

Welcome Thornhill Community Trust AGM

15th May 2023





Thornhill Community Trust AGM 2023

Statement of Accounts

Oct 2021 to Sep 2022

• Income £13,053

- Big Onion fund transfer and fundraising £8,770
- TV advertising and donations £1,050 and £1,480
- Fundraising (Stirling Lottery, Easyfundraising) £700
- Membership £540

• Expenditure £4,815

- Thornhill Views printing £1,700
- Senior Citizens event £1,680
- Bench £460
- Charity running costs + gala donation £340
- Thornhill Environment £330
- Thornhill Futures £270

In Year Balance +£8,238

Bank Balance £28,411 on 30/9/22



Thornhill Community Trust AGM 2023

Accounts Update May 2023

Oct 2022 to present

- **Income £3,380**

- Futures grant for event £1,000
- TV advertising and donations £1,250 (including £150 from gardening society)
- Let's Get Together Grant £200 (for Activities Fair)
- Fundraising £500
- Donations £430 (including £300 from Masonic Lodge)

- **Expenditure £4,870**

- Paths £650 (from Paths for All grant)
- Futures /Community Gathering £1,600
- TV printing £1,360
- Light Up Thornhill £180
- Senior Citizens Fund £650
- General / Activities Fair £380

- **Balance -£1,490**

- **Bank Balance £26,920**



Thornhill Community Trust AGM 2023

Current Funds

TCT Funding Pots

Unrestricted

General
£450

Thornhill
Views
£2880

Restricted (Main Funds)

Thornhill
Environment
Fund
£14,800

Paths for All
£850

Thornhill
Futures
£1,080

Senior
Citizens
Events
£6,440

Light Up
Thornhill
£330



Thornhill Community Trust AGM 2023

Chair's Report

Oct 2021 to Sep 2022

Planning, Development, Environment

- Thornhill Futures and Place Plan. TCT will be the submitting body.
- TCT and Futures Group proposal to develop the Scout Hut area - but it was sold.
- A new constitution so we could use Right to Buy legislation and the Scottish Land Fund.
- TCT submitted a response opposing the planning proposal for 74 new houses.
- TCT Paths Group volunteers maintained routes & planned improvements
- Village tubs
- Habitat survey report of the North Common
- TCT Joined DTAS - the Development Trust Association Scotland.



Thornhill Community Trust AGM 2023

Chair's Report

Oct 2021 to Sep 2022

Connecting people in our community

- TCT “adopted” the Big Onion.
- 6 editions of the phenomenal Thornhill Views.
- Hosting the community website. Also providing web pages for the Community Council, Gardening Club and Biodiversity Group.
- Christmas Lights and Windows Advent Calendar.
- Environment Fund - New links with Thornhill School to support environmental education.

We had 90+ members and 9 trustees



Thornhill Community Trust AGM 2023

Chair's Report

Oct 2022 to present

New constitution approved by our members at a special meeting

We can now:

- Exercise the functions of a Development Trust
- Make membership free
- Have Junior members
- Be a “Compliant Community Body” so we can apply for Right to Buy land and buildings and get funding from the Scottish Land Fund
- Have a clearer constitution!

Clubs and Activities Day at the hall - proposed by a member and attended by 20 community groups

TCT does what its members want - so keep the ideas coming!



Paths Group updates to present

Routes to Success

The Paths Group continued their volunteering work during the run-up to the Christmas break.

Local farmer, Martyn Steedman, made a generous donation to the village of a very useful amount of Type-1 hardcore, for maintenance. Not only that, but Martyn kindly delivered it as close to the point of need as possible. The group set to work wheelbarrowing the material along the Hedges Path and used it to improve some areas that had become muddy. In sections, volunteers also cut back vegetation that encroaching on the path which had previously become somewhat wider! In paths maintenance parlance, this "scraping and patching" – who knew? In other words, the volunteer installed a handrail on one of the footpaths on North Common (a rail on the other bridge is also the group's list) and other folk dealt with trees felled down in storm Arwen.

When the weather permits, the Paths Group will be on with more on the North Common and on the wonderful Muir Dam walk. We will also continue our ambition for a dry route around the village.

If you are a longstanding villager or new to the community, please consider getting in touch and offer along to help. We tend to only work for a couple of hours at a time. We often surprise ourselves by how much we achieve and always enjoy one another's company and the chance for a good natter!

Starting in March, we aim to work on the first Saturday morning of the month, but defer to Sunday if the footpaths look to be rotten for the Saturday and the following Sunday. We post information on Facebook and in the village on notices. You can contact us by email at paths@thornhillsirring.org. We look forward to seeing you!

Thornhill Paths

THORNHILL VIEWS

Edition 55 April/May 23





Paths Group updates to present

- **Work parties continue** - First full weekend of month (excl. winter) – Meet @ Gray's Loan, Saturday at 10.00 (Sunday if wet). See Facebook etc. Please lend a hand (& enjoy the tea & cake with us).
- **Digital** - Paths Group continue to use the TCT G-Suite & village website.
- **North Common** - No input from Paths Group. North Common Trust - no Type-1 etc paths on the common. Looking forward to NCT's raised, grass solution.
- **Muir Dam** - General maintenance and stile repairs.
- **Active travel route** - We understand the creation of a safe path to negotiate A84 junction by The Smiddy will go ahead but timescale not known. Full Aberfoyle to Stirling route ruled out on cost grounds.
- **Ministers' Path** - Made a good start on creating a Type-1 & whin dust surface using PfA grant. More to do & about 50% of the cash remains.
- **Village Groups day** - Participated in this event and welcomed a few new volunteers.
- **Thornhill Futures** - Continued participation in this project - looking forward to community ideas etc 20 May gathering. Group's remit includes paths, cycling & transport generally. ***Please come along, from noon.***



Biodiversity Group Update

Oct 2022- present (part 1)

●North Common Habitat Survey

- the report written by Matt is on the website (thornhillstirling.org)
- the recommendations to preserve and enhance the different habitats and improve biodiversity are starting to feed into management, plans and ideas for the North Common
- TCT are looking to create information boards for the North Common which will draw on the information from the report, as well on aspects of the North Common's history and current management

●North Common Community Orchard - (east end of the North Common)

- the Orchard Group has gone from strength to strength, and organised several well-attended action days to prune trees and encourage development of the meadow
- more members welcome, no experience necessary! Please contact Jill Stott by emailing elizabeth.jill.dow@gmail.com

●North Common Trust- contact Elaine Blanchard on northcommontrust@gmail.com



Biodiversity Group Update

Oct 2022- present (part 2)

- **North Common nest boxes** - on 3rd March, pupils of Thornhill Primary School made 12 bird nest boxes, which were subsequently installed on trees on the North Common. Five of these boxes are now hosting broods of Blue and Great Tits. The boxes will be monitored by pupils and members of the Biodiversity Group feeding data into the national Nest Record Scheme.
- **Barn Owl nest box camera** - the box this was intended for has not yet attracted any owls, but a new box has recently been built and put up at Chapel Farm, and we will install the camera there.
- **Tree planting** - since last AGM, more trees have been planted during community planting days on both commons, with great levels of participation from community members. We are particularly pleased that the last bout of planting, to contribute to the new hedge around the Orchard on the North Common, was done by pupils of Thornhill Primary School.





Futures Group - in the beginning

Reminder of the beginning and the covid-dominated Zoom years

TCT with T&BDCC agreed to set up a Futures Group *“to explore and promote the development and use of land and resources in Thornhill and environs in the long term community interest”* 3 Nov 2020

The TCT to provide support and host any funding applications required. The CC to provide the important links to Stirling Council and the process of producing and adopting a new Local Development Plan.

Thornhill is a great place to live and work but we should have some control over how it might develop over the next 5 - 20 years. What came next?

- **A village survey - covering all aspects of life - concerns, aspirations and dreams April 2021**
- **Build consensus for an all-village vision on key themes: housing, traffic, work and local economy, transport, community & social facilities, heritage, biodiversity ...**
- **Smaller Steering Group formed of the full Futures Group to take forward actions Joyce Firth /Keith Yates as Co-chairs. The TCT Trustees designated are Kate Sankey, Gary Richardson, Jim Mills and the TCT Chairs.**



Futures Group

Activities October 2021 - 2022

The context for many of the ideas and actions was the Inverdunning Housing, Industrial and Retail site development planning proposal

- **The Loan Survey** : An opportunity to explore ideas for a renewed village centre bringing the hall, carpark, recycling centre, EVCP, the old Scout Hall and Post Office sites together. Oct 2021
- In principle support from Scottish Land Fund (SLF) for Phase One grant to include community purchase of Scout Hall and/or Post Office. Feasibility brief completed and put out for tender. Consultant group identified. Jan 2022
- Scout Hall sold by Scouts Association despite historic Thornhill Community ownership. Application to SLF withdrawn Jan 2022
- **Community Engagement** Public Event cancelled due to Covid outbreak in village March 2022. **Stall at Jubilee Gala** exploring ideas for new housing developments including a second street and a MUGA June 2022
- **Local Place Plan** : Planning Circular 1/2022 Local Place Plans published laying out legal requirements, details of structure and content needed for LPP to be registered with Stirling Council by Jan 2024. Statutory requirement for Stirling Council to consider in drafting the Local Development Plan and future material consideration for planning judgements.



Futures Group

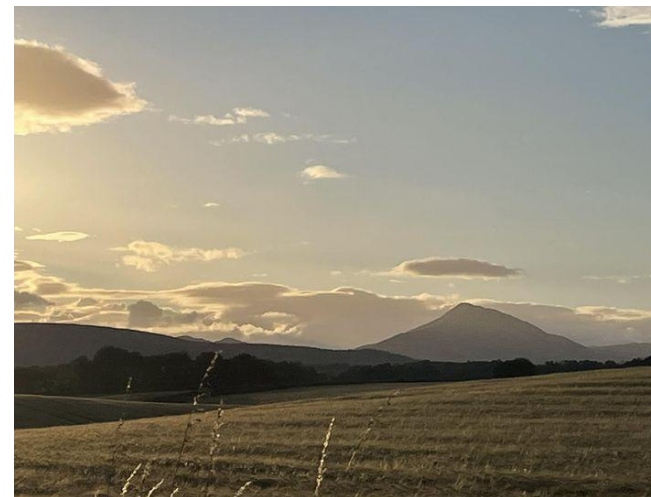
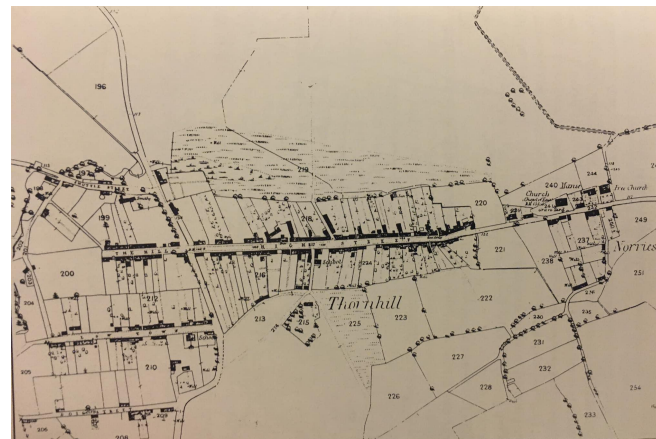
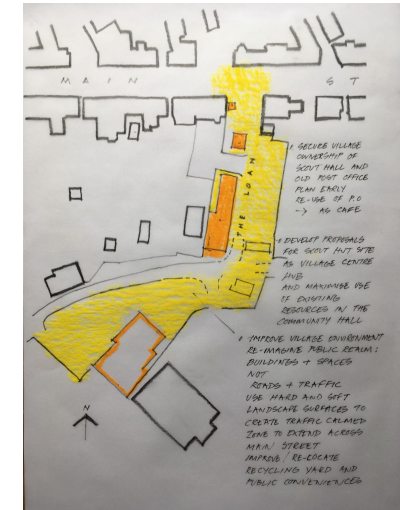
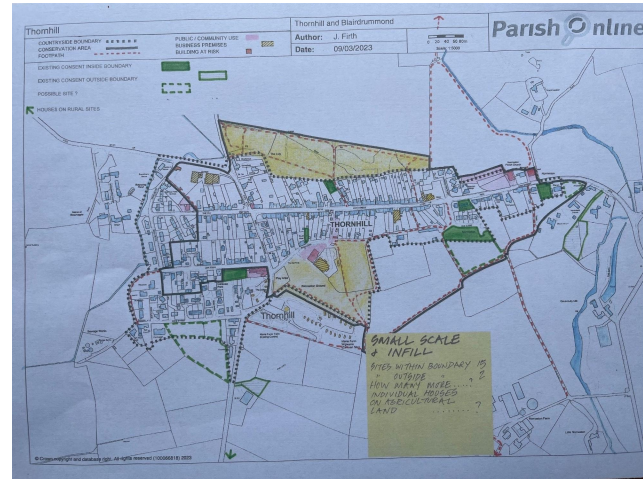
Activities October 2022 - Present

- **March 2023 Steering Group merged with full Futures Group Joyce Firth in the chair. The TCT Trustees are indebted to Joyce Firth for her unbending support and consistent leadership in chairing the Futures Group.**
- **Drafting of the Place Plan** with discussions re content and structure. **Final Draft approved 20 March** by full Futures Group but with further work required on agreeing proposals for the development and use of land and resources in Thornhill and environs. Also checking against statutory requirements for Local Place Plan registration.
- **Preparation of potential alternative proposals for housing, economic and social land use.** Recognition that time has passed and there is a need for community gathering of consensus on proposals for development of land use and resources
- **Appointment of Community Chartering Network** to facilitate the Community Gathering
- **Planning for Community Gathering. Final date approved 20 May 2023 12.00 - 4.00pm**
- **Promotion of event** Letter to all respondents to Inverdunning application and door to door awareness raising, TV article etc



Futures Group

Our village past present and ? Future ? Any Questions?





Light Up Thornhill December 2022





Thornhill Views

Oct 2022 to present



Spend has been £1,350 on four editions

Income £1,150 (£800 from adverts, £150 from Gardening Society, £200 from individual donations and shop box donations)

At end of last financial year we had funds of approx £3,000

Currently we have approx £2,800

Last edition cost £330 as we switched to cheaper printer so in a good position going forward.