

THURNSCOE

Thurnscoe East

Thurnscoe Park

Thurnscoe Leisure Centre

Thurnscoe Primary School

Thurnscoe Secondary School

Thurnscoe Football Club

Thurnscoe Golf Club

Thurnscoe Cricket Club

Thurnscoe Tennis Club

Thurnscoe Badminton Club

Thurnscoe Table Tennis Club

Thurnscoe Chess Club

Thurnscoe Darts Club

Thurnscoe Snooker Club

Thurnscoe Bowling Club

Thurnscoe Archery Club

Thurnscoe Canoeing Club

Thurnscoe Cycling Club

Thurnscoe Horse Riding Club

Thurnscoe Mountaineering Club

Thurnscoe Orienteering Club

Thurnscoe Paragliding Club

Thurnscoe Skydiving Club

Thurnscoe Water Skiing Club

Thurnscoe Windsurfing Club

Thurnscoe Sailing Club

Thurnscoe Rowing Club

Biltingley

Goldthorpe

Highgate

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Summary

This profile took account of over 10% of residents of Thurnscoe over an 18 month period. There is a clear spread of age, gender and home location.

The research shows that even where there was some disaffection the village has a strong identity and people fiercely defend their reputation.

The priorities identified are **crime and safety, employment and health and wellbeing**. Most feedback (measured by amount of responses) concerned the **environment** in the village. Where employment was prioritised as the second most important area, local residents struggled to identify solutions. This is not surprising as solutions to physical environment as easy to describe and employment could be assessed as much more problematic to tackle.

We have included some information that appears out of date (e.g. we asked questions about the Methodist church that has now been demolished), but have included it as this represents people's views at that time. Where slang and colloquialisms are used these have also been left in. We chose not to sanitise quotes to represent the true voice of those who took part.

What became apparent (reported by those who conducted the sessions) is that this is not the first or even second time this community has been asked to help support change projects and there is a large element of survey and inclusion fatigue. This is reflected in the problems encountered in recruiting board members and is a serious issue that needs addressing.

1 Introduction

Thurnscoe Big Local is a project to use at least £1 million to improve the area for residents. Residents will decide how to use this money through a Big Local Partnership. To inform the community plan, this profile has been developed.

How this profile has been drawn up

Research and consultation using a variety of methods, including one to one questioners, community open days & via existing community groups

The information has been tracked to ensure a range of addresses, ages and genders to try and be as representative as possible.

2 What we already know about Thurnscoe / what the statistics say

Thurnscoe, an ex coalfield community, and lies nine miles from Barnsley Town Centre. It has a population of around 9,000 people, though this is fairly fluid due to some demolition and new build housing.

Thurnscoe is in the South East of Barnsley metropolitan borough, bordering Rotherham and Doncaster. It lies in Dearne North ward.

A summary of Thurnscoe's strengths and assets:

- Strong community identity
- High levels of community activity and voluntary groups
- Small core group of extremely committed community activists who have worked to improve Thurnscoe for many years and provide social activities for the area
- Good number of community buildings & reasonable local shops & facilities
- Large amount of housing investment through Seasons development, including homes for sale and rent which will attract greater numbers of people in employment to area, and extensive property improvements across the estate, including Decent Homes' investment
- Group of extremely committed frontline staff across a range of agencies, many of whom have been in the area for years
- Good road links to Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, industrial developments/ work in the Dearne Valley, the A1 and M1 for residents with access to a car
- Train station serving stops between Leeds and Sheffield

A summary of challenges and issues:

- High numbers of lone parents
- More families with 3 or more children
- High dependency on benefits (over 10% higher than Barnsley average; 41% of homes in receipt of council tax benefit)
- Low household income
- Poor health leading to poorer life expectancy
- Higher levels of teenage conceptions
- Poor educational attainment at 16
- Higher levels of Special Educational Needs
- Significantly high levels of young people unemployed people
- High levels of anti-social behaviour
- High levels of deprivation
- High demands on social services
- Low satisfaction with Thurnscoe as a place to live
- Poor bus links

3 Residents have their say

a) Early community events highlighted the following:

A Vision for Thurnscoe

A united community

A full integrated community working with each other and not against one another

A safe and respectful place for everyone with a strong community spirit

Become more community minded

A healthy and happy community

Thurnscoe is looking better but there is room for improvement

Become a Transition town

Relevant and appropriate community facilities

- ◆ One place to get all the professional help and advice needed
- ◆ More community rooms per new houses, move venues round Thurnscoe
- ◆ Support all present groups and not try to make one big centre
- ◆ Find out what is happening to the chapel & Thurnscoe hotel
- ◆ Something nice where cinema was
- ◆ One large community building
- ◆ Better facilities focused on youth, adult learning, children's areas, workshops for children e.g. art classes, history etc., more activities
- ◆ Play areas top central and bottom
- ◆ Activity centres for children

Improved Environment

- ◆ Urban farm
- ◆ Something done to resa (fishing pond) for young and old
- ◆ A nice clean tidy environment to live and work
- ◆ More green space
- ◆ A nature reserve at Phoenix Park

Increased employment and training

- ◆ Good quality training& jobs that you can get to
- ◆ Better employment
- ◆ Full employment

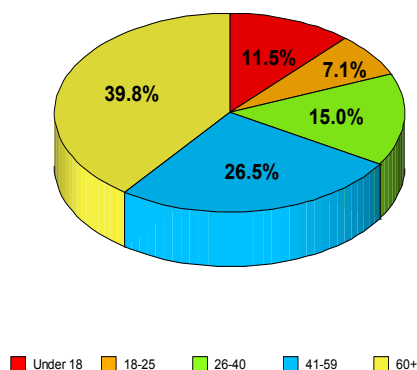
Useful, relevant transport

- ◆ Transport=more bus services, easy to access transport, free taxi services for elderly residents
- ◆ Better transport

b) A large survey then helped to get more detail. Nearly 800 people took part.

Survey summary

What age category do you fall into?



Please prioritise which area you feel needs the most attention (1 being the most important 9 the least)

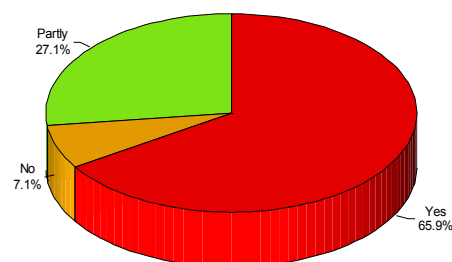
		Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Base	784	21.8%	12.2%	11.4%	9.8%	9.2%	9.1%	9.2%	8.8%	9.2%
6	Housing	89	20.2%	4.5%	6.7%	9.0%	1.1%	6.7%	11.2%	13.5%	29.2%
7	Environment	78	14.1%	9.0%	3.8%	9.0%	14.1%	14.1%	15.4%	12.8%	9.0%
3	Health & Wellbeing	85	24.7%	16.5%	12.9%	9.4%	8.2%	10.6%	8.2%	5.9%	3.5%
4	Services	87	21.8%	9.2%	10.3%	4.6%	8.0%	10.3%	10.3%	14.9%	12.6%
2	Employment	88	30.7%	14.8%	17.0%	9.1%	8.0%	10.2%	1.1%	3.4%	5.7%
1	Crime and Safety	93	36.6%	18.3%	19.4%	7.5%	8.6%	4.3%	3.2%	1.1%	1.1%
5	Transport	96	21.9%	9.4%	7.3%	11.5%	5.2%	4.2%	14.6%	16.7%	9.4%
8	Social Care	88	13.6%	13.6%	14.8%	13.6%	20.5%	6.8%	8.0%	2.3%	6.8%
9	Education	80	10.0%	15.0%	8.8%	15.0%	10.0%	16.3%	11.3%	8.8%	5.0%

The priorities identified are **crime and safety, employment and health and wellbeing**. Most feedback (measured by amount of responses) concerned the **environment** in the village.

Residents' responses to specific subjects

Green Space

- Thurnscoe does not have the range of green spaces to meet local standards. The quality of the provision needs improving



- There are sufficient local level parks and open spaces but some sites are very small offering a poor recreational experience. The quality of sites needs improving
- There is not enough child and youth provision across Thurnscoe, with many homes having no access to equipped play areas of any sort and in particular north west Thurnscoe.
- Thurnscoe has sufficient provision of local outdoor sports facilities
- There are not enough Green Ways provided
- Most of Thurnscoe residents have access to natural areas (partly with Phoenix Park). There is a lack of any natural areas north of the B6411 Houghton Road.
- There are 9 allotment sites that serve Thurnscoe but only four within Thurnscoe. Most Allotments are poor quality

Do you agree?

There was a general agreement that even though there was a reasonable amount of green space it was **not fit for purpose**. All age groups identified **litter, lack of facilities (toilets, bins and seating) and personal safety** as barriers to them using the existing facilities. A number of people suggested that **park rangers/dedicated clean up teams** would help and would be a good local job. Families with younger children and older people in particular want to see **more planting**. There was a lot of support for **age appropriate fixed equipment** (swings/slides/skate park/older age adventure climbing frames etc) and some support for **specific sports facilities**.

Housing

Seasons housing development is a ten year housing development which will provide a mix of rented, social housing and private purchases

- High proportion of social housing (more in East than West)
- Purchase cost for private sales lowest in Barnsley
- Biggest not for profit landlord Thurnscoe Housing Alliance

Do you agree?

There was a general acknowledgement that the new housing development had potential, but some concerns were raised about the problems caused by having a building site ongoing for such a long period of time. Another concern about the new development was the low proportion of social housing. Adults generally believed that with the problems facing those finding a mortgage, no matter what good value the houses are there is still too many barriers to purchasing a home.

The lack of local facilities (decent shops, banks and poor infrastructure) was a concern in attracting new people into the area to buy a home. Concerns about empty properties and landlords who neglect maintain their properties that are occupied were mentioned numerous times. There was acknowledgement that in general social housing (council and housing association) better looked after and generally better value for money than private lets.

There was a general feeling that we should concentrate on repairing and maintain what we already have before building more, and a significant amount of people wanted more social housing. There were comments about the lack of choice, particularly one bed apartments and accommodation suitable for older and disabled people.

Affordability was mentioned numerous times by a range of age groups. Some people

wanted to create areas eg family with play areas attached and older people groups, but other felt that this could cause more community segregation.

Services in the Area

The research asked about the Lift centre, Dentists, Sure Start centre, 2 infant and primary schools, special school, Nursing homes, and Library and Electronic village hall.

There was some confusion about what the Lift centre is (need to describe what its purpose is) and what services are located there.

There were no adverse comments about the dentists.

The Library and Electronic village hall were mentioned several times and were referred to in very positive terms.

Much of the feedback in this section is repeated in other areas, however what did show was that residents feel that there is a **lack of a central point for information** and joint working: this was confusing and frustrating.

Community run Services with buildings

Examples:

- Houghton Road centre
- Rainbow centre
- Windsor Street Community Rooms
- Great M8's youth group
- Station House Community Association
- Churches
- St Hilda's
- St Helens
- Pentecostal (meets in Houghton Road centre)

The area is well serviced by around 30 interest groups, many meet in the community centres or library

Generally there was a good knowledge of each building but comments about **communications** about what was happening in each centre were made. The main concern was around how the **costs of running** these centres would be found in the future, and the overreliance on volunteers to run them. No one reported that they wanted to close any and some called for extensions or even new buildings. There were comments about **more joined up working**, centres specialising and reducing duplication, and using one development worked to run and secure future funding etc. Adults wanted a **wider range of activities** to be offered in the centres, and more free activities and wider marketing of events called for. There were several calls for a new Vicar to enable the potential of the church halls to be more utilised. There was a general feeling that money needed to be invested in the delivery of a range of activities of different age groups and people who would co-ordinate them.

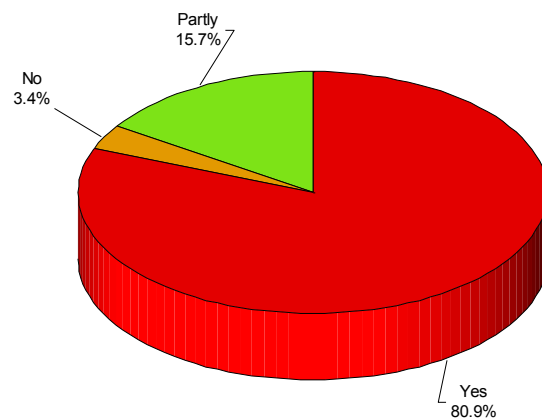
Crime

- Roughly similar overall levels to Barnsley
- Vehicle crime is lowered than Barnsley
- Anti Social crime is double Barnsley
- Reported fear of crime is high

Do you agree?

A large percentage reported being concerned about crime, particularly **anti social crime** after dark. People reported preferring not to go out or not answering their doors after dark. Solutions range from **education, distraction activities and having better employment rate.**

There was a strong feeling that there were few deterrents, when caught minimal or no punishments were handed out and that there was no community shaming of trouble makers. There was a strong call for more **community style policing** and more **CCTV** to act as both a deterrent and a method of catching criminals. There were more calls for **stronger policing** than increased activities.



Shops

- Small supermarket
- Range of small shops on main parade
- Post office
- Limited shops in East
- No bank or building society
- Numerous Take away scattered through village

Most people wanted a wider range of shops, and a very strong call from residents from the top end for shops nearer their homes. There were calls for smaller shops to be spruced up and kept tidier. The lack of banking was a concern particularly to those who had limited options for travel. There was a concern about the parking arrangement outside the shopping parade causing a safety issue. Some people wanted return to hosting a market, and there were calls for discount/second hand shops.

Pubs

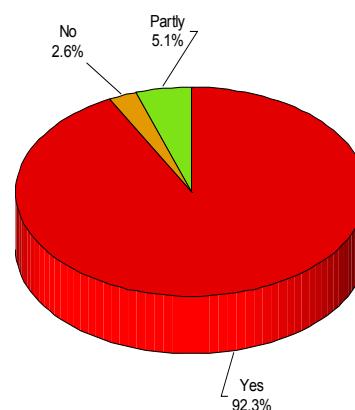
Many residents claimed that pubs didn't affect them. There were some concerns about specific venues serving underage drinkers. Where residents did identify a lack of **social/family activities** in the pubs and clubs, and /or a family pub with food service. There was a lot of support for keeping existing places open and even having more locations, but moving away from traditional adult drinking venues towards family friendly pubs with food, play areas and social activities. Early evenings and weekends were identified as times when families leave the village to access their services, but people would prefer to be able to walk to them.

Employment opportunities

- No large scale employer (largest probably Scotch Egg factory)
- Limited vacancies, low skills/low paid/short hours

Do you agree

Both work aged adults and retired people had a lot of concerns about **unemployment** and how it affects them. They described the **financial impact** and the softer impacts (eg loss of self worth, loss of emotional well-being). Most residents could relate how families reliant on benefits can't afford to spend locally and how this affects the local economy. About half of the respondents though that having **very local employment opportunities** was critical, many stated that numerous **lower skill jobs** would be more beneficial than one or two highest skilled job. This is because they believed that many locals did not have the skills for higher grade jobs and the people were better off starting at the bottom and having on the job training. There was a perception that higher qualified people would expect to travel to find work. Residents thought that warehousing, factory work and horticulture would be attractive to local people. There was a recognition that **jobs with training** and prospects were important especially for the young. About one quarter of respondents identified **transport** as a major barrier to employment, practically when the work is low paid, agency and out of normal office hours (which is the most common work opportunities for unskilled workers).



Multi agency networks

Many residents do not know about most of these. Of those that did the Crime and safety group was the best known. Generally residents thought that these were mainly talking shops and wanted to see more direct actions.

Transport

- Car ownership lower than Barnsley average
- Bus service limited
- Train service

The **bus service** raised the most comments for all age groups. Limited destinations, limited times when busses travelled, inconsistent service and high cost for local journeys were all issues raised by many people. Mexborough, Local hospitals and a very local service are the most popular required destinations. The trains had less complaints but they are more limited to where they go.

Poverty Premium

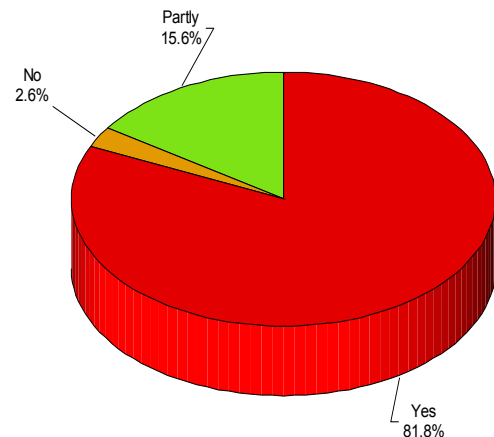
- "Poverty Premium" is a fact of life

(High cost of credit + prepayment of utilities + not able to afford home insurance
Purchase of clothes/household equipment. Most expensive options only available
due to lack of affordable credit or ability to save

- Careful budgeting was not always enough to manage money
- Families were often having to rely on other family members to help financially
- All strategies were vulnerable-ill health, financial difficulties in extended family, job loss, and problems with benefits payments all risked expensive debts
- Double Barnsley average claim free school meals

Do you agree?

Many residents reported that they had concerns about money, but a substantial amount saw this as unlikely to change. Some remarked about how they have to carefully budget to ensure but had no excess, and others thought that no matter how hard they tried there just wasn't ever enough income.



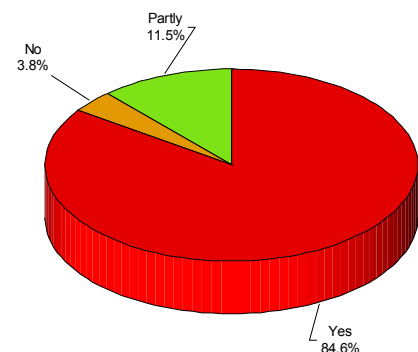
Possible solutions ranged from **finding work, to better education about home economics and financial management**. Calls for **more second hand shops/discount stores**, and reduced priced utilities were suggested. A **barter economy** was suggested (as there was so many people with time on their hands) and **advice about benefits**, and an increase in all benefits were mentioned. There was a general feeling that this was a huge problem linked with lack of employment, ill health, transport and education and possibly too big for any one thing to affect.

Health

- Much higher than average health issues
- Both men and women die younger than other residents of Barnsley
- Higher reported levels of life limiting conditions (cardiac, cancers, respiratory etc)
- Teen conception rates above Barnsley average
- Disabled living allowance claims more than three times higher than Barnsley

Do you agree?

The majority of residents who responded (a large proportion for this question) had one main issue, **access to seeing the doctor**. It included inability to get the phone answered, never have available appointments, and a lack of doctors. There were frustrations about the system of not being able to pre book appointments, and not being able to make



follow up appointment even when the Doctor instructs them to do so.

Residents have identified **access to health advice, education and support groups** as a missing element of local health care, particularly drop in services. Some people saw a link between the **lack of affordable sport and activity** as a factor to the poor health of the village, and others identified the lack of access to affordable fresh food (fruit and veg) as an issue.

Social care

One fifth of children has some level of contact form social care services

- Higher than Barnsley rates for adult social care (ranging from long term residential to supported living, and home adaptation)

Many residents did not comment or feel it affected them directly. Where there were suggestions for improvements it was about **preventative projects to support parenting** and a lack of local knowledge of **where to go for help advice and support**.

Education

- Children

Over 30% of pupils have special educational needs (20% in Barnsley)

- Foundation Stage KS1, KS2 - closing the gap but still behind local and national data

- KS3 & KS4 - below average

- NEETS - Highest levels in Barnsley

Adults

- Lowest levels of Degrees or above

- Highest levels of no qualifications

Most residents only commented on the primary and secondary schools. There were a few concerns raised about the quality of teaching but in balance concerns about class size, teacher workload and how to attract and retain quality teachers. Generally where residents had suggestions for improvements these were about the **teaching of basics skills (English and maths)** and the role schools should play in installing discipline into the lives of children. A few people would like Thurnscoe to have its own senior school, so it was smaller and children did not have to travel. There were a few calls for **adult education** at a very local level to be more consistent and a broader curriculum

Finally

The worst thing about Thurnscoe?

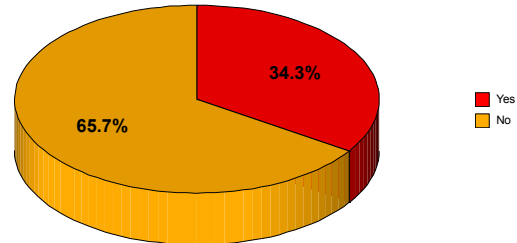
Anti social crime, remoteness from town centre and decision making, the feeling of disillusionment. The loss of local services (cinema, swimming pool, market etc), reputation, and constantly being asked what would make it better then the money running out before anything has been done.

The Best thing about Thurnscoe?

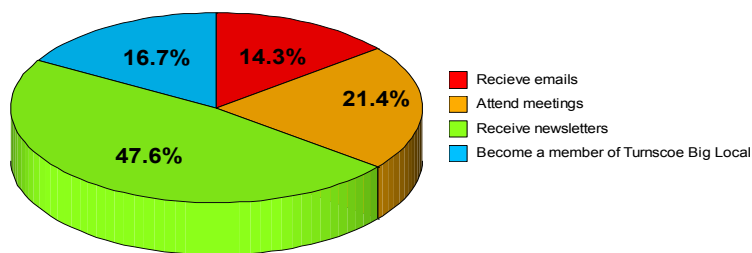
Community spirit, the people, how many large families still live close to each other and support each other.

4 And how do you want to be involved?

Would you like to be involved in Thurnscoe Big Local?



If you would like to be involved, how?



We are looking to form a Big Local Partnership Board. We want to make sure that the board has a majority of residents on it. Would you be interested in becoming a member of the board?

