

THURCROFT AND WICKERSLEY SOUTH WARD

Covering Brampton en le Morthen, Thurcroft and South Wickersley



Councillor
Zachary Collingham



Councillor
Thomas Collingham

Report to Full Council

May 2023

Ward priorities

1. Build a stronger, cohesive community
2. Support crime prevention strategies and target anti-social behaviour
3. Develop and improve the local environment

How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy

Our aim is to put communities at the heart of everything we do and to make people healthier, happier, safer and proud by:

- Working with communities on the things that matter to them
- Listening and working together to make a difference
- Supporting people from different backgrounds to get on well together

Our ward has several community groups that are very active, as well as other organisations with a vested interest in the area including Parish Councils, sports clubs and schools. As such, involving the whole community in work that takes place in the ward has been a priority for us as ward councillors.

Working in partnership

As ward councillors new to the role, we worked with a wide range of organisations that were already involved in the area. This included both Parish Councils (Thurcroft and Wickersley), along with the well established Thurcroft Big Local partnership, local churches and a plethora of community groups and other interested parties such as local schools.

Through our work, we worked together with a large number of statutory partners. An example of this has been our monthly Community Action Partnership/Ward Briefing meetings that have involved colleagues from the Council and South Yorkshire Police.

Progress so far

Ward Priority 1: Build a stronger, cohesive community - Encouraging and empowering community groups

Since beginning our term as Ward Councillors, we have made it a priority to use our Community Leadership Funding to support community groups in the ward, both new and well-established. In addition to helping them meet day to day needs, we have also had a focus on empowering recipients to step up their activities, by helping equip them with the tools they need. Over the past two years, we have been proud to be able to offer funding to 19 community groups. Examples include:

- Helping purchase a new scarifier and fencing for Thurcroft Bowling Club, enabling the Club to offer a safer, enhanced facility for new and current members
- Supporting Thurcroft Veterans Association in the purchase of a new Union Standard and associated accessories, increasing the number of events the association can participate in
- Supporting a local toddler group to continue opening its doors over the winter period, despite soaring running costs, preserving a vital amenity on which others depend

Ward priority 2: Support crime prevention strategies and target anti-social behaviour - Addressing the causes and symptoms of crime

In order for people to feel happy where they live, feeling safe and being safe is critical. That is why we chose crime prevention as a ward priority. In order to address both the root causes and the symptoms of crime within the ward, we continue to work in partnership with South Yorkshire Police's Neighbourhood Policing Team, as well as their Off-Road Bike Team, and colleagues in the Community Protection Unit.

In order to address community concerns, we organised a Crime Prevention Day, attended by relevant partners, many Wickersley residents and a Neighbourhood Watch representative. Using our Community Leadership Funding, we were able to purchase crime prevention packs that were distributed to residents on the day, proving very popular.

Ward priority 3: Develop and improve the local environment

Thurcroft Troll

As part of Rotherham becoming the world's first Children's Capital of Culture in 2025, Summer 2022 saw the very first Thurcroft Troll Festival hosted by Rotherham ROAR and Rotherham Creatives hosted on Thurcroft Rec. Children and young people from across the region were invited on June 25th, 2022.

The festival was an arts extravaganza, a free event for children and young people that celebrated all things nature with art, crafts, music, and dance. The festival had a focus on environmental awareness and sustainability. The event started with a mini procession around the park, with the parade's larger-than-life giant puppet leading the way. In addition to the parade, the festival included free creative workshops led by local artists, a main stage with live music, entertainment, poetry, and refreshments

As ward councillors we were delighted to be able to support this exciting and forward-thinking project which shone a light on Thurcroft. We used Community Leadership Funding to support Thurcroft Miners Institute to hire Thurcroft Welfare Band to play at the event and we were pleased to hear the positive feedback received from those who attended on the day.



Capital improvements

We were very pleased to combine our efforts with Wickersley Parish Council to help fund path improvements on a well-used walking route at the Bob Mason Recreation Ground. We have also taken the fantastic opportunity provided by the Towns and Villages fund to consult extensively with residents and businesses in Thurcroft, fostering partnership working and creativity to deliver on a new vision for Thurcroft high street.

Blitz days and community skips

Working in partnership with Thurcroft Litter Picking Group and the Community Payback team, we have focused time and resources on clearing up areas of the Ward in need of some TLC.

Following a visit to Thurcroft Parish Church, we became aware of the need to clear a large amount of undergrowth immediately adjacent to the church. Volunteers had already done a brilliant job of tidying the rest of the churchyard, and we were more than willing to support them by arranging for the Community Payback team to come and clear away the large bushes and the litter which was caught up in them.

We used our Community Leadership Funding to allow the church to pay for the hire of a skip to clear away all this waste, making the area surrounding the church a much brighter, cleaner and more welcoming place!

