

Foreword to the Community Plan by Steve Cowley, the Mayor, Yarmouth Town Council

Coming from a West Wight family and caring deeply about this area, I am very pleased that so many local people have responded to this unique chance to give their views about living here. They have told us what they value, and what improvements they would like to be made in order to maintain and enhance our area, giving the Town Council a clear mandate to plan for our future.

Almost two years ago, the Yarmouth and Thorley Community Plan was initiated by Yarmouth Town Council so that local people could give their views on a range of topics. This was in response to the Government's Rural White Paper launched in November 2000, *Our Countryside – The Future*. This paper outlined the concept of Community or Parish Plans to provide a community's input into identifying its key facilities and services, the problems that need to be tackled, and the preserving of distinctive character and features.

Since then, many people have taken the time and trouble to make thoughtful responses, to attend meetings and comment on issues of importance to them.

My thanks go to all those who helped with this project, especially the members of the Steering Committee for its eighteen months of hard work and the public whose views form the basis of the Plan. Thanks must go, on behalf of the Council, to Stuart Dyer who was Mayor at that time, for his enthusiastic impetus to start the project.

Never before has the Council for Yarmouth and Thorley had such an opportunity to carry forward the identified wishes of the people of the area. I would like to assure everyone that the Town Council will work to progress the actions outlined in the Plan.



Yarmouth Primary School children's model of Yarmouth © YPS