

# NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM

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## BUSINESS QUESTIONNAIRE FREE TEXT SUMMARY

What is the major barrier to expansion in Thurston?

- Most popular response as to barriers were:
  - Restrictions in terms of location
  - Listed Building & Planning restrictions

If there is a shortage of suitable premises what does it relate to?

- Most popular other responses were:
  - Not enough retail units
  - Meeting Rooms
  - Retail Developments

If you expect to create opportunities within the next 5 years, what skill requirements is your business short of?

- Most popular responses were:
  - Administrative personnel
  - Skilled tradesmen
  - Skilled technicians

What do you like least about running a business in Thurston?

- The most common of answers are listed below:
  - Lack of development, no premises to expand
  - Speed of Broadband and/or Mobile coverage
  - Poor maintenance of access roads
  - Overhead electric supply is exposed to high winds/bad weather
  - Lack of parking provision for facilities
  - Too much government interference in every day matters ie health and safety

What do you like best about running a business in Thurston?

- The most common of answers are listed below:
  - Easy access to main roads A14/A11
  - Good location and road / transport connections
  - Pool of good part time labour
  - Relatively crime free area
  - Reasonable local facilities
  - Serving the local community & interaction with local residents
  - Rateable value & reduced overheads
  - Village / rural location is more relaxing than town

Do you have any further comments about the future of businesses in Thurston over the next 15 years?

- A designated area for small businesses with a variety of shops
- Location only 5 miles from the thriving market town of Bury St Edmunds.
- Infrastructure, power, roads, broadband needs further investment.

- A multiple use public building housing medical, Community Police could raise profile of village.
- More industry, business development needed to avoid stagnation.
- Investment required in communication.
- Need for start-up units.
- Trade site to allow cottage industry to stay in community.