

THORNHILL VILLAGE CENTRE - THE LOAN - INFORMATION LEAFLET

Futures Group update and invitation to contribute ideas.

1 In April 2021, the Thornhill Futures Group asked everyone in Thornhill what their main priorities were for the future of Thornhill.

The top things that respondents felt would make Thornhill a better place to live were:

- better amenities, such as a café, a bigger shop, a village hub, more things for children and young people to do
- reducing the number of vehicles or improving traffic calming on Main Street
- more and better paths and cycle ways both within Thornhill and to other places
- more carbon-neutral houses for local people built within the village boundary
- improving the village environment by better landscaping, upgrading buildings and community woodland

Since then, the Thornhill Futures Group has worked with the Thornhill Community Trust (TCT), the Community Council, Thornhill Community Hall and other groups to see how we can make these priorities a reality

2 Thornhill Futures Group applied to the Place Based Investment Programme in August this year for funds to draw up a feasibility study to look at the buildings in the area of the Loan. (See map overleaf) This work is essential to setting priorities for improving and developing amenities in the village. Although this bid was unsuccessful this work still needs to be undertaken before any plans can be made.

Thornhill Community Trust has now applied to The Scottish Land Fund for funding for a feasibility study of the area and support for the possible purchase of the Scout Hall and/or former Post Office. We would then have to fund-raise as a community directly and through grants to develop the buildings.

If TCT is successful in an application for funding, the community will need to have a business plan, which is something that TCT would lead on. Some options for the space have been discussed, though no decisions have yet been made.

Options might be:

- a café including some outdoor space for tables
- small work and/or meeting spaces for people who need to work from home
- space for a bigger shop
- repositioning the public toilets
- a village archive / display space
- community owned and managed, accessible homes for local people to rent

Any development would likely happen in phases and could include the following:

- improved landscaping around the village centre and car park, from Main Street to the Community Hall
- utilising the old Post Office space in some way that benefits the community
- improvements to the Community Hall
- bike racks to encourage passing and local cyclists

3 We are now inviting you to share your thoughts on the suggestions already made for the village centre. However, equally important at this early stage, are YOUR ideas or options you'd like to put forward. Once more concrete plans are in place full community consultation will take place.

4 Please complete the short survey on Thornhill Community website www.thornhillstirling.org, write to futures@thornhillstirling.org or drop a letter into the Futures Group letterbox in the Village Store to reach us by Monday 6 December 2021. **Thank you.**