

Note on ONS 2010 mid-year population estimates for Thornbury

The Council has produced this note to aid the Inspector in understanding issues related to the population structure in Thornbury and to respond to objections that state that the Council has not relied upon up to date demographic evidence.

Since the December 2011 Sustainability Appraisal Report (Examination Library ref PS3) was published the ONS 2010 mid-year population estimates for Parishes have been made available.

These latest population estimates suggest that the population of Thornbury was 12,431 in 2010 which represents a 0.7% increase since the 2001 Census (12,342). This is considerably lower than the average population increase experienced at the district level (7.6%).

In terms of the age structure of the population, the most recent ONS mid-year estimates for parishes suggest a continuation of the trends in Thornbury noted in the December 2011 SA Report on page 50, namely:

- A considerable further increase (+5.1%) in the proportion of residents who are aged 65+ (from 15.4% in 2001 to 20.5% in 2010). This rate of increase is significantly higher than is estimated at both the district (+2.2%) and national (+0.6%) levels.
- A further reduction (-3.6%) in the proportion of residents aged 0-15. Again this change is greater than both the district (-2.2%) and national (-1.5%) averages.

	Thornbury (Parish Boundary) Proportion of population (%)			South Gloucestershire Proportion of population (%)			England & Wales Proportion of population (%)		
	2001	2010	Change 2010-2001	2001	2010	Change 2010-2001	2001	2010	Change 2010-2001
Age 0-15 yrs	20.9	17.3	-3.6	20.8	18.6	-2.2	20.2	18.7	-1.5
Age 16-64 yrs	63.7	62.2	-1.4	64.8	64.9	0.0	63.9	64.7	0.9
Age 65+ yrs	15.4	20.5	5.1	14.4	16.5	2.2	16.0	16.6	0.6
TOTAL	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	

Changes in age structure (broad age band) between 2001 Census and 2010 ONS Mid Year Estimates

(Source ONS, Mid-Year Population Estimates for Parishes, 2012)

Comments related to population statistics presented by Save Thornbury's Green Heritage in their response to question 2 of Matter 27

The Council has reviewed the ONS 2009 mid-year population estimate data but is unable to replicate the population figures quoted by Save Thornbury's Green Heritage in their submission. The Council would therefore request that the Inspector seeks clarification on this point.

All the population statistics for Thornbury presented by the Council relate to the Parish Boundary, as this most closely reflects the physical boundary of the Town than can be achieved by aggregating ward or Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level data.