

Thornbury Town Council

AFTER five years of diligent work by a group of volunteer residents, Thornbury voters overwhelmingly supported the adoption of the Thornbury Neighbourhood plan in a referendum on 31 March. The turnout was 2,363 residents (21.5% of the eligible population) with 89.97% voting in favour. On 18 May South Gloucestershire Council will consider whether to adopt the Plan. If adopted, the views of Thornbury residents will be taken into account in all future planning and development proposals affecting the parish. The implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan will provide a focus on the matters considered important to residents. The strategic objectives outlined in the Plan include:



- Preserving the unique character and historic identity of Thornbury.
- Providing high-quality, well designed, affordable, sustainable housing that meets the needs of people of all ages and which does not distinguish between owned or rented properties.
- Supporting a vibrant, unique and historic town centre with mixed retail, business and residential facilities and a thriving economy that provides jobs for local people to enable them to work where they live.
- Supporting the timely provision of appropriate services, infrastructure and community facilities to meet the needs of a growing population.
- Providing resilience to climate change, supporting and protecting the natural environment through sustainable development and strengthening its sense of community, creating connections to enhance integration between existing and new developments.
- Promoting active, smarter and sustainable ways of getting around, establishing appropriate transport infrastructure to support population growth, developing the network of paths and cycleways and green corridors.

The volunteer group is grateful for all the support provided by the town councillors and the former Town Clerk in developing the Plan. ■

*Last chance to catch the end of the **Severn Vale Art Trail** before it ends on Monday 2 May! All the work exhibited is original and represents a huge variety of contemporary and traditional art in a wide range of different mediums. See www.severnvalleartrail.org for more details.*