

**Thornhill Community Council, Chairperson's Report
AGM, 12 June 2026.**

Previous AGM was 3 March 2025.

Good evening. About one year ago, in May 2025, I marked a reset for this Community Council. I said it should operate with a sense of purpose, and that our councillors would be trusted and empowered to get on with the job. Twelve months on, here is what we have delivered we've done loads and it is nice to reflect on it.

We have grown, welcoming Aki and Mark, who are both already contributing well. We are a stable, friendly team and remain open to new members, so if you would like to contribute in any way, please let us know.

The clearest progress has been on our finances, and the credit belongs to our acting Treasurer, Keith, who has renewed our financial processes and reviewed our bank accounts. Our accounts are now more professional, transparent and secure, and given the sums we handle, that really matters.

Which brings me to the legacy of the late Katherine Adam. Working with her executors, we have agreed a plan for the remaining funds, directed at projects we believe she would have championed. £150,000 will go towards Morton Thistle Juniors' new all-weather, multi-use sports pitch, and £50,000 towards OST's redevelopment of the old police station into a community facility with much-needed housing.

The remaining balance is retained for the village, with playground and community woodland improvements both under consideration.

Thornhill's Place Plan is complete and lodged with Dumfries and Galloway Council. Our thanks to Sleeping Giants, OST, the steering group, and everyone who took part. The Plan is a formal, legally recognised statement of what Thornhill wants, and will strengthen our funding bids for years to come.

The legacy commitments deliver directly on its priorities. The all-weather sports pitch and the community-led housing at the old police station are both flagship Place Plan actions, shaped by what hundreds of residents told us they wanted.

The Plan now moves into delivery, with working groups forming around the key actions and an annual review by us and OST. One priority is turning our playgrounds into genuinely multi-generational spaces: accessible, welcoming, and brilliant for everyone from toddlers to grandparents.

Around the village, you may have noticed changes brought about by the Council and the local Active Travel group: a new bike repair stand by the library, benches that are looking great and well used, and planters coming soon. A noticeboard with a village map of walks, cycle routes and attractions is about to go up in a central spot.

On events, the Christmas Fair stands out, with its grotto, fairground rides, shop-window competition and much more. Next year's

is set for Sunday 29 November 2026, a more ambitious event with a children's lantern parade planned. Free CPR and defibrillator training with St John's Ambulance in August was oversubscribed, and we hope to run it annually. We also hosted the Remembrance Sunday service and progressed a new resilience plan.

This was also our most active year for grant-giving in a long time, probably ever. Among those we supported: Morton Thistle Juniors, the Gala Committee, the Friendship Club, Wallace Hall Parent Council, the Art Club, the Women's Institute, the Brownies, the Bridge Club, the Sewing Group, the Bowling Club's community defibrillator, the Queensberry Brae Christmas lights, the Rotary fireworks, and a young people's sailing trip.

Beyond that, we launched a new website and refreshed our social media. On the Wheatley housing proposal, residents and a determined local action group helped secure the right outcome: the plans were poor quality, not fit for purpose, and out of step with current planning policy. We remain supportive of good quality housing that fits the village and meets genuine local need.

A final reflection on the role of a community councillor. Each year we make decisions on grants, windfarm funds and legacy money running into tens, and this year hundreds, of thousands of pounds, and more is asked of volunteers all the time. Thank you, everyone around the table, for taking part in it.

Particular thanks go to our Secretary, Elizabeth Shelby, who has been behind so much of the work you have heard about tonight. Thanks too to the many clubs, volunteers and residents who give their time to improving Thornhill, a lovely place to live.

Thank you, and I look forward to the year ahead.

Adam Zdravkovic
Chair, Thornhill Community Council