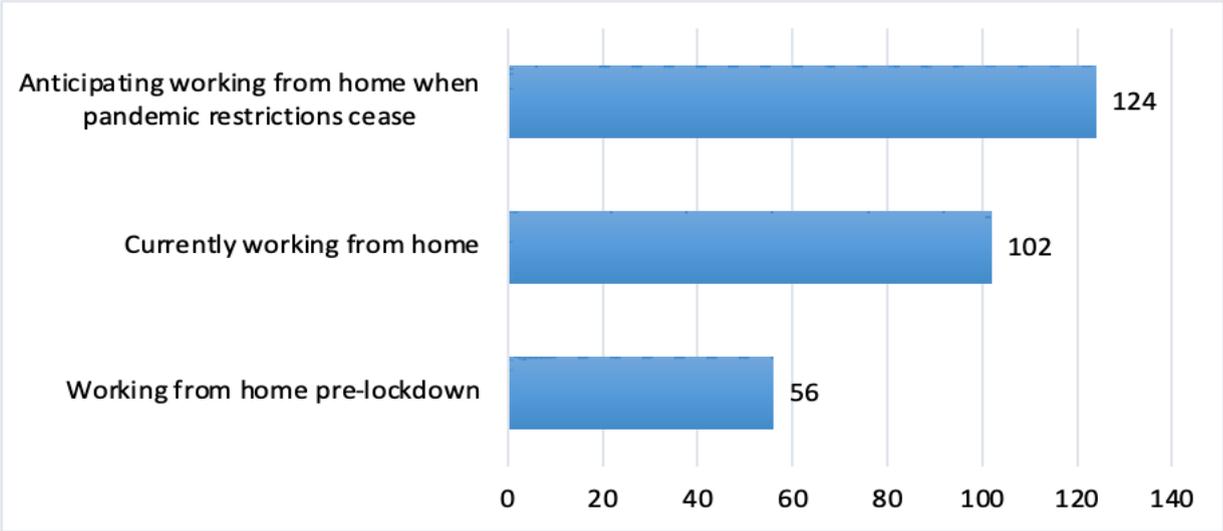


Figure 3: Numbers of individuals working from home in the past, currently and anticipated in the future

For the 124 individuals who anticipate working from home when the pandemic restrictions cease, Figure 4 illustrates their anticipated frequency of working from home. 53 (43%) anticipate working from home part-time on specified days, 44 (36%) full-time and 27 (22%) occasionally.

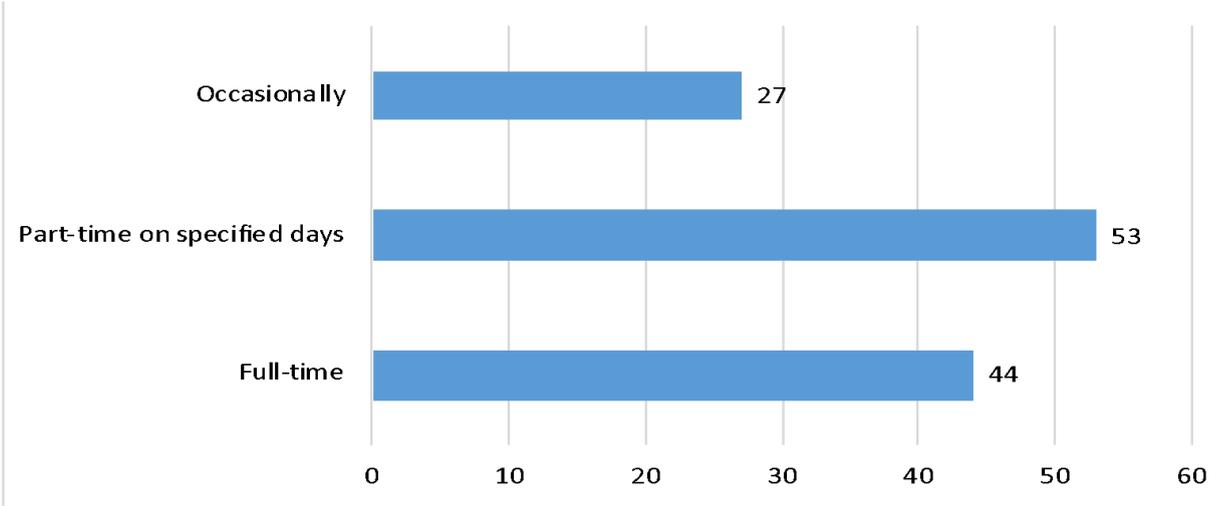


Figure 4: Anticipated frequency of working from home when the pandemic restrictions cease

## 5. Survey Results

### 5.1 Living in Thornhill

109 of the respondents stated what they most liked about living in Thornhill and its surrounding area. Figure 5 illustrates the key themes respondents mentioned in their answers. Two themes featured in the majority of responses: over three quarters, 76%, liked the countryside, views and wildlife; and 71% of respondents mentioned how friendly Thornhill was and about its sense of community.

The smashing wee village category pulls together a range of responses, 12%, that describes Thornhill as being a lovely small, compact village. Five respondents mentioned how they appreciated the undeveloped nature of the village.

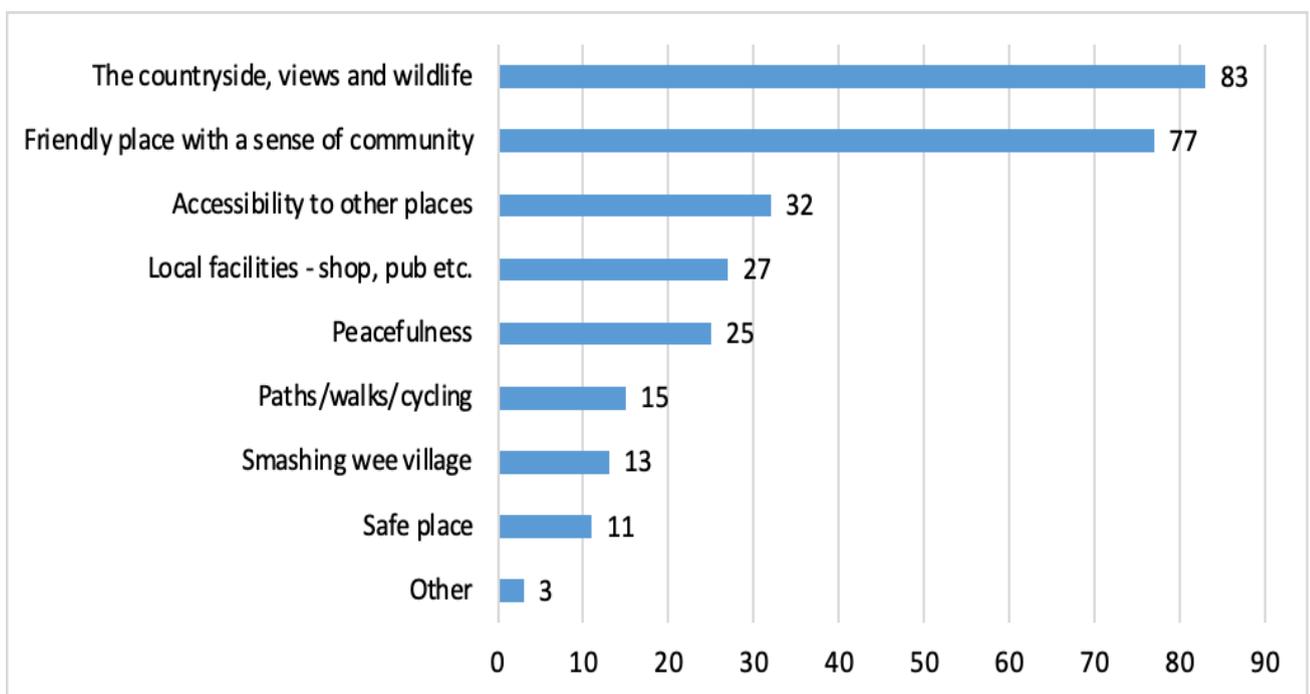


Figure 5: What respondents most liked about living in Thornhill and the surrounding area

The results from the questionnaire echo the comments made during a series of Zoom meetings that led to the establishment of the Thornhill Futures Group. There were no real surprises and there is a sense is that Thornhill is a place at one with itself.

The shop and pub were highly rated and the community hall was identified as a valuable resource but this is about the limit of accessible community facilities. The peacefulness of the village and the safety were also highlighted in the responses.

Kindness, friendliness and an attractive environment that is accessible to the cities and the outstanding surrounding landscapes all contribute to this positive sense of place.

## 5.2 Potential improvements

108 respondents stated what they felt would make the Thornhill community a better place to live and thrive. Figure 6, illustrates the key themes respondents mentioned in their answers. The three most popular suggestions were: improved amenities including a café, larger shop and a community hub (44%); improved paths and cycle ways (31%); and traffic calming and/or a bypass/less traffic on Main Street (27%).

Housing was highlighted by 13% of respondents. Nine responses stated that they felt that there should be no large developments or expansion of the village beyond the village envelope. Five responses mentioned the need for more housing including retirement homes, social housing for rent and affordable homes for first time buyers. Where they indicated that they accepted that some development would be beneficial it was stated that this should be on a scale and keeping with the character of the village. This group of responses were in-line with the 13 (12%) of respondents who under the previous question stated that one of the things they liked most about Thornhill was that it was a 'smashing wee village'.

The improve village environment category (19%) included a range of practical suggestions: the need for more litter bins; to make better use of the village noticeboard; improved seating; and to create a place to easily park and lock bikes. There were also a few responses suggesting the village should encourage biodiversity and a wider appreciation of our natural environment. Suggestions were also made for a community woodland and a community garden.

Four respondents mentioned the need for more local employment opportunities. However, the other category includes two comments expressing the desire for a local employer at Burnside works to close as it is an eyesore and a further one requesting that a field of biomass fuel is removed from the outskirts of the village.

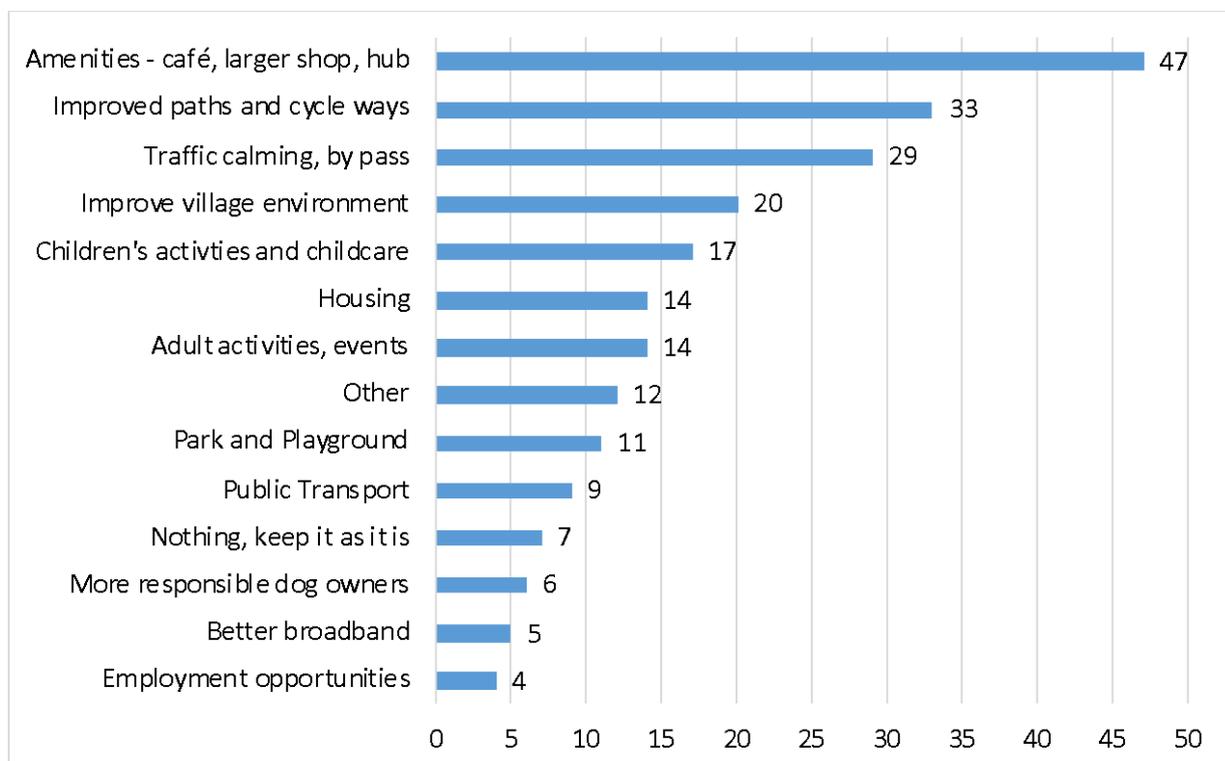


Figure 6: What respondents felt would make Thornhill a better place to live and thrive

Despite the high regard for its shop and pub, the Thornhill community lacks a range of facilities and as more people were based in Thornhill during the Covid lockdown, the desire for places where the community could meet became the most cited issue. This desire will probably continue as the number of people working from home has more than doubled post Covid.

The call for a café/community/work hub at the heart of the village stems partly from those working from home but also from other groups such as parents of school children and older residents keen to have a more informal meeting place. This ambition for a village centre also extends to an outdoor location, which would act as a focal point in the village that has had no obvious centre since the closure of the post office.

The high level of responses highlighting the need to improve paths and cycle ways is unsurprising. The existing core paths network was a vital resource during lockdown but requires upgrading, made suitable for all weathers and for children in buggies and the disabled.

Equally important is the need to establish active travel routes and connections to adjacent communities and attractions. The roads leaving Thornhill are narrow and fairly busy with fast moving vehicles; they are totally unsuitable for walking and only used by experienced cyclists. There is a manifest frustration that compared to nearby communities, which have a network of footpaths and cycle ways, that Thornhill is an isolated community with no active travel routes to adjacent communities.

The busy Main Street was considered by many to be a key issue to be tackled. The recent speed restrictions have not significantly slowed the traffic that appears to have increased since lockdown with more home deliveries, National Park traffic and additional traffic using the B822 road to Callander. The narrow pavements and close proximity of houses to the road amplify the noise and air pollution levels and there is a strong desire for more effective traffic calming and/or a by pass to lessen the traffic and improve the village environment.

There were also suggestions for the creation of a community woodland or garden where people could meet. The improvement of some buildings, the public domain and derelict or neglected land on the edge of the village was highlighted as was the need for a greater focus on sustainability.

Whilst the primary school is well regarded, there is a sense that there is a lack of space and other activities for children and young people are limited. This may be a reflection of the closure of some activities during the pandemic but requires more detailed discussions with parents and young people.

There was a widespread agreement that there should be no major housing developments but that any new housing should be within the village envelope and meet the needs for some social housing for the elderly, young families and in keeping with the traditional vernacular of the village.

The lack of activities available in the village for young people and adults was compounded by the absence of public transport to Callander, Doune and Kippen where schools and sports facilities, medical centres and a wider range of services were available.

There were also concerns about dog fouling and poor broadband reception outwith the village.

### 5.3 What respondents felt had been their most difficult problems/challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic

105 respondents stated what had been their most difficult problems during the COVID-19 pandemic. Figure 7 illustrates the key themes respondents mentioned in their answers.

The key most difficult challenge mentioned by a third of respondents had been the inability to see family and friends, 33.3% . Other significant issues were the lack of activities available, in particular for children 14.3% and social isolation and loneliness, 15.2%.

Work and employment issues had been problems for 12 respondents for reasons of working from home, reduced income or uncertainty of business. Juggling work and childcare and home schooling was also identified as a key issue by parents.

10.5% of respondents stated that they had faced no additional problems.

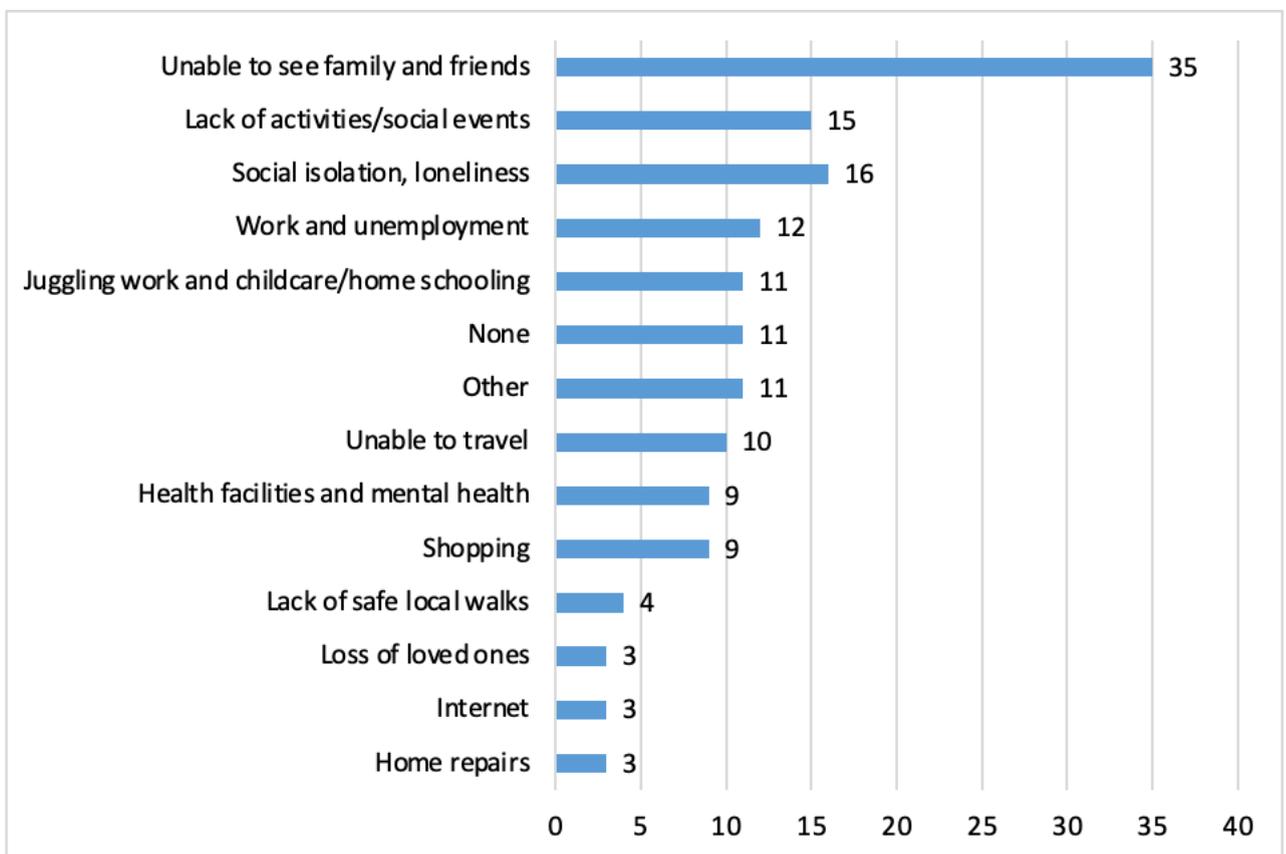


Figure 7: What respondents felt had been their most difficult problems/challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic

### 5.4 What respondents felt had improved in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic

102 respondents stated what they felt had improved in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Six (5.9%) of those who had responded stated that they were unable to answer this question. Reasons for this included not living in the community long enough or that they lived outside of the village so were unaware of any potential improvements.

Figure 8 illustrates the key themes respondents mentioned in their answers. Two thirds 66.7% (68) of respondents stated that they felt that the community spirit within Thornhill had improved and noting the positive impacts of this.

13.7% stated that they had appreciated the appearance of the village, the wildlife and environment. 12.7% (13) referred to the greater use of local facilities and the way in which localism had become more apparent during the pandemic.

Only seven respondents (6.9%) stated that they felt nothing had improved.

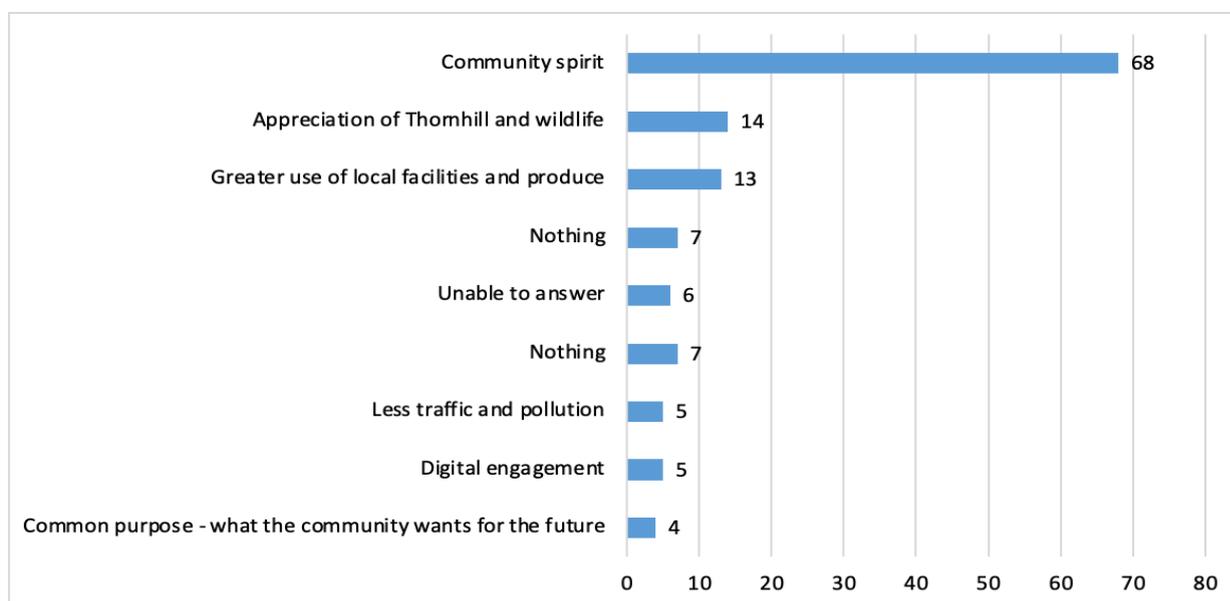


Figure 8: What respondents felt had improved in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic

## Appendix 1: Frequency Tables

### 1. Respondents profile (n=109)

	Number	Percent
under 5	33	10.9%
5 - 11	33	10.9%
12 - 18	14	4.6%
19 - 30	22	7.3%
31 - 45	65	21.5%
46 - 60	64	21.1%
61 - 74	54	17.8%
75 & over	18	5.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### 2. Household composition (n = 110)

	Number	Percent
One or more adults with dependent children	47	42.7%
One person household	11	10.0%
Two or more adults with no children*	50	45.5%
Not answered	2	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* This may a couple, a group of adults house sharing or one of more parents with non-dependent children

### 3. Working from home (n=110)

	Number
Working from home pre-lockdown	56
Currently working from home	102
Anticipating working from home when pandemic restrictions cease	124

### 4. The way people anticipate working from home when restrictions cease (n=110)

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Full-time	44	35.5%
Part-time on specified days	53	42.7%
Occasionally	27	21.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**5. What respondents most like about living in Thornhill (overall themes – all responses in Appendix 2) (n=109)**

	Number	Percent of responses
The countryside, views and wildlife	83	76.1%
Friendly place with a sense of community	77	70.6%
Accessibility to other places	32	29.4%
Local facilities - shop, pub etc.	27	24.8%
Peacefulness	25	22.9%
Paths/walks/cycling	15	13.8%
Smashing wee village	13	11.9%
Safe place	11	10.1%
Other	3	2.8%

**6. What respondents felt would make Thornhill a better place to live (overall themes – all responses in Appendix 2) (n=108)**

	Number	Percent of responses
Amenities - café, larger shop, hub	47	43.5%
Improved paths and cycle ways	33	30.6%
Traffic calming, by pass	29	26.9%
Improve village environment	20	18.5%
Children's activities and childcare	17	15.7%
Housing	14	13.0%
Adult activities, events	14	13.0%
Other	12	11.1%
Park and playground	11	10.2%
Public transport	9	8.3%
Nothing, keep it as it is	7	6.5%
More responsible dog owners	6	5.6%
Better broadband	5	4.6%
Employment opportunities	4	3.7%

**7. What respondents felt were their most difficult problems during the COVID-19 pandemic (overall themes – all responses in Appendix 2) (n=105)**

	Number	Percent of responses
Unable to see family and friends	35	33.3%
Lack of activities/social events	15	14.3%
Social isolation, loneliness	16	15.2%
Work and employment	12	11.4%
Juggling work and childcare/ home schooling	11	10.5%
None	11	10.5%
Other	11	10.5%
Unable to travel	10	9.5%
Health facilities and mental health	9	8.6%
Shopping	9	8.6%
Lack of safe local walks	4	3.8%
Loss of loved ones	3	2.9%
Internet	3	2.9%
Home repairs	3	2.9%

**8. What respondents felt had improved during the COVID-19 pandemic (overall themes – all responses in Appendix 2) (n=102)**

	Number	Percent of responses
Community Spirit	68	66.7%
Appreciation of Thornhill and wildlife	14	13.7%
Greater use of local facilities and produce	13	12.7%
Nothing	7	6.9%
Unable to answer	6	5.9%
Other	6	5.9%
Less traffic and pollution	5	4.9%
Digital engagement	5	4.9%
Common purpose - what the community wants for the future	4	3.9%

## **Appendix 2: Qualitative comments from the questionnaire**

### **a. What do you most like about living in Thornhill and its surrounding area?**

#### **Surrounding countryside including views & wildlife – 83**

1. Countryside
2. The landscape
3. The scenery
4. The views
5. In an area of natural beauty
6. The countryside
7. Scenery
8. Countryside
9. Views
10. The wonderful views that I have across the Carse of Stirling and to the hills to the west and north
11. The views
12. The rural atmosphere
13. The countryside
14. Countryside
15. Dark skies, Wildlife and birds, Spectacular views
16. The views from my cottage
17. Rural location, green space
18. Countryside
19. The lovely views to the south
20. Location and views
21. Surrounding countryside/scenic views
22. The countryside
23. Countryside Views
24. Nice area
25. Rural location
26. And we have the most amazing views
27. Where we farmed is in National Park and now looks neglected due to many farms (dairy) being sold to non-farming. Around this area is how well-farmed land should be
28. The rural nature

29. Rural location
30. The location - beautiful local scenery
31. You're never far from nature
32. The community green spaces on the North and South Commons and the wildlife we see there
33. The Views
34. Easy to access Nature, Beautiful surroundings
35. Beautiful scenery
36. Stunning scenery
37. Nature, great countryside and views
38. and beautiful scenery
39. and beautiful surroundings
40. Countryside
41. Easy access to beautiful countryside, woodland walks, lochs etc
42. The views
43. Access to rural habitats
44. The beautiful countryside
45. The beautiful views
46. Wide open spaces a joy.
47. Rural location
48. Beautiful scenery on doorstep
49. Beautiful area
50. Easy access to outdoors
51. Green spaces around the village and area
52. In a beautiful rural area
53. The Landscape - Flanders Moss and the big skies, wildlife
54. Everything – location, countryside
55. The beautiful surroundings
56. Connection with nature (esp. since Covid)
57. I like the feeling of openness- (both among the people) and for the views
58. Enjoying the countryside
59. Countryside
60. Beautiful countryside, open spaces, clean air
61. Surrounding countryside

62. Living in the country
63. The views
64. That there are amazing views
65. Beautiful surroundings, views
66. Birdlife, landscape, open skies, wildlife, distant mountains, lochs and glens
67. Access to the Trossachs
68. Access to Trossachs
69. Access to nearby countryside.
70. Access to Countryside
71. Access to Green space and wild places
72. Superb views
73. Beautiful rural countryside and stunning views of the mountains and Carse
74. with beautiful surroundings and views
75. I love living in the countryside surrounded by such beautiful scenery
76. Beautiful place
77. Space, views
78. The views from almost anywhere
79. The beautiful countryside
80. Surrounding space, views
81. Rural living
82. and access to the surrounding countryside, I love outdoor swimming and walking.
83. Beautiful unspoilt countryside,

### **Friendly place with a sense of community – 77**

1. People
2. The people
3. The friendly nature of the people in and around Thornhill
4. Very friendly and close community
5. It's nice small community
6. The community
7. Friendly residents
8. Small friendly community
9. Close knit community

10. Small friendly community that looks out for each other
11. The sense of community
12. Pleasant community
13. The community
14. Friendly, (*quiet*) and nice community spirit
15. Friendly area
16. The strong community feeling
17. Friendliness
18. My neighbours
19. Friends
20. Community of the village
21. My friends
22. Friendly feeling of community
23. The people
24. Small community atmosphere
25. nice folk, helpful folk
26. Friendships developed over the time we have lived here
27. Friendly atmosphere
28. Having lived in large cities, it's the sense of community that impresses me most
29. Friendly people. Small enough to genuinely look out for everyone
30. Retired here from farming in Stirlingshire/Dunbartonshire. We love the friendliness and rural aspect of the village with good mix of all ages
31. Friendly Community
32. Friendly People
33. Sense of Community, People
34. Community.
35. The friendly people
36. Sense of community
37. The community,
38. Considerate & friendly population, generally I feel I can get to know my neighbours
39. The friendly village
40. Community spirit
41. Lovely, friendly village with great community feel
42. Nice rural community, People are supportive without being interfering

43. Not a them and us community
44. Friendly welcoming atmosphere
45. Friendly people
46. Village community
47. Nice community
48. Friendly community
49. The friendly people - especially manifested during lockdown
50. Everyone is so friendly due to the rural atmosphere.
51. Community spirit, friendliness. I've lived here all my life
52. The amount of community activity & willingness to work together.
53. I like the feeling of openness- both among the people (*and for the views*). We've enjoyed the small village atmosphere and friendliness
54. That the village is friendly, there is a lot of energy in the community for it to be a lovely place to live
55. Community: supportive friends and neighbours
56. Sense of community
57. People
58. And friendly atmosphere
59. I like the fact that it is not a dormitory village but one with a diverse range of people which includes newcomers and members of long established families. It is friendly and there always seem to be people willing to get involved in activities and organisations. A genuine community
60. Sense of Community, Social Mix
61. Good community spirit
62. Friendly people..... feeling part of a strong community
63. Wonderful community
64. Friendly People
65. Friendly and easy to get to know people, active community, trust
66. A village atmosphere. Community spirit. The village is cared for
67. Good community spirit within Thornhill
68. Thornhill is a smashing wee village to live in due to the friendliness of its residents
69. Good, friendly neighbours
70. Friendly,.....and a nice community spirit
71. Community spirit, ..... diversity
72. Friendliness
73. The small community feel

- 74. Small but lovely community
- 75. People who lead busy lives elsewhere get refreshed by coming here
- 76. Micro climate- sunnier & less rainfall than nearby communities
- 77. Having the welcome pack delivered helped to break the ice as well as being informative.

### **Accessible to other places– 32**

- 1. The accessibility to everything
- 2. It's only ten minutes from the motorway.
- 3. Close proximity to good schools and children activities facilities
- 4. Proximity to rail links/motorways
- 5. Very central for travelling to towns
- 6. Convenience and good connections.
- 7. (*Rural*) but yet close to amenities in Stirling
- 8. (*Rural*) but also easy access to both the mountains and the cities
- 9. Proximity to transport links
- 10. Quick access to Stirling.
- 11. The proximity to the national park and wilderness, the mountains
- 12. Central location with easy access to cities and countryside (E,N,S & W)
- 13. Easy to commute to larger towns/villages and Stirling
- 14. Central to get to cities
- 15. Handy for Stirling and motorways. Close to Callander
- 16. Close to Stirling, Callander and Aberfoyle
- 17. Close to Stirling
- 18. Very central.
- 19. Being close to the big city AND the mountains
- 20. The geographic central location - relative ease of access to motorway and mainline station
- 21. Location: Easy access to lovely country and also to work and family in central Scotland
- 22. I also like the variety of ..... and outdoor leisure activities that are within easy reach.
- 23. and location
- 24. Proximity to nature and to urban areas.
- 25. Good access to Stirling

26. Good location for travelling to other parts of Scotland
27. Being in a rural environment and not too far from urban facilities
28. proximity to central belt cities and airports, access to countryside within close proximit
29. Central location with easy access to walks, cycle tracks etc.
30. The proximity to Stirling, and ease of access to many outdoor pursuits
31. The fact that we are close enough to Stirling and access to Glasgow and Edinburg but far enough away that we feel we live in the country
32. Close to Stirling and good schools

### **Local facilities – shop, pub etc. 27**

1. Thornhill also has a lovely pub serving real ale and good pub style food, with a friendly atmosphere and staff
2. A reasonably well stocked shop with wonderful friendly and chatty staff. Thanks very much Robert, Morag and the rest of the team
3. The village shop as well as 2 great farm shops
4. Robert's shop - provides a great local service. Lion and Unicorn - great to be able to walk to a decent pub/restaurant
5. Friendly shop, Pub, Good primary school
6. The number of community activities
7. The pub and the shop are great local amenities that are a core part of the community
8. Robert's shop and the school
9. High amenity
10. Lovely school and playpark, L&U and the shop
11. Good little play park
12. Short drive to Woodhouse/Smiddy and other decent cafes/farm shops mix. Friendly village pub
13. The Lion and Unicorn is always friendly and welcoming
14. Good Pub
15. The shop and the pub
16. The village store's role in village life
17. Presence of a school, Shop
18. Small primary school
19. Lots going on, North and South Commons
20. Local Shop, North and South Commons, Thornhill Views

21. Access to basic amenities (bus stop, shop, pub within walking distance), excellent community newsletter, excellent mobile library service and good primary school with caring values
22. Good services - shop, bus, library, post office, health centre, numerous organisations
23. Lots of events usually on within the villages in the surrounding area
24. Wonderful shop, adequate bus service for our present needs. Good medical cover
25. Lots to do
26. Shop, Pub, Woodhouse and Smiddy
27. Community events, pub meals

### **Peacefulness – 25**

1. Peace and quiet
2. Peacefulness
3. The relative piece and quiet, with the exception of roaring motorbikes hurtling up/down the B822 and along the Thornhill Aberfoyle Road
4. Quiet
5. The quiet atmosphere
6. Quiet
7. The peace and quiet.
8. Nice and peaceful
9. It's peaceful
10. Less People, Quiet
11. Generally not noisy (no loud music, street arguments, heavy traffic)
12. it's quiet
13. Quiet
14. The quiet streets
15. The quiet
16. I enjoy how quiet and peaceful the area is.
17. Peace and quiet
18. Rural peace and quiet.
19. General quietness.
20. Quiet
21. Rurality and Peacefulness
22. Peaceful

23. it's a peaceful place
24. Pace
25. Slower pace of life where people have time to stop and chat

### **Paths/walks/cycle – 15**

1. I also like the variety of walking that are within easy reach
2. Local walks, especially around the commons
3. Nice walks round the commons that are well maintained and safe for my kids
4. Walks
5. Good dog walking
6. Close proximity to walking paths/cycle routes for outdoor exercise
7. Good bike rides
8. Close-by walks and cycles
9. Local walks are never crowded
10. Many options for walks in the surrounding areas
11. Access to walks
12. Walks, Cycling
13. Excellent local walks
14. Cycling, Walking
15. The walks around the village

### **Smashing wee village - 13**

1. Small village
2. Development well integrated into the existing village
3. Lack of major developments that dilute identity and community spirit
4. the village hasn't been developed so far in a way that distorts its sense of place
5. Thornhill is a small village that is welcoming
6. Small, rural community centred around farming traditions
7. Nice size
8. Small community,
9. Pleasant, small village
10. It is a compact village

11. Undeveloped nature and size of village, mix of dwellings and people
12. Thornhill is a smashing wee village to live in due to ..... and the fact that it has so far remain unchanged and underdeveloped over the years
13. I also love the architecture of the village

### **Safe place – 11**

1. Safe (*friendly*) area
2. The lack of any serious crime
3. Low street crime (who knows if there is internet crime, abuse or fraud going on?)
4. Safe and secure place to live
5. Safe
6. The fact that I can leave my doors unlocked appeals to me
7. Safe place for children
8. Safe place to live
9. Safe
10. Safe environment
11. Safe place to raise our children

### **Other – 3**

1. I recently moved to Thornhill to be close to my grand children so that is my first like.
2. My house,
3. It's been our home for 30 years.

### **b. What would make Thornhill community a better place to live and thrive?**

#### **Amenities: café, larger shop, hub- 47**

1. Perhaps a cafe
2. A café would be nice
3. Cafe
4. More to do in the village (cafe, other shops etc).
5. A wee cafe

6. Village cafe/tea shop/ bakery
7. A village cafe and/or community hub (perhaps the Community Hall could have some investment and become more of a centre).
8. A café or somewhere informal to meet would be good
9. A cafe would be excellent, or even a 'stall' which sold coffee and sandwiches would be handy
10. Encourage more local businesses, coffee shop, butchers, extend footpaths
11. A gift shop
12. A co-op (or basically a much better stocked village shop as we have to go to Callander or elsewhere if want to buy anything more than just basic bread/milk etc)
13. Bigger village store with a greater range (perhaps more local produce)
14. I'd love to see a local farmers market, similar to the ones held in neighbouring towns and villages, with lots of local food on offer
15. A centre with coffee shop
16. A cafe for meeting up with people
17. A place to gather on an ad hoc basis, somewhere the singles, the widowed and the stay-at-home mums or dads could drop in without a planned event. That would increase the community bond and reach out to those who maybe don't get involved in other things
18. Requires a centre to inject some life. Not enough shops, businesses etc
19. More amenities in the village - this would allow people to connect easier. In particular, a place to allow informal daytime social interaction that is not the pub. (The pub is great but not for a passing coffee and chat.) A cafe would be great. The shop is great but would be great if it had more space to expand the services it can offer the village
20. A centrally located business hub/ shop facilities for small businesses
21. A small cafe, since the Smiddy and The Woodhouse near Kippen appear to be very popular
22. More amenities (e.g. a cafe).
23. A café
24. Development of the community hall as more of a village hub space
25. Return of the post office
26. Coffee shop in the village
27. Coffee shop/informal meeting place
28. Home working hub
29. Perhaps rented office space for those who work at home but need a bit more space
30. A vibrant centre of the village with more activities and places to meet

31. The area around the scout hut and public toilets could be developed - new shop/cafe perhaps
32. A local meeting place - cafe, reading room
33. Better school, shop and facilities
34. Support home working with a hub/ cafe and a place to meet
35. End of Covid A communal informal meeting space, eg cafe
36. More diversity, and dare I say it, a coffee shop! More enterprise needed
37. Encourage more local businesses, coffee shop, butchers
38. Having a coffee shop/bakery in the village
39. The GP surgery open again
40. A new and larger retail unit for Robert, coffee shop
41. A cafe open in the evening as well as the day
42. A return of the Post Office to the village shop
43. Change of use and redevelopment of the scout hall to create a work hub and cafe where people can book a desk and computer to work and use meeting rooms. This would be a great use to people who are now working from home and for young people in the village to get together and for visitors
44. A small cafe or tearoom would be lovely that locals would appreciate walking to
45. A drop-in networking area. Working from home, I'm on video calls all day, but the social aspect of work has now gone and I miss that
46. Informal social space which is not a pub
47. Better Postal Service
48. Anything to make living here more sustainable and affordable:.... attractive place to meet for a nice cuppa when we feel like it
49. Better pub - whilst we do like it, it could be better (improved standard & range of food, changing menu, better range of drinks, improved bar for locals to meet and sit comfortably and socialise)

### **Improved paths and cycle ways - 33**

1. A developed paths and cycle track network to Stirling, Callander, Kippen etc.
2. More walking areas
3. Cycle Ways, especially to Stirling, Callander, Doune and Kippen
4. A cycle path to link in with the national cycle path network
5. More walking and cycling paths
6. In an ideal world - a pavement linking Thornhill to surrounding properties along the road to Port of Menteith!
7. improved path network for dog walking

8. Footpath to Flanders Moss. Better pavement/ safer walking through village especially Main Street
9. Better path network
10. More, better and drier paths - safer cycle routes
11. Paths linking it to other villages around
12. Access to dedicated cycle paths from the village. Properly marked and maintained walking paths to Muir Dam/Nellie's Glenn
13. A footpath to Ruskie and to Flanders Moss SNH site
14. PATHS - more paths connecting the outskirts of the village. A path/cycle route from Ruskie to Thornhill would make such a difference. The same true between Thornhill and Flanders Moss. This is a big endeavour but will connect not only connect people it will encourage more journeys by foot and bike which has to be a good thing. The surrounding landowners need to buy into this idea to have any hope or success
15. Better access to open spaces for riding, bikes, walking
16. Better signage and maintained paths for local walks
17. Better links to longer walks/off road runs
18. A public footpath linking Thornhill village with Flanders Moss Nature Reserve. A pavement/footpath alongside the B822 to allow safer walking access from the dwelling houses situated on the B822
19. Better path networks,
20. Safe cycling connection to Stirling. Much better footpaths network around the village (I tried running on the paths but it's impossible and have now reluctantly started running on the roads)
21. A better paths network for walking and cycling, more variety and options on the local paths as well as links to the other local communities
22. Cycle path/footpath from Easter Borland to the village
23. Drainage of South Common, leading to cycle path/running track around
24. Better path & cycle network. With young kids we have to get in the car to cycle safely anywhere. Paths linking Flanders Moss, Doune & Blair Drummond would be hugely beneficial and well used.
25. A better network of footpaths and cycleways.
26. Improved transport facilities.....cycle paths
27. In an ideal world - a pavement linking Thornhill to surrounding properties along the road to Port of Menteith
28. We like to walk, run and cycle and would love more paths leading from Thornhill. It would be great if there were paths to Doune/Callander which could then link to the existing paths Footpaths and cycleways giving access to the local (Flanders Moss) and wider area.  
extend footpaths.
29. All weather dry paths,

- 30. Improve paths and create dry routes round village for all seasons and abilities,
- 31. A footpath to connect to Flanders Moss.
- 32. More footpaths linking up to make longer walks accessible around the village, without having to walk along the road or use the car. Improvement of some stretches of the paths which become almost impassable in the wettest conditions
- 33. Anything to make living here more sustainable and affordable:.... more access to dry and accessible village walks and destinations further afield, safe cycling routes out from the village

## **Traffic calming, by pass - 29**

- 1. Less traffic through the village
- 2. A by-pass road.
- 3. Better roads. A bypass to the village
- 4. Traffic control down Main Street - but how?
- 5. Speed control through the village, too many cars drive at a consistent 40mph along the length, even the new 20mph limit seems to have gone unnoticed
- 6. Put in a bypass and pedestrianise Main Street
- 7. Better traffic management or parking in the Main Street
- 8. Slower and less traffic racing through
- 9. Surrounding road repairs/ condition
- 10. Less traffic going through the village
- 11. A by-pass to the north of the village, Main street to be one way.
- 12. Any traffic or speed reductions would be great too, to make the roads around the village safer for all users
- 13. Speed check camera for main road, too many cars go too fast even if the speed is now 20mph. Possibility to upgrade pot hole on roads
- 14. Traffic calming at the Stirling end of the village. There are far too many people speeding once they get to the end of the Main Street.
- 15. Reduce the noise pollution from the sound of roaring motorbikes! Probably requires a nationwide legislation to have the exhausts silenced
- 16. Speed cameras or flashing speed monitor. The 20mph is doing nothing to slow down those drivers who just like to drive as fast as they can through the village
- 17. Less through traffic - in particular heavy lorries
- 18. Less noisy, polluting traffic on Main Street
- 19. Less traffic
- 20. Traffic calming measures along Main Street

21. If there was a village by-pass. If there was less traffic in the Main St. If there was a reduction in pollution from exhausts, better air quality on the Main St and noise reduction
22. Traffic on roads into Thornhill need to have speed restrictions on them. Motor bikes a nightmare.
23. A bypass for heavy lorries
24. People going at speed limit
25. Main Street parking people should use off road parking if they have it to reduce congestion.
26. Speed bumps on the road, the traffic continuing to speed through the village is a disgrace and it's a miracle a child hadn't been killed
27. Electronic sign showing numerically the speed of vehicles on the Main Street. Existing 20 & 30mph signs have little influence
28. The speed limit through the village is now 20 miles an hour, which is great, but is it being observed? I am concerned about the volume of very large and heavy vehicles passing through the village
29. Main Street narrow and noisy.

## **Improve village environment - 20**

1. People being more considerate about what they burn on their fires & when, plus regular sweeping of chimneys. It would be nice on a sunny evening not to have to close my windows because someone has lit their fire & the smoke & smell is unbearable
2. More litter bins & encouraging youths to have pride in their village & dispose of their rubbish
3. Council provided planted areas throughout the village
4. Improved appearance of some buildings e.g. the Community Hall, public loos, JCC site, Scout Hut and even some private buildings
5. Removal of the field of biomass fuel opposite Netherton Farm
6. A place to easily park and lock bikes when travelling into or through the village. A flourishing noticeboard with information on it. The current noticeboard says nothing about what is actually available and going on in the village. More places to sit. Benches and tables would be great
7. Taking good care of the natural environment (and making sure people are aware of how valuable the commons are for biodiversity) so everyone can enjoy it. Less.....dumping of garden waste!
8. More preservation of trees, less litter, remove netting from the north common path, fix benches
9. A community woodland
10. Becoming a more ecological village - shared facilities such as electric charge points, local composting / veg growing, electric bike hire. More focus on being a wildlife friendly

village in our gardens as well as the commons and surrounding farms. There is lots of excellent development already but it doesn't feel joined up

11. Appreciation of village's traditional buildings, conservation status and village history. Certain landowners not neglecting their land/animals/environment and not objecting to shared access/pathways.
12. A community garden that everyone can enjoy and be involved in, a place to meet friends and children to explore
13. If JCC was taken out of the village to an appropriate industrial site. It is an eyesore
14. Public spaces, which are attractive and welcoming. Refresh the Community Hall - so that it would be a nice place for events, activities
15. Closure of Burnside works
16. Remove many of the signs which litter the local area
17. Maintain and improve immediate surrounds of village, initially projects/areas of responsibility for groups to provide a better experience for the overall village inhabitants e.g. Boquhapple Burn
18. Improved public seating away from busy main street. More EV charging points, mini climate challenge targets drawn up by teens/youth
19. A part time designated employee to look after verges, paths, etc in village and surroundings,
20. Wider appreciation and understanding of the value of our natural environment, in particular the North Common, an area important for biodiversity. Greater community involvement in maintaining this common, in line with the aims outlined in the action plan which already exists for its upkeep.

## **Children's activities and childcare - 17**

1. More things for kids to do (workshops, activities, youth club, Table Tennis, nature trails)
2. An area that the teenagers/youth can meet of an evening indoors.
3. Continuation of baby/toddler/children groups
4. More clubs for young people
5. More opportunities for young children and parents, for socialisation
6. More activities and clubs for older children indoor or outdoors
7. More support, groups, activities for the younger kids
8. More opportunities for children
9. More facilities indoor and outdoor for teenagers
10. More positive engagement opportunities for teenagers
11. Continuation of baby/toddler/children groups

12. A 'hangout' space for teenagers to go as it is a shame they take over the school grounds at night and litter/graffiti the school building.
13. Anything to make living here more sustainable and affordable:.... really good facilities and activities for children
14. A nursery would be handy!
15. Out of school care - the two childminders in the village do not have enough spaces to accommodate all the children who need this. Either a Thornhill club or a minibus link to an established club like the one at McLaren Leisure centre.
16. Better childcare options. No nursery in the village & childminding limited.
17. After school club

## **Housing - 14**

1. Some more houses. That would need to be a mix of bought and rented (in the housing association sector)
2. More retirement bungalows
3. No large developments
4. Not expanding. No growth in number of houses
5. More housing available for first time buyers
6. And for them to not build anymore houses
7. To retain its size
8. Sensitive housing development - small scale and in fill and in keeping with character of the village, including social housing
9. Only new development within existing village envelope
10. New housing to attract people with younger families. This in turn would keep the school going or extend it if needed
11. More opportunities for new housing - self build and affordable - not suburban but in keeping with the rural village. Greater appreciation of the special character of the village, its layout and traditional buildings and the importance of conserving them
12. Instead of 70 houses and industrial units do a Community Buy Out of land and plant native woodland for all to enjoy and encourage wildlife
13. No to big developments for new houses, workshops, huge lorries. Main Street would be a nightmare during construction with delivery of materials and thereafter with extra traffic
14. Anything to make living here more sustainable and affordable:....affordable housing for the next generation

## **Adult activities and events - 14**

1. Evening classes at community hall, eg yoga, badminton etc.

2. Perhaps a coffee morning once a month where people can meet
3. Varied activities at the community centre like and exercise class
4. Ongoing community events in the village hall, Village bake-off/plant completions ongoing
5. More opportunities for people from different age groups to meet.
6. More community based activities
7. When life goes back to normal again - Indoor/Outdoor social activity sessions - e.g. badminton, table tennis, other indoor sport, group walking, group biking, social nights (quiz, bingo, pot lucks, comedy nights, performance from local artists, outdoor cinema screening etc.)
8. Re opening of events, Coffee mornings.
9. More support for the gala and playgroup
10. More group activities (e.g. keep fit and art/craft classes, occasional lectures/talks) and other opportunities to bring people together and develop a sense of community, as well as learning from others experience, e.g. raised beds for the community.
11. Leisure/sports facilities eg tennis court, gym.
12. More use of the Community Hall for touring acts and events, e.g. the World Contact Juggling Championships which took place several years ago and packed out the hall.
13. Revamp and more use of the hall
14. More weekly activities, more intergenerational activities

## **Park and playground - 11**

1. Better park, it's rubbish
2. Children's play area needs a makeover.
3. Park drainage and updated swing park
4. Better children park infrastructure and proper maintenance of the play park and the play ground next to it
5. Maybe an update to the play park
6. Improved play park. The one we have is ok but it is tired and needs more than another lick of paint
7. Better park facilities
8. We have young children and feel the park could be updated with more for under 5s
9. Some investment into the playpark to make it a much more inviting environment and something for children of all ages to play
10. Improved park area for kids
11. Better park and sporting facilities, all the communities in Stirling have got better parks and basketball / football all weather courts and Thornhill don't get any of these facilities. 8 years ago we wrote to the Council asking for fitness equipment to be

installed in the park (we saw these on holiday in Manchester) and these have been installed in 3 parks in Stirling. Thornhill is forgotten about.

## **Public transport - 9**

1. Better bus transport.
2. Better public transport - more frequent, some evening buses, some Sunday buses
3. Better bus service. We are disconnected from the surrounding area
4. Transport options so good that people might consider giving up their car or second car
5. I would like a bus from Stirling in the evening
6. Better public transport links
7. improved transport facilities ,better bus connections to Stirling and Glasgow
8. Better public transport
9. Anything to make living here more sustainable and affordable: better public transport

## **Nothing, keep it as it is - 7**

1. We cannot think of anything
2. I have not lived in the Community for long enough to enable me to form a constructive opinion
3. Nothing it's fine as it is
4. This is a question for the young as it is their futures that matter.
5. Nothing really. If you develop anything it then heads towards a larger village.
6. I find everything about it at present demonstrates all that I would want it in a rural environment.
7. Leaving it as it is

## **More responsible dog owners – 6**

1. I'm very happy with the way it is - my only minor complaint is people not picking up after their dogs
2. More responsible dog owners
3. Less dog poo on the paths and pavements
4. Less dog fouling
5. Dog owners cleaning up after their dogs

6. No dog mess

## **Better broadband - 5**

1. Better internet speed and access
2. Faster broadband
3. Fibre broadband to outlying properties.
4. Better communication - broadband, mobile phone reception
5. Anything to make living here more sustainable and affordable:..... better communication esp fast broadband for home working and keeping in touch with family and friends

## **Employment opportunities – 4**

1. More employment opportunities close by
2. Workshops for local employment
3. More local job opportunities
4. Some employment opportunities for young people

## **Other – 12**

1. No Covid restrictions
2. Next time we've an offer of wind turbine income, we should be positive about it
3. Being disabled I am dependent on others
4. Less focus on children
5. More sunshine!
6. Gas for Central Heating
7. Continue what is happening in the village but ensure new members of the community have the opportunity to integrate as over the last few years many new residents have moved into the village.
8. Having a trades resource list made up from satisfied customers in the village
9. Greater participation by residents in issues which affect them. Greater engagement of young people with local issues and organisations which can help them
10. The decline in wild species - curlews, oystercatchers, hares and owls, some rewinding needed, a study of why there have been declines of wildlife.
11. Replace SW wall of Community Hall with a large window/sliding doors. Make small changes first to improve the village, Take time to consider options for change
12. Anything to make living here more sustainable and affordable: ....., cheap clean energy and warmer house, better sense of commonality between farming/ rural / village communities, a sense of control and ownership of key things affecting the community

such as local land for amenity/ biodiversity/ energy and food production/the means to support our older or vulnerable members so they can stay healthily and happily in our community.

End of document