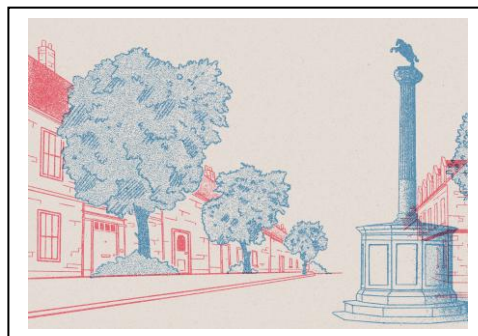


THORNHILL PLACE PLAN REGISTRATION SUBMISSION STATEMENT



INTRODUCTION

Thornhill is a village located in the Mid-Nithsdale area of Dumfries and Galloway, known for being vibrant, friendly, and attractive. It has a population of around 1,670 and has long served as a hub for surrounding rural areas, offering essential services and social spaces.

It's home to Wallace Hall Academy, which has both primary and secondary schools, as well as a doctor's office and a care home for older people. Thornhill plays a key role in serving the nearby villages and community, and it's the largest settlement in the DG3 postcode area, which has a total population of about 5,000 residents.

This Place Plan belongs to our community. It has been shaped by the voices and aspirations of Thornhill residents – from our youngest primary school children to our longest-standing residents. Through surveys, drop-in events, walks around the village, and countless conversations, hundreds of people have contributed their ideas about what makes Thornhill special. This plan sets out our vision for Thornhill and practical actions to take over the next 10 years.

This statement and the Local Place Plan are submitted by Thornhill Community Council.

This LPP has been produced in partnership with OST Development Trust, on behalf of the residents of Thornhill. Thornhill Local Place Plan has been funded by Thornhill Community Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council. We commissioned local social enterprise Sleeping Giants to lead the engagement and draft the Plan. A steering group made up of members from OST Development Trust and Thornhill Community Council has overseen the process.

PURPOSE OF STATEMENT

This statement supports the registration of our LPP for the community of Morton Parish.

To meet statutory requirements for Local Place Planning, this Statement confirms that both the Place Plan and this statement have been developed in accordance with:

- Government legislation: Town & Country Planning (Local Place Plans) (Scotland) Regulations 2021
- Scottish Government's Planning Circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans (LPP)
- Dumfries & Galloway Council's LPP Overview of Requirements.

LPP CONFIRMATION

To meet statutory requirements for Local Place Planning, this statement confirms the following:

Governance

Thornhill Community Council is the lead organisation for the coordination, production and submission of the LPP.

Strategic Context

Thornhill Local Place Plan was developed having considered

- The National Planning Framework 4 (2023)
- The Local Development Plan (2019)

Note that there is no Locality Plan for Thornhill.

The documents and publications below were also taken into consideration during development of our LPP. These cover the national, regional and local landscape.

- Dumfries and Galloway Council Plan 2023-2025
- Dumfries and Galloway Housing Strategy
- Dumfries & Galloway 5 Year Plan 2023-28 Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
- South of Scotland Economic Delivery Strategy Plan 2022-2025
- Responsible tourism Strategy for the South of Scotland 2024-2034
- 10,000 Voices (2023)
- Nature Scot Developing with Nature Guidance (2024) www.nature.scot
- Regional Transport Strategy-Regional Transport Partnerships 2024
- Right Care Right Place. Public Engagement: Key Findings (updated) 2023
- Dauner About Thornhill, 2024
- Improvement Service Community Planning Outcome Profiles
- Housing Need and Demand Assessment Report, by South of Scotland Community Housing for Old School Thornhill, August 2024

Community Engagement

Between November 2024 and July 2025, we gathered the ideas, concerns, and aspirations of as many local people as possible. In the early stages, we raised awareness of what a Local Place Plan is and asked residents their thoughts on how to reach and engage with different sections of the community.

Based on what local people told us, we offered a range of different ways for people to have their say, including:

- Paper and online surveys for residents, businesses, landowners and community groups

- Four drop-in engagement events, run at different times and in different venues, including an interactive walk around the village
- Discussions with representatives of local organisations, including Thornhill Community Centre, Morton Thistle Juniors, Buccleuch Estate and Thornhill Rotary Club
- Engagement sessions with local primary and secondary school children with tools adapted for each age group
- An Action Planning Day with expert speakers on key themes and a chance to comment on draft Actions and spatial elements of the Place Plan

It is hard to give a total number of people involved as some people may have engaged more than one way. However, we feel that the numbers below show a strong level of engagement which was achieved through different methods.

Summary of engagement activities

Engagement methods used	Numbers of people
Early discussions to raise awareness and inform methods used	130 attendees at Christmas shopping and 6 at group discussion
Community survey	245 survey responses
Drop-in events	14 attendees
Business and Landowner Survey	10 responses plus 1 meeting
Community Group survey	10 survey responses plus 3 meetings
Engagement sessions in classrooms in Wallace Hall	185 children and young people
Community Action Planning Day	25 residents plus 4 giving online feedback

STATUTORY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In line with statutory requirements, we conducted a final 28-day consultation on the draft plan with the community, the three regional councillors for our area and eight adjacent community councils.

During this period the draft plan was available on the websites of Thornhill Community Council and Old School Thornhill (“**OST**”). Paper copies could be read at OST and Thornhill Library. Comments could be made online via Survey Monkey or by email or post to the Community Council.

A drop-in session was held at OST on 11th November which allowed resident to share views directly with members of the steering group.

23 people took part in the final, formal consultation.

- 9 electronic submissions (we gave the option of simple anonymous survey monkey submission or by email)
- 14 gave in person feedback at drop in session

Adjoining Community Councils and Local Councillors for our ward were contacted but no feedback was received from these organisations / individuals.

The following substantive changes were made to Thornhill Place Plan in response to feedback received:

- Additional information added on transport and internet infrastructure challenges experienced in Gatelawbridge which had not been raised in earlier stages despite significant effort (hand delivered materials to each house) to reach people in this area
- Added the idea of developing former tennis courts for a different purpose other than sports (action 1.8)
- Wallace Hall Academy added as a potential partner to action 1.9 on community safety
- Added idea of considering community buy-out of derelict buildings as part of derelict building strategy (action 2.2)
- Clarified preferred locations of additional benches for accessibility (action 3.4)
- Added point about considering expanding community transport to include volunteers taking people to hospital appointments (action 3.5)
- The only new section added at this late stage was map 5 and two paragraphs under the title Economic Development. This clarified and added geographic data to two actions relating to economics (actions 4.2 and 4.6) which had been explained in the previous chapter but without reference to exact mapped locations. This map also makes a suggestion for a very small extension to the Town Centre Boundary in LDP3 compared with LDP2
- Added practical point on how the forested area to the West of Thornhill acts as a shelter belt

Finally, minor points of additional information were added in response to consultation where it had been missing (e.g. adding the Multi-Use Games Facility to list of existing facilities), a few typos were fixed and clarifications added where people appeared to have misunderstood the text or did not know acronyms used.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Thornhill Place Plan includes a range of practical Actions organised under the following themes:

1. A Village for All Generations

Thornhill should be a place where people of all ages feel valued, safe and included. We want better sports facilities, more youth activities, and opportunities for people to connect, learn, and contribute.

2. Protecting our Buildings and Natural Spaces

From our lime trees and historic buildings to the forests and green spaces that surround us, Thornhill's identity is worth protecting. We want to care for our environment, restore derelict buildings, and celebrate our heritage.

3. Connected and Accessible Thornhill

We want a village where everyone can move around safely and easily – whether by public transport, walking, wheeling, cycling or driving. This means tackling parking issues, improving pavements, and making active travel safe for people of all ages.

4. A Thriving Local Economy

We want to support local businesses, attract new enterprises, and create good jobs - especially for young people. That means better childcare, more apprenticeships, and making sure our shops and amenities meet community needs.

5. Homes and Services for All

Thornhill needs housing that works for its people - affordable, accessible, and in keeping with the village's scale. Any growth must be matched by investment in services like health, education, and care, so that no one is left behind.

See pages 20 to 32 of the LPP for the full range of Actions.

These Actions will be guided by four enablers, which will create the right conditions for empowered community development.

- Enabler 1. More participation in local decision making
- Enabler 2. Sharing information
- Enabler 3. Collaboration rather than competition
- Enabler 4. Getting funding to the organisations that need it

IMPACT ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Thornhill Place Plan suggests some changes for the next Local Development Plan (LDP3). The main planning issue people were concerned with was housing. People

would like smaller, more incremental increases in housing, at sites not too far from the village centre and the school.

Other proposed changes include:

- Potential locations for a pump track or skate park
- Upgrade existing or building new public toilets
- Suggestions to make Thornhill more walkable including sites for zebra crossings

Chapter 5 also includes a discussion about the future of greenspace around Thornhill.

NEXT STEPS AND CONCLUSION

Thornhill Place Plan sets out what matters most to our community and what we want to protect, improve, and develop. It's a practical tool to guide local action and influence decision-making at regional level.

Different organisations will take forward the different Actions in the Thornhill Place Plan. As lead partners in developing this Place Plan, Thornhill Community Council and OST Development Trust will have a particular role in supporting the Actions (particularly those which do not currently have a lead) and reviewing the overall Place Plan.

This will involve:

- An initial meeting between OST Development Trust, Thornhill Community Council, a staff member from Dumfries and Galloway Council Place Plan Team, other local groups, and members of the public to agree on Short Life Working Groups for key Actions
- Each Working Group will develop its own measures of success, timeframe, and (where required) potential sources of funding
- Annual review by Thornhill Community Council, OST Development Trust, and interested groups and members of the public.

We hope that this vision of this Local Place Plan speaks to people in Thornhill and that local residents will want to be a part of bringing it to life.

CONTACT DETAILS

Secretary, Thornhill Community Council

c/o Old School Thornhill

Station Road,

Thornhill,

DG3 5DF

Email: Thornhillcc@outlook.com

Website: <https://www.thornhillcc.com>