

OUR PLACE WITHIN THE ISLAND CONTEXT

Work on this first Community Plan for Yarmouth and Thorley has coincided with important stages in the construction of an Island Plan and so given the opportunity to think of our area as part of that larger Plan. Our public consultations have revealed that local aspirations fit well with the Eco Island vision: local residents wish to sustain and enhance their thriving community, their healthy and supportive community, their safe and well-kept community, and their inspiring community.

In the settlement hierarchy of the Island Plan, Yarmouth is one of the Rural Service Centres of the Island serving outlying rural areas having a range of services which make it a sustainable community, and being a gateway to the Island with its ferry service to the mainland. Thorley is seen as a Rural Hamlet. Sustainability is understood to mean that any growth or change should meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Any developments in Yarmouth and

Thorley are expected to meet rural needs, to enhance the viability of the community, and to be subject to local considerations.

In the Action Plans later in this document our column on “Sustainability” refers to economic and environmental sustainability, which are generally well understood. Our reference to social sustainability refers to a sense of community confidence, to reducing inequalities so that people have fairer chances to improve their quality of life, to making our neighbourhood safer, cleaner, healthier and more vibrant.

The spontaneous comments in the Flyer consultation for our Plan stressed the importance of retaining the traditional “feel” of Yarmouth (“keep the old town as it is”) and the rural quality of Thorley (“keep Thorley as a country hamlet”).

The quality and attractiveness of the built, historic and natural environment, make this area a special place for living and for visiting.



View south from St James' Church tower © BCE