

**Response from Parishioners to TPC Questionnaire on the following topics:**

- 1 Pond Project**
- 2 Biodiversity issues**
- 3 Community Resilience/ Emergency Planning**

All residents in the Parish were delivered with a questionnaire that provided an opportunity to respond to issues that Thornborough Parish Council (TPC) has highlighted as important to our residents.

We received about 12% returns on the questionnaire which may appear a little low but provide us with a great deal of information on the thoughts of our parishioners.

Thank you to those of you that completed and returned the questionnaire.

If you did not receive a questionnaire and would like to complete one, there are spare copies available at the end of this meeting.

**The Thornborough Village Pond Project - Responses from the questionnaire:**

- Many individuals would like to find out more about management and maintenance of the Pond but do not have the time to attend meetings owing to other commitments.
- Most people agreed that the Pond should be managed to support more wildlife and to maintain its attraction as a beautiful, focal point of the Village. We have received several offers of help with water sampling and identification of species living on and around the Pond.
- A large number of responses provided ideas for an **Information Board** by the Pond including requests for costings, emergency contact numbers, details of local biodiversity, ways to encourage wildlife, contacts to help and support those wishing to increase biodiversity in their own gardens, details of village events, lists of different species spotted, details of planned work parties, pictures to identify wildlife species, local walks, up to date information, verge mowing schedules with explanations, results of water sampling.
- Many individuals offered help on an occasional basis despite not having the time to get fully involved.

**Biodiversity in Thornborough - Responses from the questionnaire:**

It is a legal requirement for all local councils to have and implement a Biodiversity policy.

- It is pleasing to note that nearly all respondents have features and practices in their gardens to encourage wildlife. These ranged from dead tree stumps, log piles, bird boxes, hedgehog corridors, 'unmanicured areas', a variety of trees and hedging. But the general comment was that more can be done with time, experience and cost being limiting factors.
- It is generally agreed that designated wildflower areas are to be welcomed in gardens where residents have the space and wish to enhance biodiversity. The same suggestion was made for some designated communal areas. There were some comments about keeping communal areas neat and tidy. It was noted that adding private wildflower areas should be the choice of individuals, but advice and seed sharing could be encouraged. Whereas the idea of communal areas was welcomed by many respondents.

- Residents are keen to make their gardens more biodiverse. Help and advice have been requested by many households, while others already have very biodiverse gardens both individual and communal.
- Offers and suggestions for areas of wildflower meadow have been received.
- It was commented that we need to beware of invasive species, but noted that the wild hedges, woodland and headlands in the village are already very biodiverse.
  - We have had offers on willingness to be an 'early adopter' of ideas in their own garden.
- We have offers of 'yellow rattle' seeds to help prevent grasses dominating wildflower areas.
- It is noted that we have both Thornborough Woodlands and the SSSI in Pilch Lane to assist in enhancing our plans to achieve greater biodiversity.

### **Community Resilience Emergency Planning - Responses to Questionnaire:**

Thornborough, as other Parishes across the country are being asked to consider having Emergency Plans in place in the event of an emergency.

The answers to the questions posed in this questionnaire are indicative of very limited knowledge as to what might be required in the event of a major emergency in the Parish.

- It has been pointed out that we help our immediate neighbours, but coordination is required so that no one is left out.
- The WI has initiated a 'telephone tree' to help communication in the event of an emergency. It was pointed out that this may not work if landlines are not working.
- It is suggested that we could have designated areas available for support and assistance – village hall, chapel, church, etc.
- There were several comments regarding the need for an up-to-date list of vulnerable individuals who might need assistance in an emergency in the village.
- It was agreed that offers of help to others in an emergency depend on the situation that we might find ourselves facing. Eg flooding may involve helping to clear drains, moving belongings to safety. An 'all hands-on deck' approach has happened in the past during major flooding.
- Offers of help ranged from a place of shelter, warm place to stay, provision of food and hot drinks or bedding.
- It is suggested that we have an up-to-date list of qualified first aiders and their contact details.
- Use of social media may have a place in coordinating responses in an emergency. For example, requests for assistance or offers of help. Or just keeping individuals updated on the situation that the village is experiencing.
- It is suggested that we have a small group of individuals to coordinate the needs and community response in an emergency.