

THURLESTONE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

A vital part of the procedure for producing a Neighbourhood Plan is to carry out a **Housing Needs Survey** and thanks to the Village Voice distribution team of volunteers, copies of the Survey are being circulated to all households in the Parish with this issue of Village Voice. It is most important that you complete this Survey as it will help identify whether there is a need to plan for new housing, as well as the amount and type of housing which may be required in the Parish. It will also inform the questions in the main Questionnaire (more on that below). The Survey is also available online, via a link on the Parish website. If you are able to complete the survey online this would be appreciated, but if you prefer to complete the paper copy, then that will be fine too. The results of the Survey will in due course be published by South Hams District Council and made available on the Parish website.

The **Family Events** mentioned in my February Update are taking place in the Parish Hall on a drop-in basis between 11am and 1pm on **Tuesday 29th March** and **Tuesday 5th April**. These events are principally aimed at young families who live in the Parish and any families who have a connection with the Parish, such as school, work or family. The theme is "Wellbeing" and covers health, education, sport and recreation. The purpose is to see how better the Parish could serve young families – including whether any of our existing facilities need to be improved, and whether any new facilities may be needed, and if so, what kind of facilities?

Another date for your diaries is **Tuesday 12th April** when Martin Parkes of Devon Communities Together, who is a specialist in Neighbourhood Planning, is coming to talk to the Parish. The subject of his talk is "**What is a Neighbourhood Plan?**" He will explain what Neighbourhood Planning is all about, including what can and cannot be covered by a Neighbourhood Plan and what the benefits are of having Neighbourhood Plan.

Meanwhile, as reported in previous Updates, three Working Groups have been continuing their fact-finding of the following topics: **Our Homes, Our Economy and Our Wellbeing**. They have been focusing on what direction the Neighbourhood Plan may take, based on present and future requirements up to 2030. We are also now pleased to report that we have a fourth Working Group who are considering four topics that act as constraints on development, namely, **Our Environment, Our Infrastructure, Our Resources and Our Heritage**. The group consists of Tony Goddard, Robin MacDonald, Jill Munn, Chris White and Judy Pearce. Malcolm Le Grice has also kindly agreed to assist the group on the topic of Heritage. We hope that more members of the Community will join us, as we gear up to the main Parish Questionnaire.

The **Parish Questionnaire** will be circulated at the end of May with the next issue (June/July) of Village Voice. It will mark the culmination of nine months of fact-finding by the Steering Group about the issues identified as being important to the Parish. These were obtained from the **Post-it** responses of those attending the Community Engagement Meeting last September. More details about this questionnaire will follow in my next Update.

Finally, the Steering Group would like to thank the Parish Council for agreeing to provide us with funds to help towards the costs incurred in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, without which the work of the Steering Group would have been seriously and perhaps irretrievably delayed.

Tony Goddard
Steering Group Chairman