

Thornhill Futures Group

Notes of Meeting 2 - 12th April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Present: Keith Yates (Chair), Drew Yule (Notes), Peter Stott, Elaine Blanchard, Belinda MacMillan, Mandy McMonagle, Alexander Pfretzschner, Al Rawlinson, Lyn Rawlinson, Gary Richardson, Kate Sankey, Graham Tristram, Richard Waite, Keith Yates, Ellen Larson Davidson, Collette Ashworth, Joanna Bassett, Jemma Beedie, Andy Greig, Joyce Firth
Apologies: Jim Mills, Rachael Purse, Cliona Teeling Marshall, Gregor Flynn, Fiona Morison, Laura Williamson.

Welcome and apologies: This second meeting is for the purpose of reporting progress & feedback from the theme groups.

Notes of last meeting: These were agreed and accepted.

Manifesto and values: The Steering Group presented the document and asked for feedback from the wider group. The document is strategic with high level aspirations and values. It is essential to stress that these are all for the benefit of the community.

Joanna – The definition of Vulnerable Groups needs to include children and young people, not just the elderly. Peter to add a further guiding principle – on children and intergenerational considerations.

Remove the word “Community” from the document title. The group is Thornhill Futures Group.

Action: PS to create & circulate final revision.

Questionnaire: Important for Futures Group members to encourage people to complete. TV circulated to 360 households. We expect a 15-20% return. There have been 24 online responses from the Thornhill area and 2 from outwith the area. No new themes have emerged so far. It is estimated that there are 10 in the box in the shop. Also circulated in Thornhill Views.

The online questionnaire will be kept open until Monday 19th April.

Reminders in community website, Facebook page, Stirling Observer and Village Store window. It is important to reach those who do not use the Internet, including Zoom, etc. Results should be available 2 to 3 weeks after closing.

Wicked issues: Keith explained that there are controversial issues which have emerged and the group would need to address them to demonstrate that Thornhill Futures has big aspirations. It has to seek a mandate to become a representative group.

1 Housing: Stirling Council’s new Local Community Plan will seek to identify community views on possible sites and types of housing. The group should be prepared to be proactive by taking collective action to establish the community view on this and to influence the LDP in future.

2 JCC: Noise and increased activity, expansion of its area of business, increased traffic, including heavy traffic. It provides 18-20 jobs. What is the community view?

Updates from Themes Work Groups.

- Heritage & History. Steering Group agreed that this should be combined in the Community Profile.
- Public Realm and Village Centre.
- Land Assets. A facilitating theme group. Conduct a land ownership survey. Circulate information on legislative opportunities for community land use. Richard to take the lead on this.
- Farming and agritourism. This theme group needs links with farmers to be explored further. This group needs to link with the Business and Home Working Group and use the same set of questions in its survey. Ellen – Young farmers are active in the village and should be approached.
- Biodiversity. Mark and Matt - not in attendance but arranging a meeting of the group.
- Building Assets and Housing. Graham - Information has been gathered on derelict and underused buildings in the village and a collated file will go on the Themes shared Drive. There is potential but requires collaboration with the owners. There is a real need for housing that is sustainable and of good quality. Not “little boxes” but linking organically to existing buildings and layout. Also noted the issue of the Tannery Manager’s house which is on the Buildings At Risk register.
- Business and Home working. Alex – A draft business questionnaire has been developed. There are around 65+ businesses including self-employed, farms and home working. Need to develop the questionnaire which is on the shared Drive for feedback. It was suggested that a pilot would be useful and thereafter to make appointments rather than cold calling the businesses. After lockdown, when safe to do so, hold a meeting of businesses about creating a business directory and a network of local businesses.
- Community Facilities, Play and Sport. There are around 20 “facilities” in the village, from buildings to the commons. It was suggested that a tool exchange should be established but noted that there is already one established in Stirling with a wide range of tools and which will deliver on a weekly basis to Thornhill. The green gym is a popular idea with opportunities at sites around the village. There is a need to upgrade and improve many existing facilities, e.g. drainage on South Common.
- Youth Activities. Cliona is not available but is coming back with proposals.
- Art Culture and Events. Elaine and Kate met with Charlie Gracie who had agreed to carry out an audit with a view to a possible directory.
- Health and Social Care. A meeting had been arranged with the Doune Health Centre. Have a table at the monthly Tea and Talk in the Community Hall. Mandy to contact Third Sector organisations. There is a lot of work going on, currently, in the Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Paths, Cycle Ways, Roads and Transport. Gary – there are 18 or 19 topics under this theme.
 - North Common paths and drainage.
 - Muir Dam path and stiles.
 - Weekend work party groups planned for post lockdown.

- In dialogue with Stirling Council regarding the South Common, public transport and electric vehicle charging point, as well as with the Paths Officer.
- Stirling Council lift share scheme.
- There is a car share scheme operating in Stirling.
- Drew – Still waiting for feedback regarding the proposed Aberfoyle to Stirling cycle route. Confidential discussions in progress.
- Possible leaking washout hydrant causing waterlogging at one of Muir Dam route stiles.
- Climate Change and Sustainable Energy. Richard – A cross-cutting issue which may develop into more specific projects as ideas are worked up. Kate has placed a paper on the Drive. A Community hall upgrade was suggested with solar panels, etc. The AGM is tomorrow. All welcome. See Context/Guidelines/ Funding theme.
- Broadband and Infrastructure. Lyn to identify what support is available. Contact Forth Valley LEADER Broadband Development Officer. An article has been drafted for the next issue of TV.
- Context/Guidelines/Funding. This is another overarching theme group which will identify the sources of funding. These will be driven by the work of the other theme groups.

Communications.

Electronic organisation: Alex – There have been some issues with the drive. It is more accessible for those with a gmail address but one can be provided. He will set this up for anyone who requires. He encouraged people to use the drive.

Joyce - Placing documents in the shared drive is a future proofing activity and worth the effort to ensure wider circulation of materials.

Any blog posts to be sent to Joyce and Keith.

Agreed to continue to use the standing agenda and to post notes of meetings on the community website once they have been agreed.

Action: AP to approach Alison Wallis to explore the metrics of activity on the Thornhill Community Website.

Dates of next meetings.

Steering Group – 7.30pm Monday 26th April. **Chair:** Al Rawlinson. **Notes:** Mandy McMonagle.

Full group – 7.30pm Monday 10th May. **Chair:** Joyce. **Notes:** Rachael.