

Q1. What additional leisure and/or recreational facilities would you like to see in Thurston?

- Swimming pool (11)
- Leisure centre/sports facilities (6)
- Gym (6)
- Public toilets (4)
- Community/Sensory Garden for the elderly (4)
- Cycle paths (Safer/Off road) (4)
- Further linked up cycle routes (2)
- Library – larger/open longer hours (2)
- Additional open space
- Annual fair
- Art spaces (indoor or outdoor)
- Benches
- Bike hire
- Bins
- Bowling Alley
- Communal fruit orchard
- Dementia friendly signage in village
- Fishing Lake
- Footpaths/Natural pathways
- Gym trail
- Lights
- None
- Pebble Snake set in concrete
- Picnic area
- Public Waiting facilities
- Restaurant
- Shops
- Sweet shop

Q2. Would you for example support the following:

	Yes	No	Did not answer
Allotments	53	32	14
Conferencing Facilities / Business Hub	27	46	26
Community Pitches	55	21	23
Dog Walking area	81	11	7
Healing Wood	60	16	23
NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Play area) – recreational area mainly for older children	59	15	25
Village Cinema	61	23	15
Wheeled sports area- e.g. Skate park, BMX track	59	24	16
Wildlife Conservation Areas	75	14	10
Youth Club	58	25	16
Other (please specify):			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bigger play area • Snowball site • Summer fete/carnival • MUGA 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Splash park/ Swimming pool • Dementia café • Purpose built scout hut/centre • Gym • Off road cycle paths to join with Moreton Hall • More regular bus service to Bury • Healthcare • Leisure centre with gym/pool • Children’s Orchestra • Bottle bins • Football area 			
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Q3. Where do you think these facilities should be located:

Areas in general:

- Heath Road (9)
- New Green (35)
- Cavendish Hall
- New housing estates (5)
- Recreation Ground (6)
- Larger/additional location on edge of village (3)
- Linden Homes open space (2)
- Old Primary school site (9)
- School grounds (outside of school hours) (2)
- Village centre (4)
- Land between big houses on Barrells Road and the railway track
- Land behind the Community College
- Old railway building
- Knock down the abandoned buildings
- Close to the train line, in surrounding fields
- Field behind Oakey Field Road
- Field behind Acorns
- Close to Schools
- Disused playing fields

Specific locations identified:

Dog area:

- New Green Centre behind the play area opposite the gym equipment (3)
- Field between Persimmon Homes and Community College
- Land near Church
- Heath Road

Skate Park/NEAP/BMX track:

- New Green (in the dip)
- Land behind the Community College (2)
- Barton Road opposite Bovis Homes/adjacent Mill Lane

Village Cinema:

- New Green
- Community College auditorium
- Cavendish Hall

Nature Reserve/Woodland/Conservation area:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heath Road • Barton Road opposite Bovis Homes/adjacent Mill Lane
All weather footpath:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lady Green Plantation
Fishing lakes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New housing development sites
Cycle paths:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New primary school/preschool area • Community College • Library to rugby club
Youth club:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cavendish Hall
Scout hut:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Road
Gym:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty area behind the Co-Op
Allotments:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barton Road opposite Bovis Homes/adjacent Mill Lane
Sweet shop:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Near Thurston Community College

The village currently has the following venues for meetings and club and group activities:

- Cavendish Hall, Church Road
- Community Library, Norton Road
- New Green Centre, New Green Avenue
- Recreation Ground, Church Road
- Rugby Club, Ixworth Road
- Sports Pavilion on the Recreation Ground, Church Road

Noted comment: “Why have the community college and primary school not been listed – they have facilities that include a dance studio, auditorium, sports barn and pitches.”

Q4. Do you use them?	Yes	No	Did not answer
	71	21	7

Q5. If No, why not?

New Green:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of suitable clubs, now only for young children or elderly lunch clubs. • No clubs like there were pre covid.
General Comments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No longer play ball sports • Do not use outdoor sports ground – inappropriate for my age and sex • Not sporty • Nothing for young couples • Nothing of interest, but looks like great service and facilities are provided for those that want them

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too young (2) • Not part of any clubs • No time (4) • No interest (4) • Not very modern • Would rather ride a bike
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Q6. Are there any other types of venues or facilities that would further meet your needs?

Noted comment: “car park for pub to stop people parking on pavement”

NO (5)

- Doctors surgery (13)
- Dental practice (4)
- Optician (2)
- Physio (2)
- Baby clinic
- Diabetic clinic
- Community centre with health facilities that could house the PC and the library
- Small meeting rooms for 20-25 people
- Managed wooded area (2)
- Garden area with benches, flower beds and shrubs for sitting, meeting or just relaxing (similar design to Abbey Gardens) (2)
- Sports barn (2)
- Gym (3)
- Purpose built fitness studio/dance studio
- Football club/lit pitches (3)
- Swimming pool
- Re-open Victoria Pub (2)
- Take away (2)
- Restaurant/A la carte pub
- Community café (2)
- Craft centre
- Video games arcade
- Bigger shop
- Pet Shop
- Scrabble/board games group
- Village fairs
- Regular bus service to hospital
- Public transport into Bury
- Pedestrian crossing at Post Office
- Circular walk around the village suitable for dogs
- Dog park
- Skate park (2)
- Bike park

Q7. Are there any other group activities/clubs that you would like to see offered in the village?

Noted comment: "Thurston is a village, we don't want commercial/recreational facilities more suited to a town environment"

NO (7)

- Youth drama club
- Sports Club (2)
- Amateur dramatics (2)
- More things for youngsters (2)
- Fishing club
- Bird watchers club
- Basketball (4)
- Cricket
- Football
- Table tennis
- More community events e.g. 'Big Weekend', Bonfire, Fete
- Decorating community outside spaces
- Zumba (2)
- Toddler friendly enclosed play area
- Enclosed dog field
- Evening exercise classes
- Dementia friends training & Suffolk Dementia Forum & Action Partnership
- Muscles charity group – able bodies helping less able.
- Skate boarding lessons
- An extra U3A group to accommodate new residents
- Dog related activities
- Somewhere quiet to sit and watch the world
- Music groups of differing types
- Local history group
- Family based bar/club
- 'Sure Start' for new mums and families with pre school children.
- Premises for holiday clubs
- Scouts and Brownies
- Girl Guides
- Cubs
- Zip wire
- Dog walking group
- Groups where young people can hang out (3)
- Swimming club
- Nature club
- Choir/Singing club
- Darts club

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

Of the 101 responses that we received, 99 were deemed valid, the rejected 2 stated that they did not live in Thurston, so were therefore not residents. However, it should be noted that the survey was forwarded to the Community College for all the pupils to fill out, so it may be such that further responses are from non residents.

Following a meeting of the Recreational Facilities Committee where the survey results were examined, the following were considered to fall within their remit and should be taken forward for further investigation.

Question 1

There are a number of ideas that have been suggested which currently cannot be taken forward due to lack of lands or buildings available to the community. Ideas such as safe cycle routes and footpaths that are already being planned for in upcoming developments and these proposals should be used to help with the development designs.

The ideas that the Recreational Facilities Committee would like to recommend for further investigation are:

- Community/Sensory garden for the elderly
- Annual fair/fete/carnival
- Communal fruit orchard
- Dementia friendly signage
- Picnic area
- Pebble snake

Information that should be passed onto organisations within the village:

Library

- Request for longer opening hours/to be made larger

Cavendish Hall/New Green Centre/Library

- Indoor/Outdoor Art spaces
- Bike Hire

Question 2

Whilst all the examples given (except for the conferencing facilities/business hub) were supported, the facilities that garnered over 75% of the residents' favour were:

- Dog walking area
- Wildlife conservation area

Information that should be passed onto organisations within the village:

Library/New Green/Cavendish hall/Schools:

- Children's orchestra
- Dementia café
- Summer fete/carnival

Question 3

A number of different areas within the village were identified, but the majority are on land that is privately owned. Land that could be used for some of the ideas put forward are:

- Heath Road
- New Green

- Cavendish Hall
- Recreation Ground
- Linden Homes open space
- New housing developments
- School grounds (outside of school hours)

However, it should be noted that this land has a number of restrictions on it in terms of agreed development, space and existing plans.

Specific areas were nominated for a number of different ideas, many of which had to be discarded due to reasons given above, however those that should be considered are:

- Dog area – New Green open space, land behind the play area opposite the trim trial.
- Dog area – Hopkins Homes development
- Dog area – Heath Road
- Nature reserve – Heath Road

The New Green Centre, Cavendish hall and Thurston Community College were specifically identified within the survey for particular events, and these will be passed on:

- Youth club – Cavendish Hall
- Village Cinema – New Green Centre
- Village Cinema – Cavendish Hall
- Village Cinema – Thurston Community College

Question 4

71% of all surveyed said they use the venues in the village meetings, clubs and group activities.

Question 5

All reasons that were given forward for not using the current facilities will be passed onto the various venues. Many stated their reason being down to age, lack of interest and/or time.

Question 6

Whilst many facilities highlighted were health related or commercial, the ideas that could be taken forward for consideration are:

- Managed wooded area
- Garden area with benches, flower beds and shrubs for sitting, meeting or just relaxing (similar design to Abbey Gardens)
- Somewhere quiet to sit and watch the world
- Dog area
- Village fair
- Pedestrian crossing at the Post Office
- Zip wire

Question 7

A number of clubs were highlighted, and these will be passed onto the current venues for consideration.

Information that should be passed onto organisations within the village:

Library/New Green/Cavendish hall/Schools:

- Youth drama club
- Youth club
- Amateur dramatics

- More things for youngsters
- Toddler friendly enclosed play area
- Sure Start for new mums and families with pre school children
- Premises for holiday clubs
- An extra U3A group to accommodate new residents
- Local history group
- Music group
- Choir/Singing club
- Nature club
- Bird watching club
- Darts club
- Sports club
- Basketball
- Table tennis
- Cricket
- Football
- Zumba
- Evening exercise classes
- Skate boarding lessons
- Cubs/Scouts/Brownies/Girl Guides
- Dog walking group/activities club
- Charity groups – Dementia Friends, Muscles charity group (able bodies helping less able)

Conclusion:

Green spaces, need for somewhere safe to walk a dog off the lead and annual community events have been highlighted by the village as high priority.

There are areas within the village that can be utilised and/or improved on to help support some of the requirements highlighted. For example, the wildlife garden in the New Green Centre has been neglected but has potential to be developed into garden for reflection and relaxation.

Open spaces that the developers have ear marked for the community, whilst some years down the line, can, and in some cases have been designed to incorporate safe footpaths, bike trails and dog walking areas. Plans for these need to be shared more widely with the community to ensure that they are aware.

Annual events have been popular in the past, and although pandemic restrictions have meant they did not happen in more recent years it is apparent the village enjoys these occasions and there is a demand for them.

The Recreational Facilities Committee consider that an Infrastructure Working Group should be set up to take forward ideas that have been raised within the survey. The working group should include representation from all areas within the village and should include spokespersons from (but not exclusively) New Green Centre, both schools, Thurston Library, Cavendish Hall and Thurston Parish Council.