

Outcome Of Community Gathering 20th May 2023

OUR IMPORTANT THINGS

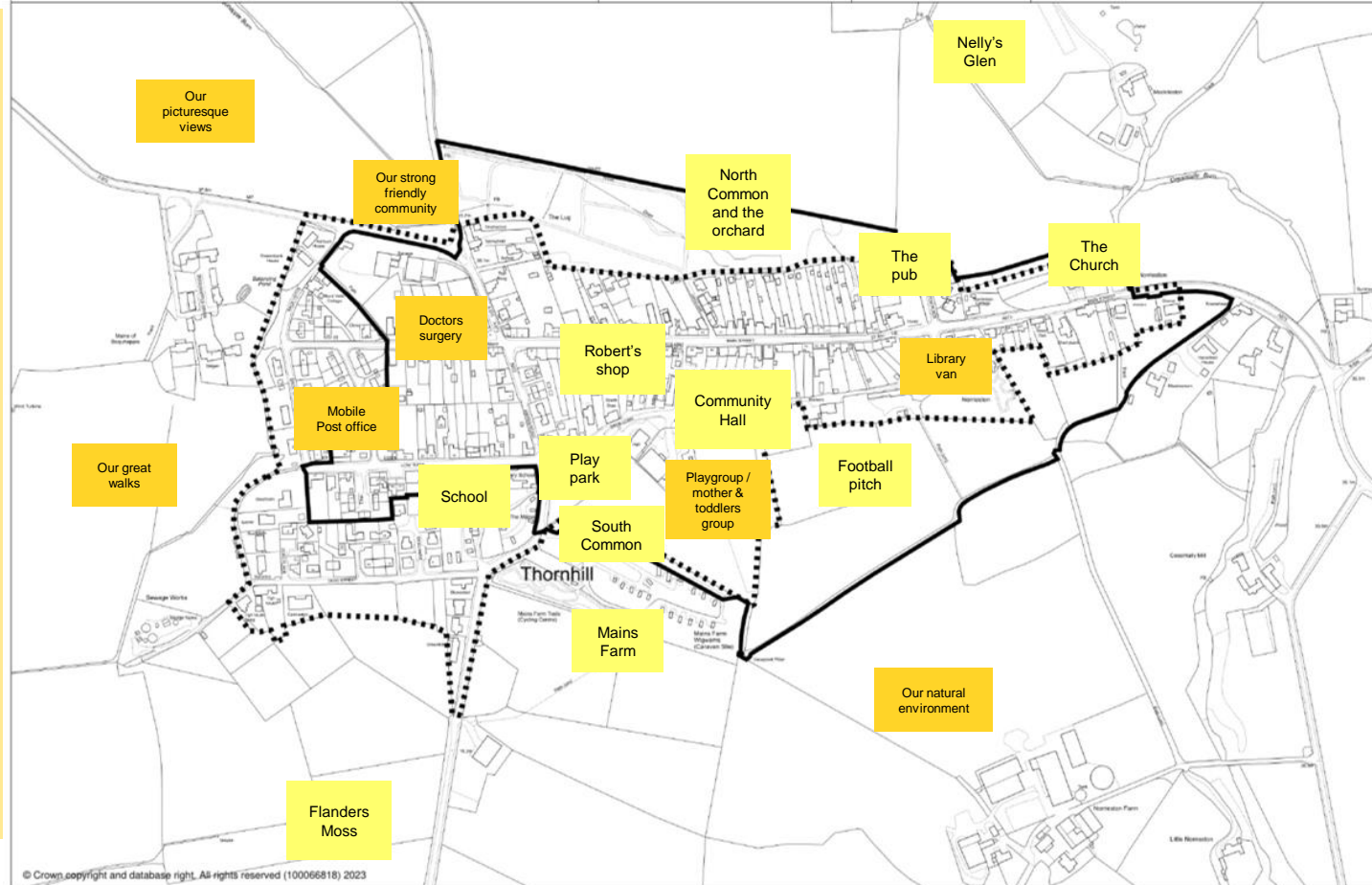
The things we most cherish and love about our village

Mentioned
by
younger
residents

Mentioned
by adult
residents

Our Important Things*

- Our local 'assets' (52) see map:
- Our strong friendly community spirit (32)
- The pleasant walks around the village (15)
- Our natural environment, countryside, wildlife and fresh air (14)
- The picturesque views (13)
- The contained small size of the village (8)
- Our community groups, events and activities (7)
- Our rich history & character of our planned village (4)
- Safety for young and old (4)
- Central location: close to towns and cities (4)
- Family and roots (2)



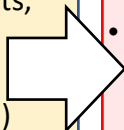
*Numbers in brackets indicate no. of post-its

IMPROVEMENTS

OUR PRIORITIES

What are our priorities for improvement?

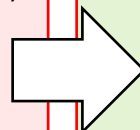
- Traffic Safety (50)
- Improvements to Public Transport (23)
- Sympathetic and Sustainable Local Development (15)
- Better facilities for young people (13)
- Cafe / places to meet / community hub (12)
- Cycling and Walking Routes (8)
- Better upkeep of and care for village (clean streets, dog poo, smarten up built environment) (9)
- Infrastructure (school, broadband, sewage) (7)
- Thornhill Clinic (Forth Valley not clear on plan) (5)
- Local Economic Support and Diversification (4)
- Local Response to Nature Crisis / Climate Change (3)
- Nursery (2)
- Others (2)
 - A more positive view of what new people can bring to our village
 - More people to stand up and lead on change, not expecting others to do it.



BARRIERS

What might hold us back?

- Lack of Money and Finance (18)
- Community Apathy (7)
- Lack of volunteer time, involvement or uncertainty on how to get involved (4)
- Lack of Community vision or ownership or control for change (3)
- Ineffective planning or environmental protections or lack of incentives for environmental improvement (2)
- Stirling Council (2)



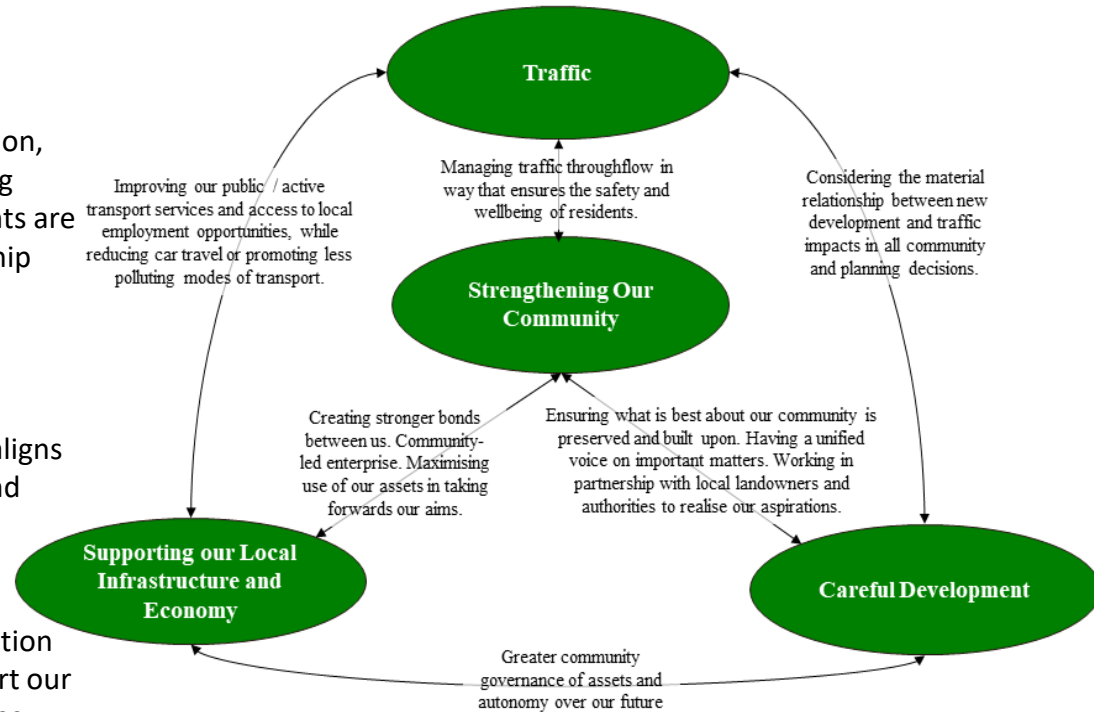
REMEDIES

How do we address the barriers?

- Community self-determination (16), incl;
 - Increase engagement with local groups around change / resident commitment / motivation / belief (8)
 - Fund raise ourselves (3)
 - A coordinated coherent vision and action plan (2)
 - Acting with a single voice and 'making a noise' (2)
 - Take ownership of problems and solve them ourselves
- Work with Stirling Council / private sector to raise funds (2)

4 KEY THEMES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- **THEME 1: Traffic Safety.** Implementing a 'Pedestrian-First' Traffic Management Strategy.
- **THEME 2: Strengthening Community.** Building our community integrity and capacities for self-determination, with an emphasis on enabling and supporting our young people. Acknowledging that some desired improvements are unlikely to happen without us taking collective leadership and responsibility for them
- **THEME 3: Careful Development: *Housing, Economic, Environmental.*** Planning and ensuring a slow-growth 'holistic' and sustainable development strategy which aligns with local needs, which is sympathetic to the unique and special characteristics of our village and community.
- **THEME 4: Supporting our Local Infrastructure and Economy:** Recognising the growing fragility of our situation and current systems, and seeking to protect and support our essential Public Transport, Health and Education services, and local businesses and employers.



THEME 1: Traffic

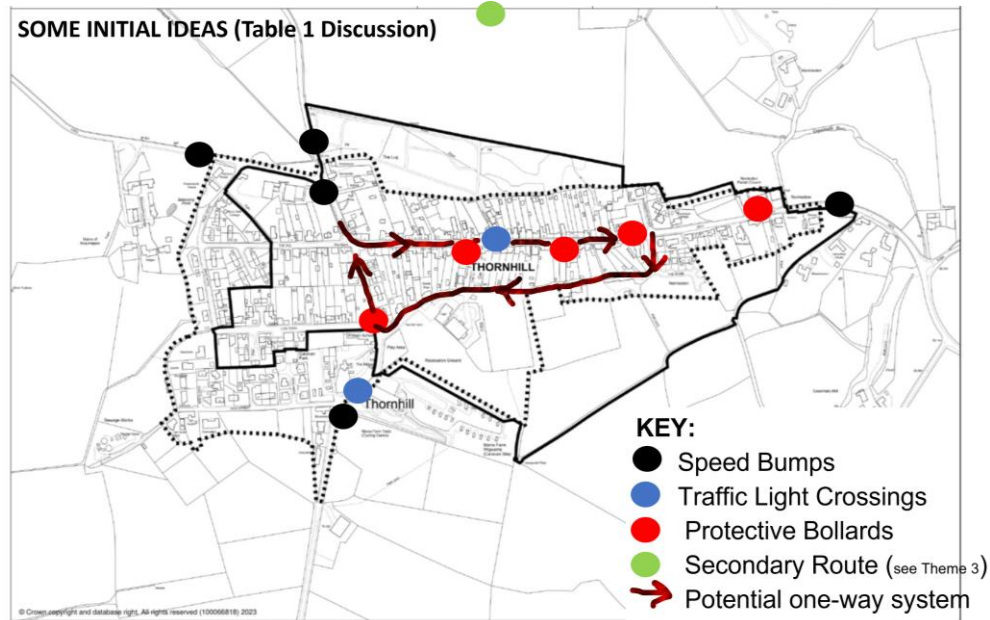
Implementing a 'Pedestrian-First' Traffic Management Strategy (Table 1 discussion)

PRIORITIES:

- Controlling speed, particularly of heavy vehicles, with a focus on slowing traffic down at the four-entry points into the village.
- Ensure a 'pedestrian-first' not 'vehicle-first' principle is applied in addressing problems.
- Consider the potential locations and size of new developments on traffic routes and volume in planning processes (Theme 3).

HOW (some initial ideas)?

- **Short-term:** "Low-hanging fruit"
 - Speed bumps and lights which inform of speed at entry points
 - 20-mile an hour speed limits start earlier at entry points
 - Continue to record traffic behaviour at the Masonic Lodge corner
 - Considering implementing a one-way system, which may mitigate safety concerns and damage caused by the high street 'squeeze'.
 - Implementing safe crossings and bollards at points where safety is a concern, where one immediately outside the school is considered important by both adults and young people (Theme 2).



- **Longer-term:** A secondary route may be a consideration as a part of a longer-term plan (e.g. 10 years) but some considered it important to first establish a 'green' or 'development zone' buffer around the village first (see Theme 3).

THEME 3: Strengthening Our Community

Building our community integrity and capacities for self-determination, with an emphasis on enabling and supporting our young people. Acknowledging that some desired improvements are unlikely to happen without us taking collective leadership and responsibility for them.

PRIORITIES:

- **Coming and working together more, and intergenerationally, as a community (All)**, to decide and support what we need.
- **Mobilising projects to address our needs** (Tables 2 and 6), focusing initially on small-or-micro community projects, which build confidence, momentum and capacities (Table 2).
- **Appreciating and maximising existing community assets** (Table 6): before developing anew (e.g. Community Hall), and emphasising community ownership where it may be unclear (e.g. S Common).
- **Enabling and supporting our young people**
- **A fund-raising strategy for community projects** (Table 2).

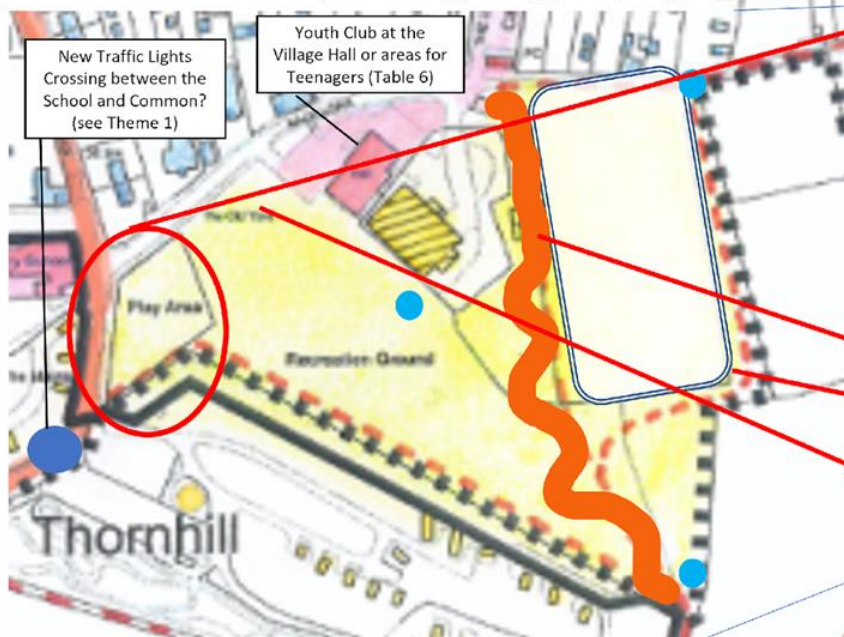
HOW (some initial ideas):

- **Decide on some potential small 'do-able' projects:**
 - **Improving South Common facilities for our young people** – see overleaf (Tables 2, 6 and 7), which could also include a youth club at the Community Hall or areas for teenagers (not yet consulted).
 - **Maximising our Community Hall** (Table 2 and 6)
 - Youth club; Community nursery; Community café (is there a demand?); 'Potluck' community lunches; Events for the over-60s; A recycling or reusing hub; Skill-sharing sessions: business skills; rotational workshops: massage; tailoring and sewing etc.
- **Raise funds to mobilise them** (Table 2):
 - **Explore and establish funding sources** include crowd-funding; National Lottery, asking residents to chip-in for ring-fenced issues; local authority funding (e.g. Sport Scotland); Corporate Social Responsibility contributions towards building community wealth and wellbeing.
 - **Work with the Thornhill Community Trust** around aspirations.
 - **Talk to and learn from neighbouring communities who have gained funding** (Table 6): e.g. Kippen, Callander, Fintry, Drymen etc.

THEME 3: Strengthening Our Community

POTENTIAL PROJECT: Improving South Common Facilities for our Young People

SOME INITIAL IDEAS (Table 7 (young people))



Improve Play Park (co-designing with us!)

- Climbing Frame, incl monkey / gym bars
- Tyre Swing
- "Tunnel" Slide
- Basketball Hoop
- Fix the fence and 'no dogs'



- **Better Sports Facilities**

- An annual Common 'Sports Day'
- Goal posts and goal nets (to stop balls hitting cars and people)
- Repair / re-grass areas of football pitch which flood
- A bike track where we're allowed to build jumps
- Running track

Ways of enhancing nature *and* interest for young people

- Don't cut the willow (we love playing under it)
- Bug hotels
- Trees (eco-friendly and we love climbing them)

THEME 3: Careful Development

Planning, and ensuring, a slow-growth 'holistic' and sustainable development strategy –housing, economic and community- which aligns with local needs, and is sympathetic to the unique, special needs and characteristics of our village and community.

POTENTIAL PRINCIPLES and GUIDELINES

- We acknowledge and accept our community's obligation to provide new and affordable housing towards meeting national demands in proportion to our size.
- In order to protect and build upon factors considered essential to the experience, character and sustainability of our community, all future developments –housing, economic or community- must proceed in small stages, with careful planning and evaluation at each, and where local needs analysis is given due emphasis. Our 'Slow Growth' model is proposed below.
- Only by this, can we ensure development will strengthen our community and not weaken it by exacerbating existing pressures (e.g. traffic volume (Theme 1) and essential services like our school and health facility (Theme 4)); by eroding our local economy, good farmland and community integrity; by causing residents to have to move elsewhere (e.g. young people and the elderly); or by degrading the unique visual aesthetic and unity of our historical planned village and conservation area.
- As such, there should be a presumption against any and all large-scale housing and economic developments locally, and any related to sensitive zones considered important to just transition should be a material consideration and enhanced discussion (see below).
- In addition, special care should be taken by any and all developers to ensure the aesthetic of any new proposals is consonant with the look of the historical planned village and conservation area.

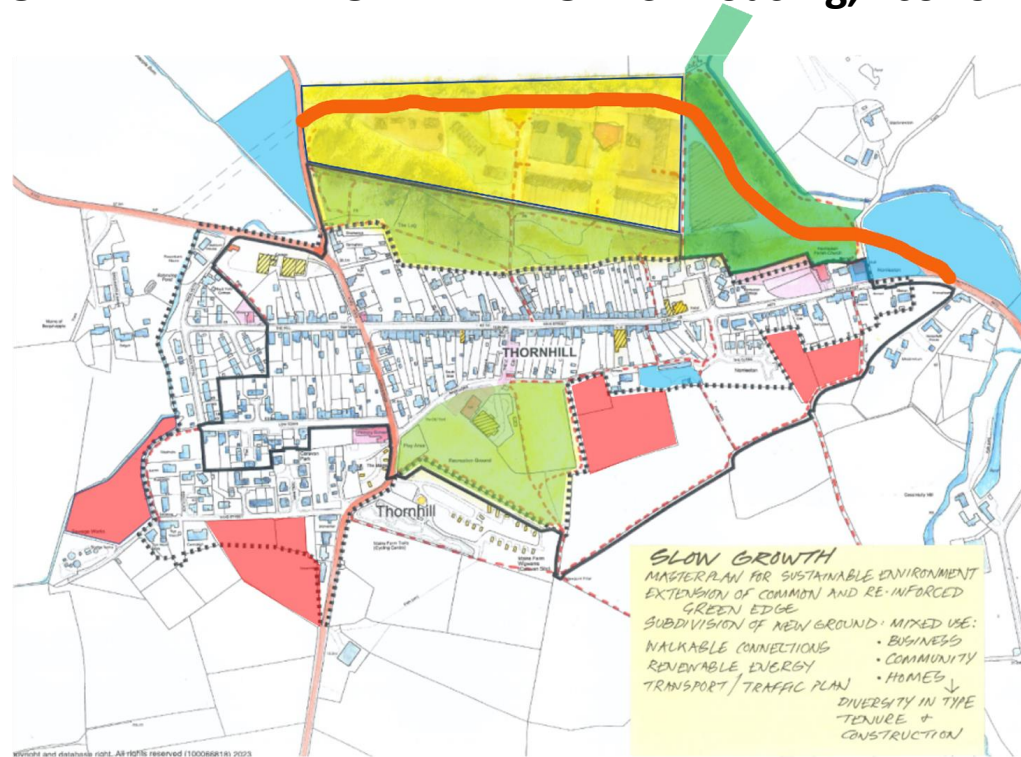
"It is important that authorities and developers listen to our plan, and understand why it is important. We hope we don't need to be ever-vigilant about how others interpret it."

"We need more appropriate housing -bungalows for older folk and affordable homes for the younger ones- so valued community members aren't forced to leave to find it"

"We need to feel secure that development will not be imposed on us - this is OUR village and we LOVE it, we don't want it to become a large sprawling village"

THEME 3: Careful Development

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ZONES: Housing, Economic, Community & Sensitive*



KEY:

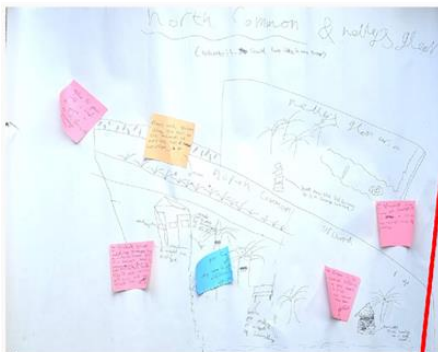
- Housing:** Potential zones for small-scale staged development
- Economic:** Potential zones for small-scale economic
- Community Greenspace (current):** our North and South Commons, essential for our amenity and protected for posterity.
- Sensitive Zone A:** Potential to expand and improve community greenspace and paths, connecting North Common with Nelly's Glen, and creating a green buffer zone (Table 7 (young people) – see overleaf).
- Sensitive Zone B:** Space for development 'by the Community for the Community', e.g. community housing, renewable energy, food, natural spaces, space for community enterprise spaces / live and work units etc.
- Secondary Route:** Potential eventual secondary route to alleviate traffic (e.g. in a 10 year plan) (Thornhill Futures Group and Theme / Table 1).

SOME INITIAL IDEAS: (Thornhill Futures Group, & Tables 3, 6 & 7 (young people))

**Sensitive Zone: zones identified as important to achieving the community's 10-yr model of a just transition –economic, social and environmental- but which are otherwise unprotected. As such, any proposals related to these zones necessitate 'enhanced discussion' where community views must be a material consideration which carries great weight in planning decisions.*

THEME 3: Careful Development

IDEAS FOR IMPROVING & EXTENDING THE NORTH COMMON (Table 7 (Young People))



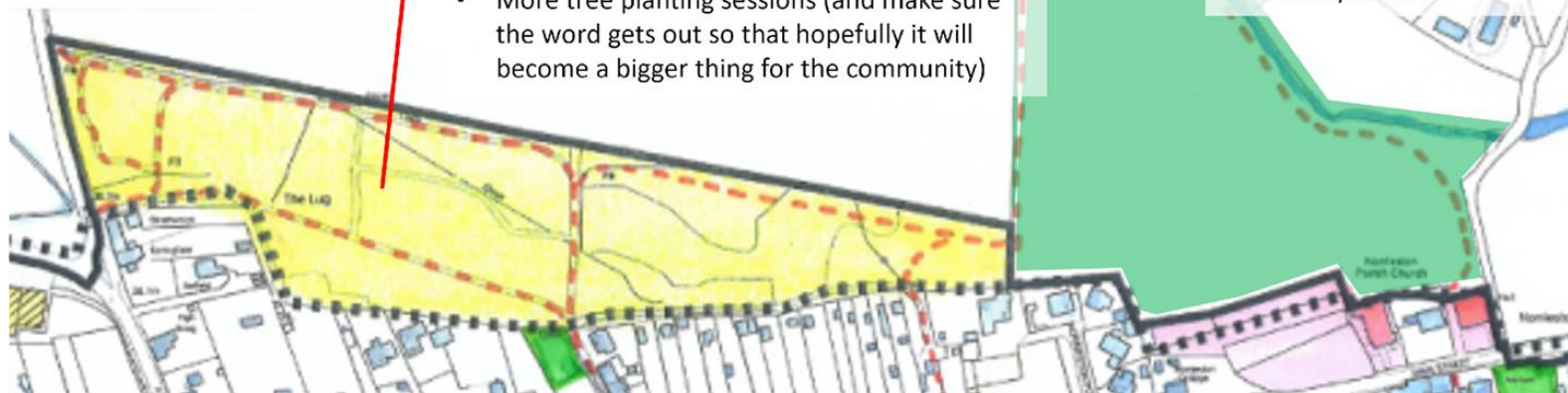
North Common "what it could be like in future"

- Replace the fence with a hedge to give a home to thousands of amazing species
- Plant wild flowers along the path to the orchard to attract bees and butterflies
- A hide to watch our wildlife with maybe a pair binoculars in the hide
- Benches for resting, meeting or a spot of birdwatching
- A hide to watch birds or a bench would be amazing, but we should not disturb nature.
- More birdboxes and bug hotels for wildlife.
- More tree planting sessions (and make sure the word gets out so that hopefully it will become a bigger thing for the community)

NELLY'S GLEN

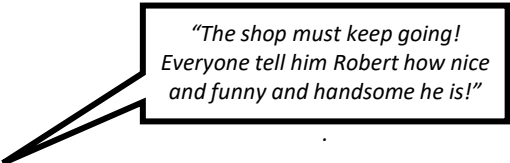
'Sensitive Zone A': Nelly's Glen and North Common expansion

- It is important for our community to protect and improve our greenspaces to help Climate Change and because we love nature.
- Clean up and protect Nelly's Glen, is a special place and is getting a bit polluted
- Build steps down the hill to Nelly's Glen because the walk is a safety hazard



THEME 4: Supporting our Local Infrastructure and Economy

Recognising the growing fragility of our situation and current systems, and seeking to protect and support our essential Public Transport, Health and Education services, and local businesses and employers.



*"The shop must keep going!
Everyone tell him Robert how nice
and funny and handsome he is!"*

PRIORITIES:

- **Improving our local Public and Active Transport Infrastructure (Table 6)**, enabling access to essential services and employment in our neighbouring communities.
- **Valuing, promoting, and taking care of our local businesses and 8 employers (Table 5)**, recognising their contribution to our aspirations for a more self-sufficient and circular local economy, and to providing jobs and opportunities for young people, which are otherwise difficult to find locally.
- **Recognising and supporting the local and 'hidden' economic contribution of home-working and digital enterprise**, with a call for some for broadband improvements which might support this.
- **Maintaining our village shop, pub, school, Thornhill Clinic (all)**, considered by all to be critical for community sustainability, and being ever-mindful of the 'use it or lose it' principle.
- **Nurturing community-led local enterprise and income generation (Tables 5 and 6)**, and enabling / providing the support and space these need to flourish.
- **Defibrillators**, some feel there is an urgent and immediate need for more defibrillators in the village (Table 4), although there was a suggestion more may be 'in the pipeline'.
- **Upgrading our sewage farm**, which some believe may be at capacity.

THEME 4: Supporting our Local Infrastructure and Economy

HOW (some initial ideas)?:

- **Improving Public / Active Transport Infrastructure (Table 6):**

- Investigate the potential for a service or active travel route to Doune which can also link in with their Callander bus route.
- Speak to Drymen about their electric bike-sharing service, and how this might link with the bus service.
- Providing joined-up information on the range of public / active transport options on local and council websites.
- Look at enabling more walking and cycling routes which avoid the busy roads. Young people would love a conversation about reopening the cycling / walking route at the Wigwams, and have offered to clear it as a 'thank-you'.
- Look at community transport options, e.g. via a car-share arrangement (ask Aberfoyle about their car club, and look into Stirling Council's car-sharing forum) or community investment in an electric hire car which might be booked by residents.

- **Supporting Local Businesses (Table 5).**

- Providing new space to attract businesses to the village (Theme 3)
- In assessing the appropriateness of new economic developments apply the planning principle that our status quo is maintained, while building and diversifying upon it (see Theme 3).
- Young people suggested the Village Shop could increase their custom if it sold candy floss, Prime Drinks and more sweets, and suggested this could go where the broken ATM is (Table 7)!

- **Community Enterprise or Income Generation (Table 6)**

- **Look at piloting a Business Hub** at the Community Hall, to provide business training, networking opportunities, and an alternative to home-working or space for local entrepreneurs.
- **Investigate if there are funds available for projects related to local sustainability and wealth-building** which might generate income or jobs: e.g. community renewables or café (is the latter viable?).

- **Maintaining Thornhill Clinic and Primary School (All):**

- former health professionals suggested it may be worth community representatives approaching the GP to discuss how best to preserve, support and improve the service.
- as the primary school is almost at capacity, some felt space needed to be set aside to give the grounds 'room to grow'.