THCAT Annual Report 2024-25

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THCAT Annual Report 2024-25
Contents

Section	Page
Chair's introduction	3
Greening Projects	4-5
Ongoing THCAT Projects	6-7
Community Meetings	8-9
Environmental Report	10
Digital Engagement	11
Finances at a Glance	12
Statement of Income and Expenditure	13
Reserves	14
THCAT Committee 2024-25	15

THCAT Annual Report 2024-25

Welcome & Introduction from the Chair

Dear Residents, Supporters, and Friends of THCAT,

In this, THCAT's 10th year, it is my pleasure to introduce you to our Annual General Meeting report. As Chair of THCAT, I want to begin by thanking each of you — whether you've attended our meetings, shared your views, taken part in local projects, or supported us behind the scenes — your involvement is what keeps our community strong, connected, and moving forward.

Over the past year, working towards our aim of a cleaner, greener and safer environment, we've focussed on listening to local voices, bringing in relevant speakers, and working collaboratively to address the issues that matter most to Thornton Heath. From meetings with our elected officials to community-led initiatives that brighten our neighbourhood, we've seen the impact that committed residents and partnerships can make.

This report highlights the key moments, challenges, and achievements from the past year. It also recognises the individuals and organisations who contributed their time and energy to help make a difference. But we need more hands, more voices, and more energy to keep THCAT moving forward. Whether you can give two hours to help at an event or join the committee - there's a place for you. Please don't underestimate the difference you can make. Community action isn't about doing everything - it's about doing something!

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of this growing network of people who care deeply about where we live. Together we can keep building the Thornton Heath we all want to see.

Warm regards,

Linda Watson
Chair, THCAT (Thornton Heath Community Action Team)

THCAT Annual Report 2024-25

Greening Projects

Recent research tells us why being in nature is so good for our mental and physical health and this can pose a challenge in some urban settings. However, just stopping for coffee or a sandwich next to trees and plants is beneficial - for example here (photos below) at Ambassador House forecourt opposite the station.

The maintenance contract, arranged by the council for the plants on Ambassador House forecourt with the charity Urban Growth ended in October 2021.

Since then, a few of us at THCAT have been striving to care for this small area of nature in such a prominent local position, running a gardening club on the first Saturday of each month from 1-3pm with many watering sessions in between.

In recent years, due to summers of drought and winters of frost, this has been quite a challenge. Thanks for help and support must go to: Wickes for a grant of £100 of goods (varnish for the wooden planters, compost, wood chip gardening tools etc); Likkle Negril, juice bar and grill on the forecourt, for allowing us to fix a hosepipe for watering from the adjacent shop; our local Tesco for a generous donation of daffodil bulbs again this year; THCAT members for answering our call for donations of drought - tolerant plants to fill the gaps and, of course, those who regularly tend to the plants.

THCAT Annual Report 2024-25

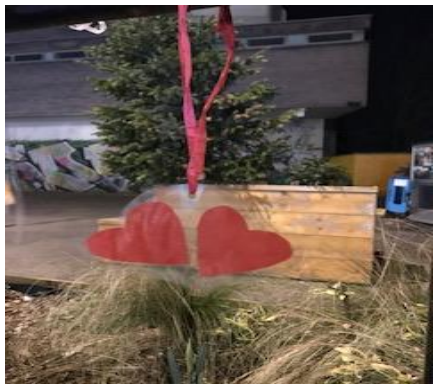
Spring daffodil competition The aim of our first competition was to encourage locals - residents, businesses and organisations - to get planting and make our streets bloom with bright colour in the early spring days. Prizes were awarded to the winners in each category.

Tree Planting -THCAT is very keen to see more street trees planted in our area and has been liaising with the charity "Trees For Streets" for support and information; we also worked with the council, submitting a survey of tree pits without trees to help with locating good positions for funded trees. To support our aim of increasing the local tree population, we've been looking into different funding opportunities including the possibility of crowdfunding.

Ongoing THCAT Projects

Our Book Exchange - providing a welcoming sight in the waiting room on platform 2 at Thornton Heath Station - continues to be very popular and thanks are due to our generous members for their donations of books plus some magazines and DVDs. If you happen to arrive a few minutes early for your train on platform 2, a quick tidy up would be much appreciated!

Celebrating Valentine's Day - passers-by have been seen smiling at the red tokens of love we have invited members and locals to hang from the railings opposite the station. Some members have channeled their creativity using card, sparkly nail varnish, ribbons etc. Despite the usually wet, windy and grey weather in February, these do add a little positivity and fun to the area. THCAT hopes you will join us in 2026 with non-breakable ribbons, bows, hearts etc tied on tightly!



Crystal Palace FC Winning the FA Cup - To celebrate this local triumph, we liaised with the council who managed to obtain some large CPFC carrier bags which a small team of us reconfigured into flags and bunting, with the help of a local fashion designer; we then spent several hours attaching these along the High Street, to celebrate this occasion. Although it was a shame that the

winning team's Victory Parade didn't, in the end, travel along the High Street, local people of all ages packed the route to cheer on the team!

Annual Christmas tree event- Many thanks to Carolle from Rambling Rose Garden Shop for another kind donation of a superb Christmas tree for THCAT's festive decorating action on the forecourt opposite the station.

Festive Door Wreath Competition - This has been a popular activity for several years now helping to make our area look more welcoming and showcasing amazing local creativity!

THCAT'S Community Meetings

Last September, we held an Extraordinary General meeting (EGM) to examine and discuss proposed changes to THCAT's constitution followed by our Annual General Meeting (AGM) at which committee members were appointed and the annual report presented.

THCAT's committee has worked thoughtfully over the past year to arrange guest speakers who bring real value to our community. These guests have not only shared important updates but have also taken time to listen to the concerns and experiences of Thornton Heath residents. We're especially grateful to our local partners who generously hosted meetings — with particular thanks to Streatham and Croydon Rugby Football Club (SCRFC), St Andrews RC Church, and St Albans Church for their continued support.

In October 2024, we were delighted to welcome back our directly elected Mayor, Jason Perry, to a well-attended meeting with 57 participants. This follow-up session built on the previous year's discussions, focusing on progress related to developments aimed at improving our area. At the end of the meeting, attendees had the opportunity to speak briefly with the Mayor in person — a gesture that was much appreciated.

In response to requests from local residents who were unsure about how to contact their local councillors — and what issues councillors can assist with — THCAT organised a dedicated meeting in March 2025. We were very pleased that 7 of our 9 councillors were able to attend, introduce themselves, and provide clarity on how they support the community. This session, we believe, will help streamline communication and resolution of local issues. Thanks to Gaetane's initiative and support from the committee, we were also able to provide a free information sheet listing councillor surgery dates, times, and venues for the year ahead.

We began the March meeting on a celebratory note by awarding prizes for THCAT's Spring Daffodil Competition. All entrants were recognised for their efforts in brightening our neighbourhood and contributing to a greener, more welcoming environment In July, we hosted another informative meeting featuring two guest speakers. Chris Wortley, Croydon's Head of Parking Services,

shared insights into his department's work and responded to a wide range of parking-related concerns from attendees.

We also welcomed Beth Alton, a local specialist from Barclays, who delivered an engaging and practical session on fraud and scam prevention, empowering residents to stay informed and vigilant

THCAT Annual Report 2024-25

Environmental Report

2025 was a very good year for our team.

After several years of reporting without visible improvements, we have finally seen the green shoots of progress.

We continue to have regular walkabouts in all 3 wards (Bensham Manor, Thornton Heath & West Thornton) to report fly-tipping hotspots. However, this year, there were fewer of these, and some were in fact nearly resolved.

Suspected unregistered HMOs are reported to the HMO department to check their records. Several properties were visited by the Council and made to comply.
We email various council staff (both at officer and senior management level) to chase up outstanding matters, and when necessary, we do not hesitate to escalate issues to director/mayoral level.

Our regular meetings with the Mayor's office keep us informed of the Council's new strategies to tackle persistent problem areas.
The last meeting we had with the Mayor and his team was on 30th July 2025 which covered an update on the enforcement strategy, Ambassador House and Mayday car park fly-tipping.

THCAT's new flyer, which encourages residents to report issues on the *LoveCleanStreets* app. is distributed to residents who ask us for help during our walks.
We promote the work done by THCAT and encourage other local residents to get involved if they can.

Norbury Road new storage unit

Love Clean street's Leaflet

Curry House Clean & Tidy

We have also produced two leaflets giving people information on the Councillors Ward Surgeries' and general information on who to contact in emergencies.

THCAT Annual Report 2024-25

We Are Thornton Heath (WATH) Community App

It's been a brilliantly busy year for We Are Thornton Heath, with the relaunch of the app welcoming a cleaner design, better usability, and extra features.

This year we created over 150 individual accounts for local businesses, groups and charities, sending each an invite to join, add their offers and events, and share information about themselves. This includes a bio, photos, opening hours, booking links, menus and contact details. In pulling all this together, the Thornton Heath Business Directory is now brimming with useful local information.

We also built up the Info Directory to make a practical resource for everyone in Thornton Heath. It covers everything from local heritage and medical assistance to venue hire and THCAT's guide on reporting fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.

A WATH webpage has now been added to the THCAT site at thorntonheath.net/WATH too. This outlines the app's features, future plans, how to join/download, plus some general FAQs.

With over 1,600 downloads, WATH is steadily growing. As more people and organisations join in, it's becoming an increasingly useful way to stay connected, informed and involved in local life here in Thornton Heath.

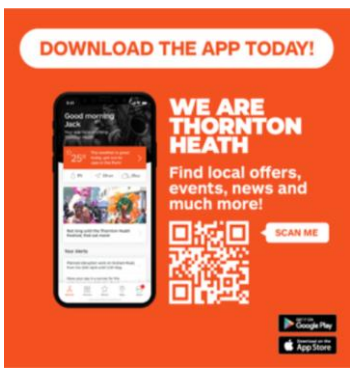
If you've yet to download it, just search We Are Thornton Heath in the App/Play store on your phone. Remember to register to receive notifications from organisations as well as our monthly newsletter.

A big thank you to Loqiva for their invaluable technical support, and to everyone using the app for helping to make it thrive.

THCAT would also like to thank Tilly for all her work, on a voluntary basis, on this brilliant resource for our community. If you'd like to help her, please email action@thorntonheath.net

Connecting Thornton Heath — online and off.

Digital Connections — We Are Thornton Heath App



Finances at a Glance

THCAT runs entirely on volunteer effort, with a small budget that we make go a long way. Most of our regular income comes from the Croydon Community Lottery, with occasional small grants and one-off donations that help us keep Thornton Heath cleaner, greener and safer.

Every pound goes directly into local projects — planters, clean-ups, and community activities — with no salaries or admin costs.

Help Keep the Momentum Going

If you've enjoyed seeing more flowers in our planters, tidier streets, or greener corners around Thornton Heath, you can help us do even more:

- Play the Croydon Community Lottery and choose THCAT as your good cause.
- Make a small donation — even a few pounds helps buy compost, bulbs or paint.
- Join in on one of our community days or simply spread the word about our work.

Together, we're showing what local people can achieve when we care for the place we share.

THCAT Annual Report 2024-25

Statement of Income & Expenditure

From 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Income	£	£		£	
	Croydon Lottery			108.50	
Expenditure	Melfort Rd baskets	141.94			
	Ambassador House decs	97.11			
	Ambassador House planting	34.07			
	Insurance	157.00			
	Brook Rd mulch	36.00			
	Web hosting	70.00			
	Thirsk Rd baskets	97.87			
	Door wreath prizes, AH misc	121.82			
	Total expenditure			755.81	
	Excess of expenditure over income (met from reserves)			-647.31	

Reserves

Thornton Heath Community Action Team
Statement of Reserves as at 21 October 2025

Date	Funder	Money in (£)	Spent to date (£)	Remaining (£)	Project
2015	Whetherspoons	250	192	58	Planting
2015-2019	Donations	82	0	82	Unspecified
2016	Brewers donation	150	97	53	Clocktower area
2016	Humayun 2016	2,275	2,251	24	Chronicle + Dog Fouling
2017	Jamie Audsley 2017	2,000	1,000	1,000	Hotspots to beauty spots
2018	Alison Butler 2018	750	0	750	Brigstock House Planters
2019	Janet Campbell 2019	700	560	140	The Pond
2019	Stuart King 2019	500	476	24	The Pond Mosaic
2019	Alison Butler 2019	2,500	0	2,500	Ambassador House
2019	Jewitt & Clouder 2019	400	0	400	Planters
2020	Stuart King 2020	20	0	20	Pond donation
2020	Pat Clouder 2020	200	190	10	Free Art
2020	Janet Campbell 2020	100	88	12	Free Art
2020	Alison Butler 2020	250	132	118	Planters
2021	Cedric's Legacy	8,537	4,611	3,926	Brook Road trees
2021	In Bloom 2021	280	275	5	In Bloom
2022	Govia Thameslink	199	0	199	Station
2022	General Donations	15	0	15	Unspecified
2025	Croydon Lottery	342	224	118	Unspecified
		19,550	10,096	9,454	

We would like to thank David and Graham for producing these reports, and Gill for her work as an Independent Examiner, checking them for accuracy.

THCAT Annual Report 2024-25

THCAT Committee 2024-25

Many thanks to our volunteer committee members for their time, energy, commitment and humour over the past year.

Linda-Chair and Greening

Paul-Vice Chair and Environmental Team

Graham-Secretary and Greening

David-Treasurer

Barbara-Environmental

Gaetane-Environmental

Cassandra-Community Liaison

End of Report