



THORNER PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2019

WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL REPORT 2019

This report aims to show you what your parish councillors have been doing on your behalf over the past 12 months and explain how your money has been spent.

WHO ARE WE?

All your parish councillors are volunteers and have no links to any political party. We are all independent and here purely to represent you and look after the village and its interests. Councillors are unpaid and the only paid member of the Parish Council is the clerk who is employed by the Parish Council.

Thorner Parish Council can have a maximum of 9 parish councillors who are elected every 4 years. If a councillor resigns between elections, the Parish Council can co-opt new councillors. 2019 is election year and as we have more nominations than seats, elections will take place on 2 May to select your parish councillors for the next 4 years. Our thanks go to all the parish councillors who have served over the past year, some of whom are not standing for election in May. Every councillor has contributed to either maintaining the existing facilities and fabric of the village or protecting its future interests, and quite often both.

The Parish Council meet every month and the dates will be posted on the website and on the notice board. You are most welcome to attend and the first part of every meeting is set aside for residents to speak and raise any issues or concerns they may have.

All correspondence should be directed to the Clerk. His details are as follows: Barry Riley 0113 2640865 or thornerparishcouncil@gmail.com

FINANCE

Most of our funding is obtained via the precept, which is a small levy on the Council Tax Bill of every household in the village. We also receive occasional grants from Leeds City Council, rental income from the gardens and occasional donations from individuals or groups. In addition, we can request grants from local and national organisations to fund major projects.

The majority of the money is spent on administration costs, maintaining the look and appearance of the village and maintaining the Parish Council owned facilities, such as the playground and the boules court. In addition, some of the money is used to support organisations in the village, such as St Peter's Church and the Youth Fund. Furthermore, any resident or organisation in the village is able to request a grant from the Parish Council to support a project which will benefit the village or the residents - please see the website for more details.

The summary of accounts for the year 2018/2019 are shown at the rear of this document. We are delighted to confirm that the Precept for 2019/2020 will remain the same.

WHAT'S PLANNED FOR 2019?

The Parish Council will be looking to renovate the benches around the village and will be hoping to make the Gesling Hill area neater and more attractive. A small clean-up group will be formed to improve the community areas around the Paddock, removing self-seeded saplings and improve the borders.

The small field by the ford is also in the care of the Parish Council and is set aside for wild flowers to support the ecology of the village. In 2019, the Parish Council wants to draw attention to this lovely spot for a picnic, meditation or just a general commune with nature and a smell of the flowers.

The Parish Council also aspires to carry out a project to improve awareness of the former World War II Decoy on Ellerker Lane. The structure was part of the military defences to protect Barnbow Munitions Factory. We intend to form a working group and scope the project, welcoming anyone with an interest in joining, or alternatively, anyone who wishes to record their memories of the Decoy, whether in use or in the years since it was decommissioned.

The Parish Council is always looking for volunteers to help with projects. If you are able to offer help or have any suggestions for future projects in the village, please contact the Clerk.

**The Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council.
Tuesday 30th April 2019 at 7.30pm in the Victory Hall.
Wine and nibbles will be provided after the meeting.**

This is your opportunity to put your questions to the Parish Council, raise any issues you might have and put forward suggestions for the future.

VILLAGE APPEARANCE...

The maintenance team is one of the busiest working groups on the Parish Council and requires the members to roll up their sleeves and get stuck in. Gwen, Diane, Tom, Richard, Steven and Mark have all played a part over the last twelve months in doing the little jobs that you may not notice.

FOOTPATHS

The many footpaths in and around the village are looked after by the footpaths officer (Steven Wood) and his working group. With the permission of the landowner or tenant, the team fix stiles, cut back overgrown hedges and arrange for the erection of the maps and signs showing which routes will keep you on the footpath.

The current focus of the footpaths group is to add signage to the permissive access through Thorner Bottoms Wood. Access is permitted by the tenant from the public right of way on the old railway line along the track as far as the woods, where access is allowed through the woods and then along through the paddock to the stile by the entrance to the cricket and football clubs.

VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN

Once again our thanks go to all the volunteers who attended the Annual Village Spring Clean in March. Dozens of bags of rubbish were collected by the 35 wonderful people who selflessly spent a truly glorious Saturday morning in the sun helping to keep our environment looking great.

GRASS CUTTING AND GARDENING

The Parish Council has a contract with Continental Landscapes to cut the many areas of grass not covered by the Leeds City Council contract. In addition, they perform an annual prune of Millennium Green and keep the weeds under control around the various benches in the village.

Our thanks go to Donald who very kindly tends and plants the Millennium Green beds each year - free of charge. This year we have cut back some overgrown trees on the Millennium Green and we are working with residents to plan replanting of the borders where gaps have appeared.

Due to the amazing summer and long drought, the flowers on Millennium Green died due to a lack of water. The maintenance team is making portable water bowsers ready for this summer that will be ready to bring water to the plants and shrubs in this space all through what we hope will be another scorcher.

DOG FOULING

There has been an increase in complaints about dog faeces not being cleaned up after our darling pooches. Bagged dog poo can be placed in any bin in the village with dedicated dog poo bins in some locations. As the poo must be bagged, the Parish Council has invested in a couple of bag dispensers (not dog waste dispensers as accidentally stated in the last newsletter!). These have been located near where the original complaints were made.

The Parish Council is looking at the feasibility of adding more dispensers and bins, or relocating dispensers and bins to better locations, particularly around Kirkfield Lane and Ellerker Lane to respond to further reports of inconsiderate dog walkers not collecting their pet's poo or bagging the poo and then abandoning the bags in field corners where livestock can die from eating the bags.



MILLENNIUM GREEN



BOULES PLAYING AREA

PARISH COUNCIL AMENITIES

THE PLAYGROUND

The playground may have been updated in early 2018 but the work continues, and a plan is being put together to reduce the noise made by the metal sheeting of the slide. New bark has been put down around the assault course and the gate at the rear has been repaired. New signage and a plaque should also be in place by the end of April. The Parish Council is working with the residents to introduce more planting between the playground and houses to improve privacy. For the comfort of nearby residents, we ask that the playground not be used after dusk.

THE BOULES SHELTER

The boules shelter was closed several years ago to tackle antisocial behaviour and it was accessible to only a handful of residents. The Parish Council decided that this seemed a shame and a waste of money, so secure storage was provided for the regular players to store their gear, the electrical safety was reviewed, and the shelter was opened for a trial period. Following no reports of problems, the gates have been opened permanently and new picnic benches and seats provided to make this a fabulous spot for everyone in the village to enjoy.



GARDENS

The Gardens next to Heathcote Avenue are leased to the Parish Council and rented out annually for a minimal amount to cover the cost of the rent, repairs and water services. This year, tap washers have been changed, vacant plots have been cleared for new renters, a new fence has been erected between the gardens and the Boules area and the hedge has been taken out alongside the Avenue. The hedge had been completely overtaken with weeds, so it was decided to remove this before bird nesting season and a fence has been erected until a new hedge can be planted. Look out for a request for assistance in clearing out the weeds and rubble left behind and the planting of a beautiful new, and neat, hedge.

NEW DEFIBRILLATOR

Working with Housing Leeds and The Tenants & Residents Association, a third defibrillator has been purchased for the old phone box at the top of Church Hill. The Parish Council will be cleaning and painting the phone box as this goes to print and adding a power supply ready to maintain the defibrillator when it arrives.

NOTICE BOARDS

A new community noticeboard has been purchased and attached to the Boules Shelter for community groups to have a place for their notices. This is already in use. Ask Richard at the Fox for more information, or read the notice in the frame. Thank you to Paul Turner, who gave the existing, adjacent parish and church noticeboards, a free makeover.

OTHER PROJECTS

SAM SKYES PATH

Following the theft of the paving slabs from Sam Sykes path in Sept 2017, the Parish Council took the decision to restore the path back to its original condition to preserve the original features rather than use regular concrete flags. With the assistance of a 50% grant from Leeds City Council the restoration work is now complete.

CHRISTMAS TREES

The parish council provided the funding to the new team of elves, coordinated by David Llewellyn, who ensured that the village looked stunning over the Christmas period.

Our thanks go to David, his elves and all the tree hosts. If you wish to join them next year, please put Saturday 30th November in your diary.

GATE MAIN STREET/MILLENNIUM GREEN

Following concerns raised about the possibility of young children running out of the gap in the wall between the Millennium Green and Main Street, the Parish Council installed a gate to prevent the possibility of such an event. Please ensure that the gate remains closed when not in use.

MOBILE PHONE RECEPTION

The Parish Council consulted in 2018 on improving the mobile coverage in the village and received a resounding response with 78% of respondents describing signal as poor or very poor. We started a conversation with all of the major networks with only EE, who hold 22% of the market in Thorner*, responding positively. The engagement was disrupted by their purchase by BT and changes in contacts, but progress has been made with BT offering to look at what improvements could be made. BT (EE) recently performed a survey in the village, called a 'drive-test', to accurately map where the coverage problems are, and they are considering potential options. An update should be available at the Annual Parish Meeting.

(*according to respondents) .

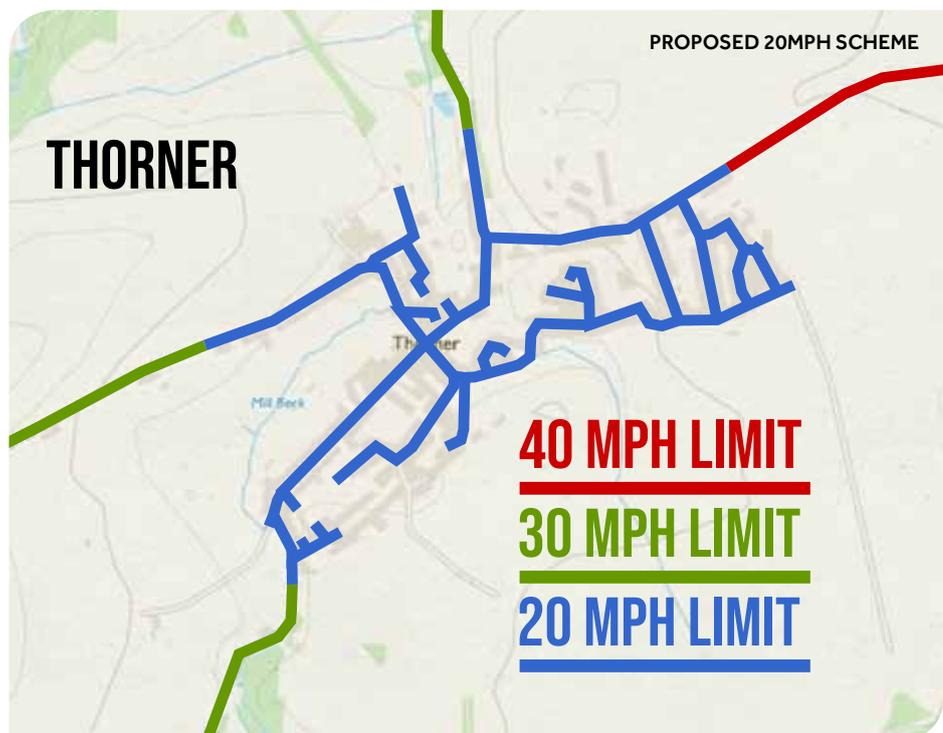
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Despite several setbacks this year, the Steering Group continue to work on the draft Plan in collaboration with Leeds City Council. An action plan has been devised to complete a final draft document and we hope to be able to progress the Neighbourhood Plan to the final stage of the process this year. We welcome any willing volunteers to join the Group, please express your interest to the Clerk.

HIGHWAYS

The Parish Council reports all highways issues, such as potholes, damaged signage or missing road markings to Leeds City Council. If you notice a problem, please email the clerk with the location, description and ideally a photo and he will report it.

The Parish Council is currently in consultation with Leeds City Council with regards to implementing 20mph speed limits in the village and looking at how the safety of the Carr Lane/A58 junction can be improved.



WHAT ELSE?

PLANNING

The Parish Council reviews all planning applications in the Parish and this year we have provided comment on 30 applications, mostly for house extensions or tree works in the conservation area. The Parish Council reserves supporting applications, but do offer comment where we feel an application is contrary to the Parish Plan or Village Design Statement. Anyone considering making a planning application is welcome to discuss proposals with us, by making a representation at a Parish Council meeting.

NEWSLETTER

The Parish Council publishes a newsletter three times a year. The newsletter provides an update on what the Parish Council has been doing and includes articles by various village organisations. If you would like to include an article in the newsletter, please contact the clerk for details. Previous newsletters, agendas and minutes are available for download from the Parish Council's web site.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Your Parish Council represents the interest of the village in various different forums such as the North East Leeds Area Forum, the Elmete Greenway group, East Leeds Orbital Route (ELOR) and Leeds Festival to name but a few. This gives us the opportunity to express any concerns we may have and also inform the village of anything that may impact us or the area around our village.



ELMET GREENWAY GROUP

The Elmete Greenway is a proposed route for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, following the former railway line from Cross Gates rail station and shopping centre via John Smeaton Centre and Scholes to Thorner and eventually, possibly, to Wetherby.

The original report prepared by Sustrans has been updated and looks at various different routes and the Parish Council is likely to be consulting on these routes in the not too distant future. In the meantime, the updated report can be seen at www.leeds.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel-/elmet-greenway

ELOR - East Leeds Orbital Route

Construction has already started, with work to improve the roundabout on the A61 Harrogate Road/ Ring Road junction, and at the junction of the Ring Road and Roundhay Park Lane. Work on the new road itself is expected to start in September 2019, with an anticipated end date of December 2021. The new dual carriageway will run from the Ring Road at Redhall, crossing the Wetherby Road, Skeltons Lane, York Road and Barwick Road, before connecting up with the M1 at Thorpe Park. The new road will mean traffic can avoid the congested Ring Road at Seacroft and Cross Gates. **Details of the scheme can be found at www.elor.uk. There is also a walk-in office at Redhall, accessed from the Ring Road, where the plans can be inspected, and your questions answered.**

A representative from the project has been invited to the Annual Parish Meeting at the Victory Hall, on Tuesday 30th April.

PRELIMINARY VISUALISATION OF ONE OF THE ELOR JUNCTIONS



FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2019

	BUDGET 2018/2019	ACTUAL 2018/2019	
INCOME			
Precept	29500	29500	
Garden Rent	450	506	
Bank Interest	10	3	
Grants/Donations	1250	17420 ⁱ	
VAT Refund	1510	18238 ⁱⁱ	
Misc	0	105 ⁱⁱⁱ	
TOTAL INCOME	32720	65772	
EXPENDITURE			
Administration	10670	10122	
Garden expenses	550	1248	
Rent	550	370	
Maintenance	7950	6062	
Playground	Maintenance	1000	375
	Replacement Fund	2550 ^{iv}	0
	Total	3550	375
Donations ^v	Church	1000	0
	RB Legion	250	50
	Police Vehicle	100	0
	Youth Fund	1000	525
	Total	2350	575
Projects	Public Projects	4500	4910 ^{vi}
	Neighbourhood Plan	1500	0
	Total	6000	4910
S137 ^{vii} Payments	1100	1714 ^{viii}	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	32720	25376	

At the end of March 2019, Thorner Parish Council held £42067.87 in unallocated funds which will be used to fund future projects, including any future renovations to the playground.

ⁱ Includes grants for the playground, Sam Sykes Ginnel and the defibrillator.

ⁱⁱ The majority of the VAT reclaimed came from the playground renovations paid for in the previous year.

ⁱⁱⁱ Uncashed cheque from 2016.

^{iv} The Parish Council allocates money each year for future renovations to the playground.

^v The Church and Police did not request donations this year.

^{vi} The public projects supported this year included: Sam Sykes path and the gate for the Millennium Green.

^{vii} Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows local authorities, including parish councils, to incur expenditure which will bring direct benefit to their area or any part of it or to all or some of its inhabitants.

^{viii} This year the money was spent on the defibrillator for the phone box, although this was subsequently covered by a grant.

THORNER DIRECTORY_MARCH 2019

GROUP	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
ART GROUP	Ada Percy	0113 2892653
BEAVERS	Scott McMillan	mileko2002@yahoo.co.uk
BOWLING CLUB	Derek Potter	0113 2892055
BROWNIES	Chloe Burnley - Brown Owl	07795 545858 / cloburnley@gmail.com
COLLINGHAM SURGERY	Appointments	01937 222841
COMMUNITY CHOIR	Pat Smith	0113 2892205 / pat.smith235@btinternet.com
CRICKET CLUB	Alistair Foster	0113 2893339
CUBS	Kealey Ledger	07850 484462 / info@TASscouts.org.uk
GARDENS/HEATHCOTE AVE	Diane Gibbins	0113 2893883
HISTORICAL SOCIETY	Gwen Brown	0113 2893372
METHODIST CHURCH	Ann Johnson - Senior Steward	0113 2893532
MILK DELIVERY	TD Goodall	0113 2892229
MUMS & TOTS	Karen Spong	0113 2017117
ORCHARD OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB	Belinda Bateson	0113 2892541
OVER 60'S ASSOCIATION	Jason Falk	0113 2893850
PARISH CENTRE BOOKINGS	Peter Wilby - Treasurer	0113 2893845 / www.parishcentre.org.uk
POST BOX DELI	Rachel Bielby	0113 2893888 / www.thepostboxdeli.co.uk
PRE-SCHOOL	Belinda Bateson	0113 2892541
PROBUS CLUB	Steven Wood	0113 2893121
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	Paul Oldfield	0113 2893210
SCOUTS	James Nehaul	07799 126 896 / info@TAScouts.org.uk
ST PETER'S CHURCH	Revd Andy Nicholson	0113 2892437
ST. PETER'S C of E PRIMARY	Ian Holmes - Head	0113 2892541
ST PETER'S CHURCH MAGAZINE	Hilary Marsden - Editor	2017144 / parishmag@thornerchurch.org.uk
TENNIS CLUB	Adrian Joyce	0113 2893499
THE BEEHIVE RESTAURANT	Vito - Manager	0113 2017171 / conamiciatthebeehive@gmail.com
THE FOX INN	Richard & Tracey Clements	0113 2892489 / thefoxthorner@gmail.com
THE MEXBOROUGH ARMS	Sheila Hindes	0113 2893863 / www.themexborougharms.co.uk
THE VILLAGE CHIPPY	Garry & Mandy	07475 106 830
THORNER BADMINTON CLUB (PM)	Rosie Cooke	0113 2892351
THORNER COMMUNITY FUND	Mark Darley	thornercommunityfund@gmail.com
THORNER YOUTH FUND	Barry Riley - Parish Council Clerk	thornerparishcouncil@gmail.com
THORNER FILM CLUB	Val Forster	0113 2892758
THORNER 7 ASIDE FOOTBALL	George Coppock	07960 407 745 / Thorner Facebook 7 Aside
THORNER OLD SCHOOL CHARITY	Eleanor Courtman-Stock	Eleanor_courtman_stock@hotmail.com
THORNER/SCARCROFT POLICE	Geoff Nottingham - PCSO	01937 2855360 / Answer phone 0113 2855374
THORNER RAINBOWS	Helen Rafferty	0113 2893694 / thornerrainbows@gmail.com
THORNER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	Gary Noble	07709 274 530
THORNER SURGERY	Appointments	0113 8873322
VICTORY HALL	Jenni Lacey	07368 318 891 / bookings@thornervictoryhall.co.uk
VILLAGE SHOW SOCIETY	Michele Firth	0113 2892430 / michelefirth636@btinternet.com
VILLAGE VISITING SCHEME	Beverley & Angus Yates, Maggie Hewitt	0113 2892811 & 0113 2892421
WALKING CLUB	Steven Wood	0113 2893121
WEBSITE	Peter Wilby	click on 'Contact Us' at www.thornervillage.org.uk
YOUTH CLUB (JNR & SENIOR)	Belinda Swift	0113 2892946
MOBILE LIBRARY	SATURDAYS	10.45 am - 12.45pm @ Mexborough Arms
POST OFFICE SERVICES	THURSDAY MORNINGS	10.00am to 12 noon / OVER 60'S CENTRE

If details need updating or you would like to add your group please email: gwenbrown3@btinternet.com

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