



RESULTS & COMMENTARY FROM QUESTIONNAIRES

Friends of Little Marcle Church Development Group - August 2018

INDEX

	Page
Scope & Responses	3
Executive Summary	4
Detailed Results	5 -17
Demography of Respondents	18
Youngsters' Responses	19

SCOPE & RESPONSES

The objective of sending out questionnaires was to find out whether there was a desire within the local community to re-purpose Little Marcle Church to provide a community building, (alongside its traditional Church purpose), for the four parishes of Little Marcle, Munsley, Aylton and Pixley (plus a few more neighbouring houses) known as 'Our Area'.

200 questionnaires (appendix 1) were delivered to all addresses in the second half of July 2018.

In total over 106 completed questionnaires were returned (53%) which is an extremely encouraging response rate and shows that it was a subject that locals were interested in.

We had specifically asked for responses from Under 18's and we had 8 respondents.

The objective of this document is to summarise the responses in an easy to understand format, using graphs and other pictorial data.

The results are presented in a question by question format.

At the end of the questionnaire, was an 'About You' section designed to understand the demography of the respondents and people who live in Our Area.

As outlined in the report, it is worth noting at the outset that over 90% of the respondents were 45 years old or over and that 70% of respondents had lived in Our Area for more than 10 years. About half of the working respondents worked away from Our Area. This was thought to be representative of the population in Our Area as a whole.

That demography needs to be borne in mind in interpreting results and drawing conclusions and recommendations therefrom.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There was very encouraging support for the Mission Statement and Vision of creating wider community use within the Little Marcle Church Building.

Nearly one third of respondents volunteered to help to achieve this Vision indicating a strong community desire for better facilities (p17).

The existing facility (WI Hall) was universally described as unfit for purpose, and, due to its dangerous location and other shortcomings, was unsuitable, even if it were to be re-built (p7).

When asked on a scale of 1 – 10 whether we needed a Community Building in Our Area the average score was 7.3 out of 10 and 80% of respondents thought it was more needed than not needed (p8).

When asked whether respondents would actually use such a facility the score was a little lower at 6.5 out of 10 with 71% saying they would be more likely to use it than not use it (p13)

The main essential features of a Community Building were a large car park, Toilets, catering facilities, disabled access (legal requirement) and a large space for various events/activities (p10).

The idea of a second floor or mezzanine was popular with 70% in favour and 30% against (p12). This dramatically increases the versatility and capacity of the building and allows for multiple uses and spiritual and community area separation.

The responses from Children were more targeted toward resources for our digital world with WiFi being considered essential (p19).

A wide range of suggestions about what activities could be offered were put forward by Adult and Child respondents, some more realistic than others (p15)

Some reservations were made about possible competition with Putley Parish Hall and also the scattered nature of dwellings in Our Area which might limit demand for use. It was also noted that the building should remain a spiritual place open at all times; the graveyard and church is very much in use (p16). Thus, security for a building, and its contents, is important. Care has to be taken as to what is realistic given the constraints and dual purpose nature of the building. There are some suggestions that would not be possible. The answer might lie in the community area being kept locked and secure and the spiritual area being open.

In line with the age demography of residents in Our Area, loneliness and isolation of the elderly in our rural parishes are issues that were highlighted in the responses (p6).

Overall, the results strongly support the idea of a Community Building for Our Area mindful of the reservations in the two paragraphs immediately above.

The Challenge will be to devise a scheme which satisfies the desire of the vast majority but pays heed to these reservations.

RESULTS

Question 1

“The draft vision for the community building reads “By consultation with local people and groups, to develop a plan for Little Marcle Church to enable wider community use and thereby create a 21st Century building facility that meets local needs, and puts it at the centre of our community and is sustainable in the long term”

Do you have any comments on this draft vision for a community building in our area”

Answer 1

28 responses out of 106.

The vast majority were highly supportive with comments such as

- Great idea
- Clear vision
- Go for it!
- Spot on

No adverse comments were received, but one person asked how a re-ordered church will improve community use and another advised that care be taken about big changes.

The overall conclusion was overwhelming support for the vision

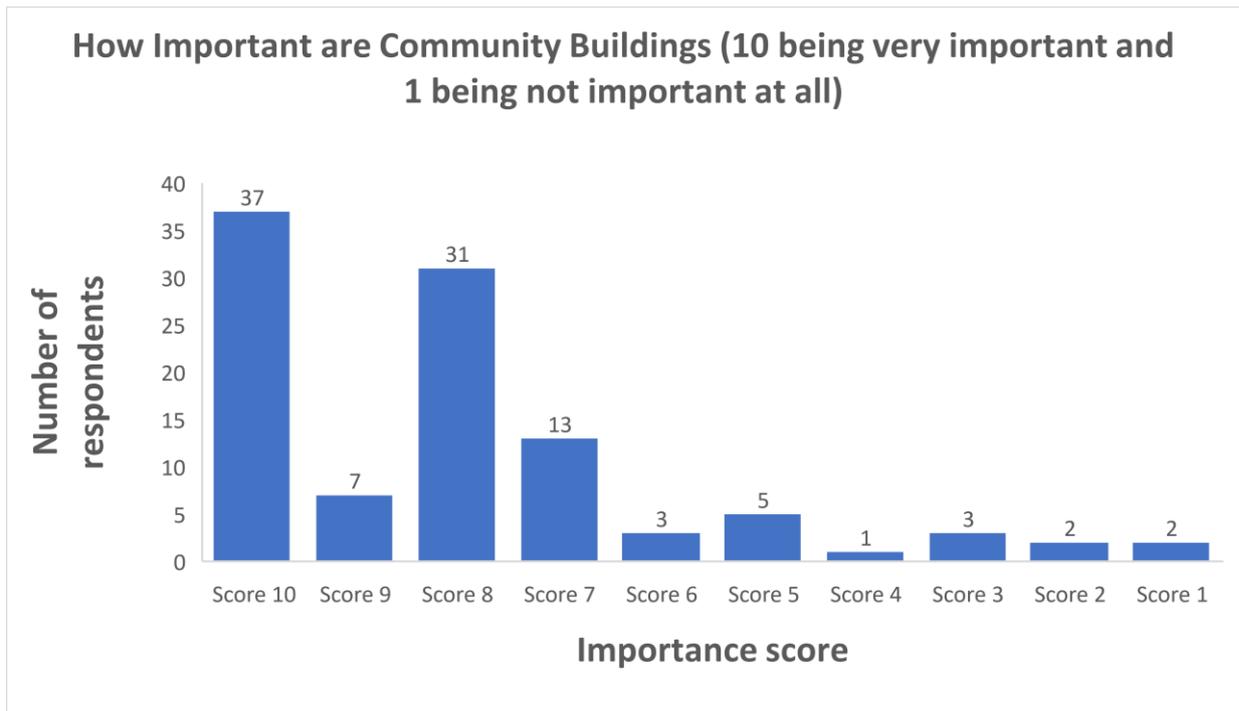
Question 1.1

“How important are community buildings near where people live? (Please score on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is not important at all and 10 is very important)”

Answer 1.1

106 responses out of 106 – everyone answered this question!

The graph below illustrates the responses frequency distribution.



The average score was 8.04 out of 10 which illustrates not surprisingly, that most people think community buildings are important.

If you take score 6 and above as the cut off where people think it is more important than not, then 87.6% of respondents scored 6 or above.

Even in this age of social media, or perhaps because of it, the importance of community buildings is clearly evident, especially in a rural community such as ours.

Why?

A space was left to give people a chance to say why they scored as they did. We received 75 responses out of 106. The overwhelming response was along the themes of:

- Bringing people together
- Preventing loneliness and isolation
- Enabling people to meet scattered neighbours
- Encourage social contact when the influence of social media is the opposite
- Creates a sense of belonging and community

Question 1.2

“The only existing community Building in our area is the WI Hall on the Hereford to Ledbury Road. Have you been to or hosted any function there in the last 12 months and have you any comments?”

Answer 1.2

106 responses out of 106 – everyone answered this question!

Rather surprisingly, given that many people think a community building is important, (answer 1.1), nearly 70% of respondents had not visited the WI Hall in the last 12 months.

The comments made revealed why.

Comments

Some people explained why they had used the building (eg to vote or parish meeting etc). This somewhat missed the point of the question which was the comment on its adequacy as a community hall. The other respondents, who did comment on the building (rather than how they used it) were almost all complaints about the building such as:

- Not fit for purpose, damp & freezing in winter,
- Roof leaks
- Tired & poor
- Dangerous access
- Poor parking
- Vermin infestation
- Outdated and unsuitable in every way

A number of people commented that they didn't even know it was there!

One respondent said that she had tried to establish a toddler group there but the road is a problem, lack of toy storage, unfit flooring, vermin and poor heating in winter meant she had to stop her group.

Another respondent said that she had started a sewing group there 5 years ago but stopped as it was too cold in winter for elderly people that wanted to sew.

In summary, respondents held a negative view. The majority (70%) did not use it. The 30% that had used it in the last year, had very little positive to say.

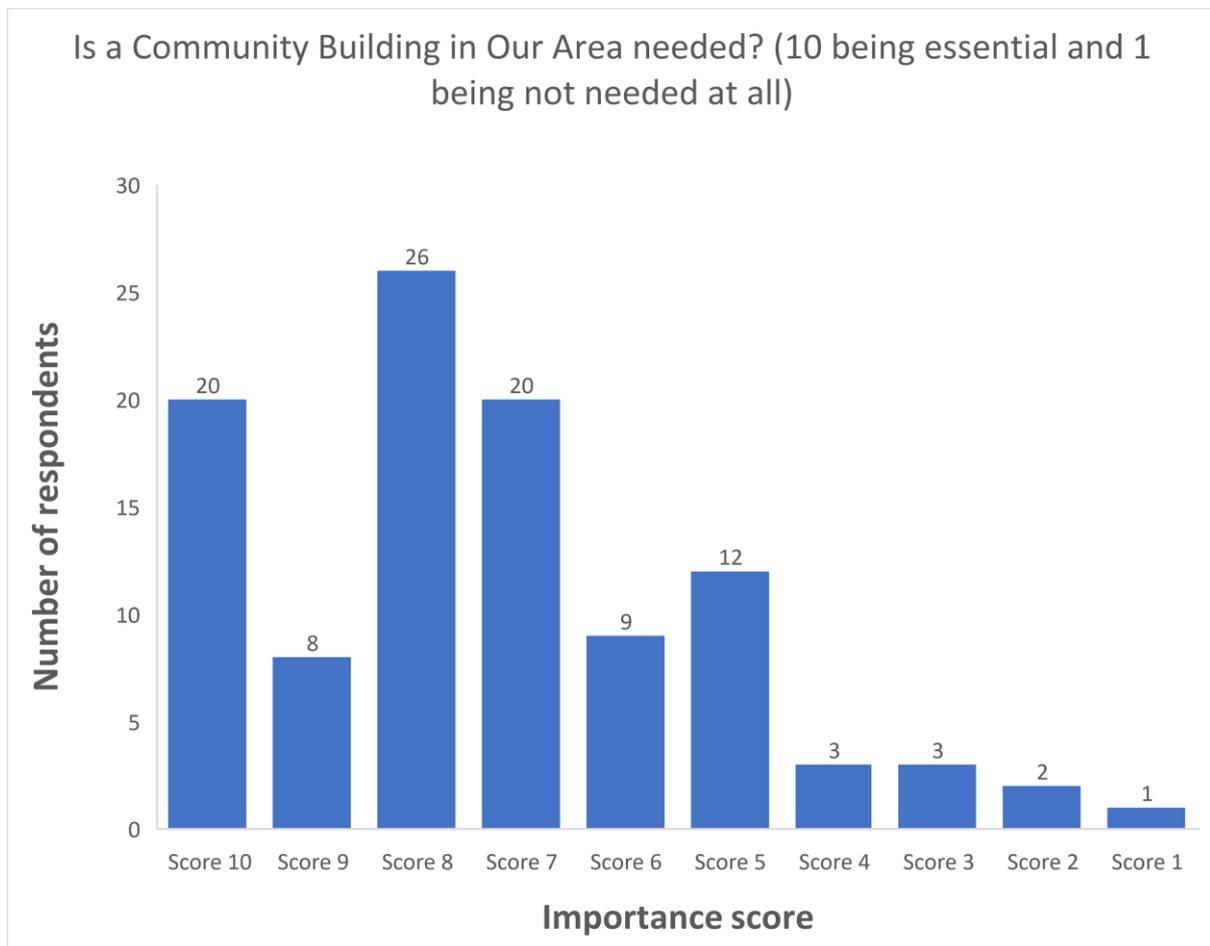
Question 1.3

“Do you think that a community building serving our area would be needed? Please score on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is not needed at all and 10 is where you consider it essential)”

Answer 1.3

105 responses out of 106 – everyone (bar one) answered this question!

The graph below illustrates the responses frequency distribution.



The average score was 7.3 out of 10. The most popular answer (mode) was 8 out of 10

There are very few respondents who scored below 5.

If you take score 6 and above as the cut off where people think it is more needed than not, then 80% of respondents scored 6 or above. This sends a clear message that a Community Building in our Area is needed.

Comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on their answer to Question 1.3. 77 out of 104 respondents commented.

The majority

Of the 80% of respondents who scored 6 or above, the typical comments were:-

- People need meeting places
- Interesting events on a budget!
- To give community feel
- The possibilities are endless
- Great for community events
- Lack of rural services outside Ledbury
- Big asset to area
- Prevent isolation and loneliness for elderly
- People need to have community events in a digital world where everyone's looking at a screen.
- Use it or lose it
- Great use of an under utilised building
- Would enhance local lives
- Help emotional well being
- Anything that encourages localism is good

The minority

Of the 20% of respondents who scored 5 or below, the typical comments were:

- There are other privately owned meeting places available.
- Not sure there's a need?
- We use Putley
- Sparcely populated
- Not needed, I work full time

Question 1.4

“How important is it to have car parking next to a community building?”

Answer 1.4

104 responses out of 104 (100% response rate)

Without exception everyone thought it either essential, very important or important; not surprising in a rural community where public transport is very poor and nearly every household owns a car.

We can therefore conclude that without parking, the community building is a non starter.

Question 1.5

“Please tick which features below, would you like to see in a Community Building?”

Free Wifi & Cyber Café Capability

Catering facilities

Toilets

Good access

Car Parking

Car electric charge points

Different size meeting rooms

Large available space for events

On a bus route

Answer 1.5 (In order of popularity)

	Number of ticks	Percentage
Toilets	102	98.1%
Car Parking	100	96.2%
Catering facilities	93	89.4%
Disabled access	84	80.8%
Large available space for events	86	82.7%
Free Wifi & Cyber Café Capability	66	63.5%
On a bus route	44	42.3%
Different size meeting rooms	42	40.4%
Car electric charge points	30	28.8%

Toilets, Car Parking, Catering facilities, Disabled Access and a large space are regarded as essential. A Café with Wifi was wanted by nearly 2/3 of respondents. Respondents felt less need for different size rooms, car charging points and for it to be on a bus route.

Question 1.5b

“Any additional features you would like to see?”

Answer 1.5b

The most popular request was an outside Green area. The next most popular was to have a quiet area for reflection and also respect for the graveyard.

Amongst the various other requests were:

- Open Plan feel
- Good quality flooring
- Table tennis table
- Café
- Screen and projector
- Defibrillator
- Baby changing facilities
- Lockable Storage
- PA system
- Dedicated website

Question 1.6

“What is the maximum number of people that the community building should be capable of holding?”

Answer 1.6

There were 101 responses out of 106. Respondents were given a choice of three options with the following results

Less than 50 people	9%
Between 50 and 100 people	68%
More than 100	23%

It is thought that the question was not phrased in the correct way. If you give respondents three ascending choices, a disproportionate number will choose the middle one.

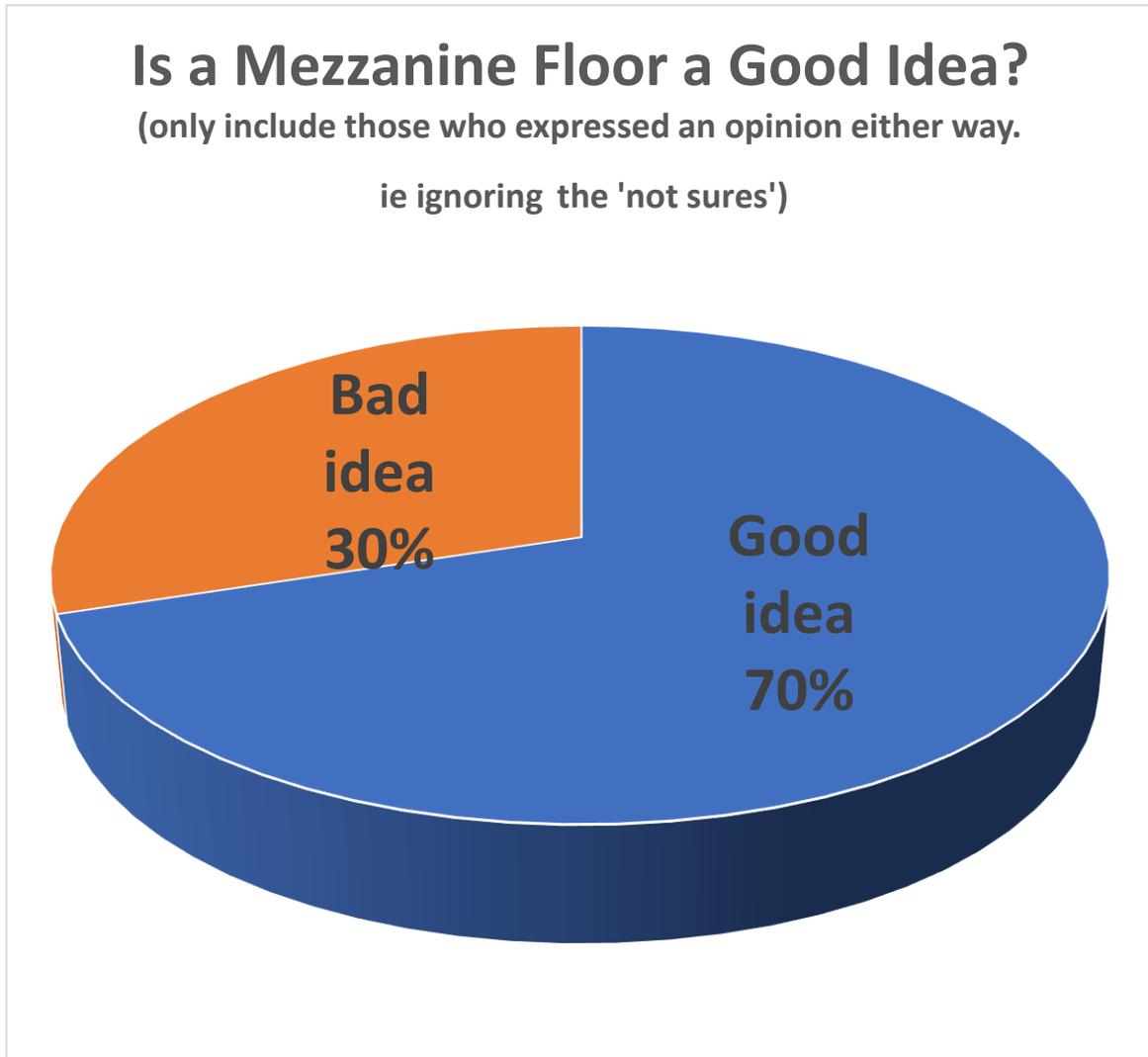
One thing that is certain is that holding less than 50 people is not an option as only 9% voted for this choice. It has to have bigger capacity than that.

Question 1.7

“In order to hold more people, do you think that a second floor (mezzanine) would be a good idea, so long as there was disabled access to upstairs”

Answer 1.7

87 respondents answered the question out of 106. Some answered ‘not sure’



70% of those who answered the question, thought an upstairs was a good idea. This is inconsistent with the answer to 1.6 above, since an upstairs would not be needed if it was only going to be a maximum of 50-100 people. The flaws in the phrasing of question on numbers (1.6) is evident here.

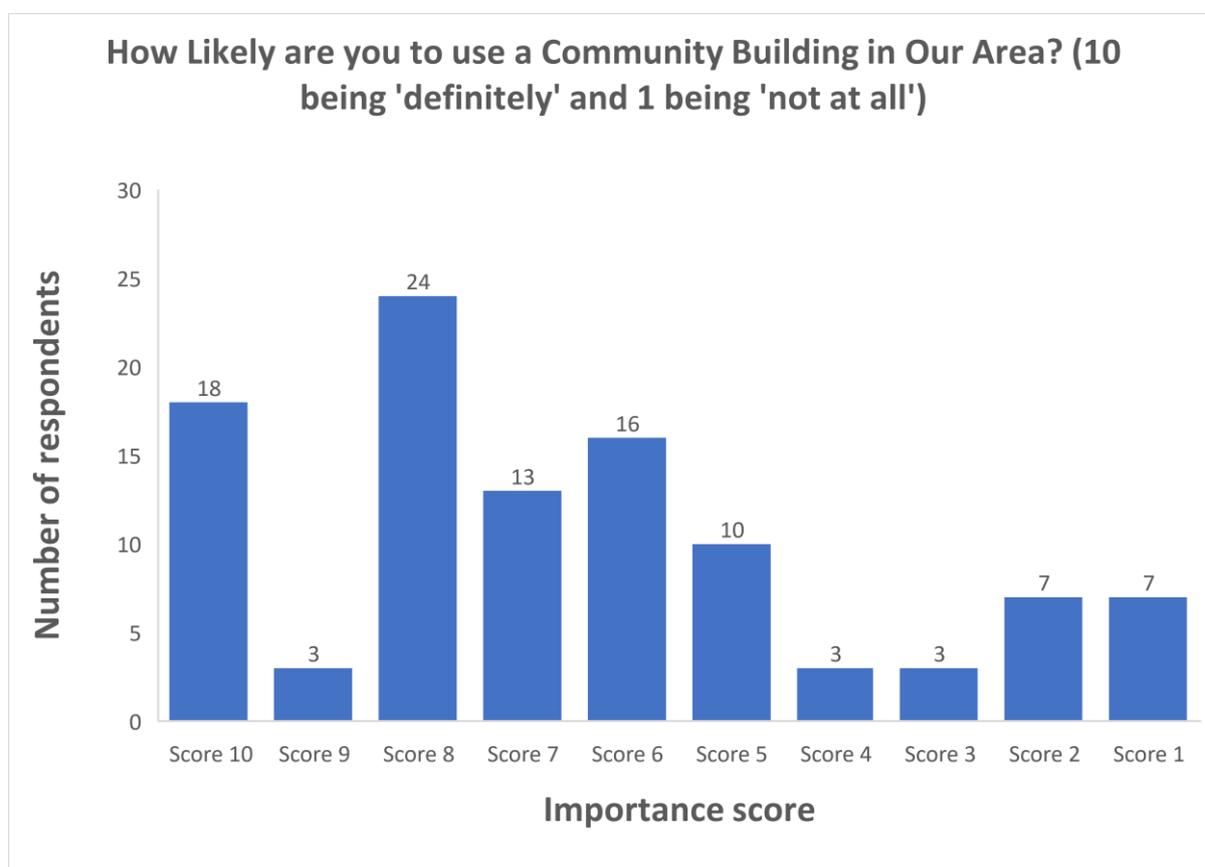
Question 1.8

“If there was a good community building, with good facilities and access, how likely are you to use it (Please score on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is not at all and 10 is you would be very keen to use the facility)”

Answer 1.8

104 responses out of 106 – nearly everyone answered this question!

The graph below illustrates the responses frequency distribution.



The average score was 6.5 out of 10. The most popular answer (mode) was 8 out of 10.

If you take score 6 and above as the cut off where people think it is more needed than not, then 71% of respondents scored 6 or above.

Of the 29% scoring 5 or below, the main two reasons were

- Aylton residents tend to use Putley Village Hall, particularly those living on the Putley side of the A4172
- A belief that Scattered communities wouldn't use it

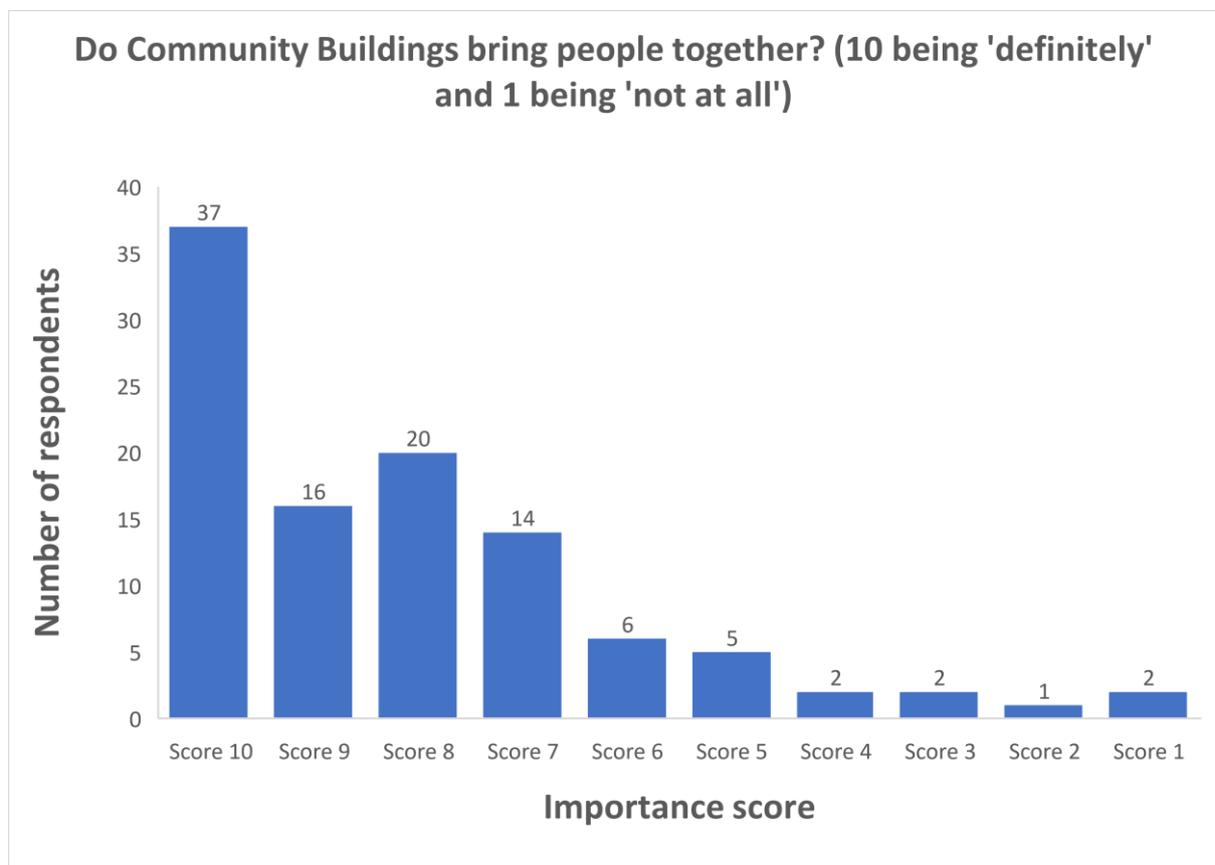
Question 1.9

“Do you agree that having a community building tends to bring people together? (Please score on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is not at all and 10 is you strongly agree that the building will bring people together)”

Answer 1.9

105 responses out of 106 – nearly 100%

The graph below illustrates the responses frequency distribution.



The average score was 8.1 out of 10. The most popular answer (mode) was 10 out of 10.

If you take score 6 and above as the cut off where people think Community Buildings bring people together, then 89% of respondents scored 6 or above. Not surprising perhaps.

Question 1.10

“What type of activities, events, clubs, café etc could a Community Building be used for? (list as many as you like)”

Answer 1.10

The list was extensive. In order of approximate popularity order, these included:-

- Exercise classes – Yoga, Keep fit, Pilates etc
- Concerts – music venue/practice
- Receptions after Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals
- Café/tea clubs/ coffee mornings
- Dance classes of all types
- Flicks in the Sticks
- Day & evening classes for Adults
- Craft workshops
- Table tennis and other sports activities
- Private Hire for Parties
- Parish Council meetings
- Playgroup/ Toddler group
- Conference facilities & Business Meetings
- Events for elderly/disabled/isolated/lonely
- Book Clubs & Exchange
- Drama
- Cookery Classes
- Gardening Clubs
- Produce sales
- Young Farmers
- Big Apple events
- Art Clubs/ Hereford Art week venue
- Post office
- Resource centre
- Bridge Circle or Whist Drives
- Vintage fairs
- Alpha Courses
- Brownies/Cubs
- Jumble/ Car Boot/ Bring & Buy

There seemed to be no end to the list of possible uses. Some of which would be possible but others not. (The list above is summarised into categories)

Question 1.11

“Your Comments and Ideas (This is your chance to have your say)”

Answer 1.11

There were 60 respondents here

It is possible to divide the 60 responses into 4 categories. The first three categories generally expressed an Opinion of the Merits of the Idea. The fourth category did not express an Opinion

Opinion Comments

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Positive and Supportive Comments | 30 Comments |
| 2. Cautionary or ‘Be Aware of’ Comments | 11 Comments |
| 3. Negative Comments | 8 Comments |

No Opinion Comments

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 4. No opinion, but just ideas or constructive type of comments | 11 Comments |
|--|-------------|

The positive comments were generally to say what a good idea it was and recognising the lack of facilities in Our Area. Some thought that in order to avoid closure, this was the way underused buildings such as Churches need to go.

Note that the negative comments were vastly in the minority and in some cases were perceived to be more subjective in nature than objective.

One theme that emerged from these comments was to respect the fact that it is still a church, people visiting graves and wanting quiet time etc.

The possible effect on dilution at Putley was also mentioned.

A few respondents thought that there was little community in such a scattered rural location and demand for community activities might be low and uptake poor.

All these comments need to be borne in mind when deciding on a way forward.

Question 1.12

“If you have any Objections, please provide details below”

Answer 1.12

There were just 3 Objections out of 106 responses (3%). These were

- Might dilute Putley Village Hall
- Too sparsely populated to succeed
- Spend the money on repairing potholes and recycling instead

Question 1.13

“Would you be prepared to help?”

Answer 1.13

There was a very encouraging number of offers (32 offers) to help in a number of ways. One third of all respondents offered to help, clearly indicating that people want to get involved with such a project.

DEMOGRAPHY OF RESPONDENTS

The Age Spread of respondents was as follows

	%
Age 30-44	7.8%
Age 45-59	39.8%
Age 60-74	39.8%
Age 75+	12.6%
	100.0%

The number of years that respondents had lived in Our Area was

	%
Under 2 years	6.8%
2 to 5 years	14.8%
6 to 10 years	5.7%
11 to 25 years	45.5%
Over 25 years	27.3%
	100.0%

In summary over 90% of respondents were over 45 years old and over 50% were over 60 years old.

70% had lived in Our Area for at least 11 years

This is thought to be representative of the population in Our Area as a whole

Of those working about half worked out of the Area and about half worked in Our Area. This is important as it shows that lack of community is exacerbated when a large contingent works away from home.

YOUNGSTERS

A simple one page questionnaire was designed for the Under 18's. It simply asked *"What would you like to do in your Hall?"*

We only had 8 questionnaires back from Under 18's, which was not surprising when you consider the Age Demography of people.

Although it was a small response rate, the 'wish list' items were more in tune with today's digital world. Amongst the most requested items were:

- WiFi,
- USB charging sockets,
- Computer Gaming facilities, including X Box, Wii, PS4 and TV
- Car Electric Charging points

Some sporting facilities were requested too. These Sporting facilities included:

- Table Tennis
- Football goal
- Pool/snooker
- Darts
- Indoor Football
- Badminton
- Gym equipment for fitness

Amongst the requests which were neither digitally or sports orientated, were:

- Film nights
- Discos
- Lego Club
- Dance Classes
- Soft play area