

THURSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Office
New Green Avenue
Thurston IP31 3TG



Tel: 01359 232854

e-mail: info@thurstonparishcouncil.gov.uk

website: <http://thurston.suffolk.cloud>

THURSTON INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE 2024

Background:

The Thurston Neighbourhood Development Plan (TNDP) was formally adopted by Mid Suffolk District Council on 24th October 2020. The Parish Council having adopted the TNDP will use it as a material consideration in the determining of planning applications affecting Thurston.

CIL:

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge the District Council can levy on developments within the districts to ensure facilities and services have capacity to keep up with new homes and to enable further sustainable growth. A portion of CIL income is paid to Parish Councils to be spent on offsetting the impacts of development in the area.

Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP):

Due to the potential for new CIL income, the parish council has developed a PIIP which will allow it to identify and prioritise the infrastructure needs of the community and future spending decisions.

PIIPs are non-statutory documents that do not form part of the Babergh Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan and are not a material planning consideration.

A PIIP can:

- Identify the infrastructure and investment needs within a community.
- Provide an evidence base for spending decisions on locally identified priorities.
- Identify sources of funding and opportunities for matching funding streams.
- Assist with external funding bids - providing evidence of local investment priorities.
- Provide transparency to local communities - explain where local investment is being targeted.
- Provide a local perspective to help the district councils gain a better understanding of the communities' priorities.

What is infrastructure?

There are typically 3 broad categories of infrastructure:

- Physical infrastructure: e.g. highways, transport links, cycleways, energy supply, water, flood alleviation, waste management
- Social infrastructure: e.g. education, health, social care, emergency services, art and culture, sports halls, community halls
- Green infrastructure: e.g. parks, woodlands, play areas, public open space

Scope of the Infrastructure Planning Working Group:

The working group is formed to monitor the measures being undertaken to address the demands that development places on the area of Thurston.

The Planning Committee retains all of its functions, and none are discharged to the working group.

Specific tasks of the Working Group

- Assess and monitor: understand the approved and identified infrastructure for Thurston including timescales for delivery.
- Policy compliance: are planning applications being built out in accordance with approved development plans?
- Reasons for departing from development plans: If decisions depart from approved plans, are there clear and valid reasons for doing so?
- Assess: raise the profile of the impact of new development on the existing infrastructure with sensitivity and understanding.
- Identify: research and review gaps in infrastructure and the reasoning behind why this has not yet been addressed.
- Elicit and enable public support for its views about infrastructure and the role of the parish council in the development of a safe and sustainable community.

Membership and Quorum

Membership of the working group to consist of the Co-Chairs of the Thurston Neighbourhood Plan, a maximum of three Parish Councillors and a minimum of four residents.

Quorum - there is no legal requirement for a working group.

Administration

The group shall be responsible for their own appropriate clerking arrangements.

Frequency, Timing and Procedure of meetings

Public right to attend meetings – this will be a working group and the public have no statutory right to attend a working group meeting or report on its proceedings.

Meetings may be convened without any public notice being given.

Notes will be kept of all working group meetings which take place.