

Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan

LET'S KEEP THAXTED SPECIAL

Support your neighbourhood plan by
completing this questionnaire

Business (Retail) Survey

February/March 2017



THAXTED BUSINESS (RETAIL) SURVEY

Dear Local Retailer,

On behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Parish Council, we are asking all Thaxted retailers to give their views on the future development of the village from a business perspective. Responses to this questionnaire will influence the focus and direction of the Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan, and your views will also inform future decisions made by the Parish Council. All responses will be treated confidentially.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be crucial to the development of Thaxted over the next 20 years. The Neighbourhood Plan, once made, will form part of the statutory Development Plan for Thaxted, so any decisions about whether or not to grant planning permission in the parish in the future must be made in accordance with our Neighbourhood Plan.

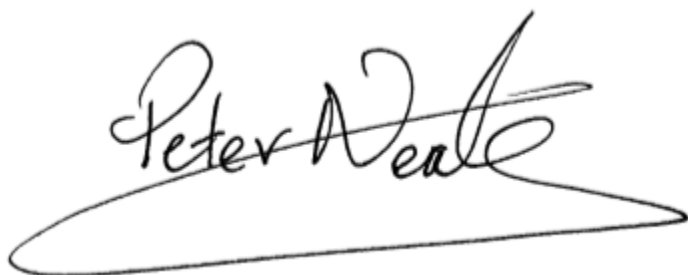
Please complete and return this questionnaire by **Monday 6th March**. Forms can be returned by:

- Hand or postal delivery to: The Community Information Centre (CIC), 7 Town Street, Thaxted, CM6 2LD;
- Scanning and emailing to **thaxtednp@outlook.com**;
- Visiting the CIC to complete the document and to inspect the other documents referred to in this questionnaire.

For further information about the Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan, and to view the documents referred to in this questionnaire, please visit our website at www.thaxtednp.com, or drop by the CIC/library.

In order for the future of Thaxted to meet the needs and aspirations of its business people we need your input, so please take a few minutes to complete the questions below.

Many thanks, and yours faithfully,



Chairman, Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Chairman, Thaxted Parish Council

YOUR BUSINESS IN THAXTED

Please tick in the boxes provided or comment where appropriate.

i.	Name of your business:				
ii.	Location / address:				
iii.	Length of time in business:				
iv.	Length of time at current location:				
v.	What categories would you say your business falls into:				
	Retail	Personal Services		Food and Beverages	
	Sales of food and groceries	Hair and beauty		Sales of food (hot and cold)	
	Sales of household goods	Dental and medical care		Sales of hot drinks	
	Sales of gift and luxury items	Laundry		Sales of beers, wines and spirits to be consumed on the premises	
	Sales of health and pharmaceutical items	School / nursery		Nursing and care home	
	Sales of books and stationary	Motor vehicle care		Professional services (accounting, law, marketing, etc.)	
	Sales of alcohol and wines to be consumed away from the premises	Industrial and engineering		Accommodation / hotel / B&B	
vi.	Current number of employees:				
vii.	How far do they, and you, travel to come to work? (Please indicate number as appropriate)				
	From Thaxted	2-5 miles	6-10 miles	>10 miles	Work at home
viii.	What mode of transport do they, and you, use? (Please indicate number as appropriate)				
	Walk	Bike	Car	Public transport	N/A
ix.	If they, or you, travel by car, where do they, and you, park? (Please indicate number as appropriate)				
	Comment:				
x.	Is there ample parking in Thaxted for you and your employees?				
	Yes		No		
xi.	How do you recruit your staff?				
	Word of mouth	Local advertising	Local Press	Internet	
xii.	Do you struggle to recruit suitable staff when needed?				
	Yes		No		
	Please state a reason:				
xiii.	How local is the main source of your business?				
	Local (easy walking distance)		Up to 5 miles		
	Up to 20 miles		National		

1.	Over the past 20 years, in excess of 400 houses have been built in Thaxted. Do you think this increase in houses has benefited your business?	
	Yes	No
	Comment:	
2.	What improvements / additions to the village could help your business prosper?	
	Comment:	
3.	Do you feel there is enough support for local businesses from the Parish Council. Please state reasons.	
	Yes	No
	Comment:	
4.	Do you think you would attract more business if you changed opening hours, staying open (for example) to 9pm one night a week? Please comment if you have further thoughts on this.	
	Yes	No
	Comment:	
5.	Do you think there is a type of business missing from Thaxted that would attract more shoppers to the village?	
	Comment:	
6.	Do you think the Friday market increases the volume of your business?	
	Yes	No
	If yes, how could the market be improved to assist your business?	
	Comment:	
7.	Over the years, Thaxted has lost many shopfronts to residential conversion. Would you like to see more protection given to retail use to ensure the vibrancy of the village?	
	Yes	No

8.	Do you think that parking in Thaxted is sufficient to serve the needs of your business in respect of:		
	No. of spaces	Yes	No
	Time for parking	Yes	No
	Enforcement	Yes	No
9.	Does your business benefit from tourism?		
	Yes		No
	If yes please indicate the approximate percentage of your income that is supported by tourists and visitors from out of the area.		
	Comment:		
10.	Do you feel more could be done to promote the village to tourists?		
	Yes		No
	If yes, then how?		
	Comment:		
11.	Do you visit the Thaxted Parish Council website?		
	Yes		No
	What are your thoughts on this with regards to its benefits to tourists?		
	Comment:		
12.	Do you think that the village's broadband service is adequate?		
	Yes		No
13.	How reliant is your business on high-speed broadband?		
	Not at all reliant	Not very reliant	Very reliant
14.	Do you think that the village's mobile signal is adequate?		
	Yes		No
15.	How reliant is your business on good mobile signal?		
	Not at all reliant	Not very reliant	Very reliant
16.	Have you any other comments or thoughts on your business and how it could be helped in the future?		
	Comment:		

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by a group of volunteer local residents under the auspices of the Parish Council. Local experts and specialist consultants are also contributing to assessment studies for landscape and historic settings.

The Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan will sit alongside the Local Plan (which is still at the development stage) and national planning policies. It will have statutory weight and, as such, will necessarily be taken into account when the District Council determines future planning applications in the parish.

As well as giving your views in this questionnaire, and giving them via an additional questionnaire that will be issued to every resident, there will be further opportunities for you to contribute to the Plan as it develops.

THE PROCESS FOR COMPLETING THE PLAN

- i. When the first draft of the Plan is completed it will go out into the local community for a 6-week consultation period. During this time, you will be able to make suggestions or correct any inaccurate information;
- ii. After relevant alterations have been made, the Plan will be submitted to Uttlesford District Council (UDC) for a further period of public consultation;
- iii. The Plan, plus letters of support or objection from the public, will then be submitted to an Independent Examiner who will ensure that it meets legal requirements;
- iv. When the Plan is approved by the Inspector, there will be a referendum of all registered voters in Thaxted Parish;
- v. If the referendum shows that the majority of voters support the Neighbourhood Plan, it will then be “made” and will form a major part of the planning process in Thaxted.

You can find out more about the Thaxted Neighbourhood Plan by visiting our website, www.thaxtednp.com, or, for business queries, telephone Councillor Brazier on 07836 276711.

Please remember that the final date for the return of this questionnaire is Monday 6th March, 2017.