

URGENT RESPONSE REQUIRED

Community Consultation Future of **HOOE VILLAGE HALL** Deadline: 30th APRIL 2024

Dear Resident

The future of **Hooe Village Hall** located in Denbigh Road **MUST** be decided by Hooe Parish Council, and the **views of the residents** are necessary to inform the decision whether to **KEEP** and **RENOVATE** the Village Hall or for it to be **CLOSED** and **SOLD**.

Why does the Parish Council Need Your View?

As both options have significant financial impact on the council taxpayers of Hooe, the Parish Council **MUST** achieve a **Substantial Response** from the electors to allow the Parish Council to apply for a government loan or grant should a decision be made to renovate the Village Hall. If this is not achieved, and with limited funding available to the Parish Council, the Village Hall may eventually close.

Who Can Respond?

Each resident age 18 or over in your household who is eligible to vote and is recorded on the Electoral Register can **VOTE**. Attached to this letter is a **Household Response Form** with details of the options to consider and enclosed with a pre-paid postage envelope to **Register your View** with Hooe Parish Council by the **30th April 2024**.

Is this a Binding Consultation?

No, this is an **Informal Consultation**, and the outcome is not binding on the Parish Council, but the weight of community support will be a key factor for the Parish Council in making this difficult decision.

Hooe Parish Council would recommend you read the information enclosed carefully before making your decision.

Yours sincerely

Jane Warrener
Clerk (Proper Officer) on behalf of Hooe Parish Council

Your personal data submitted as part of this Community Consultation shall only be used for the purpose to which it is intended. The information provided will not be disclosed to any third party unless it is required to do so by law.

Community Consultation – Future of HOOE VILLAGE HALL

Overview

The usage of the village hall has been very low for some time and the Parish Council does not foresee any significant increase in the use of the village hall. The building is maintained to keep it legal and open for public use, but its general condition is in decline and maintenance costs will rise long term. The village hall hire charges do not currently cover the running costs of the building.

For more information on the detailed reports and financial implications on all the options considered by Hooe Parish Council please visit www.hooe-pc.gov.uk/village-hall-project.

Option: KEEP AND RENOVATE

The Parish Council's intentions would be to implement a plan of incremental building improvements over a five or ten-year period by either the means of a government public works loan or by grants. Such options may be available to the Parish Council if a substantial response is received in favour of retaining the village hall, but the Parish council may find it difficult to put forward a business case to support a public works loan application.

Improvements such as a new car park, upgrade the kitchen facilities, upgrade aspects of the building such as the windows and frontage of the building are areas that can be considered. The building would be required to be heated and maintained appropriately so the annual running costs will likely increase.

Such improvements to the village hall may increase the usage levels of the village hall long term, if this is not achieved the long-term financial obligation for the running costs of the village hall and any loan cost will sit with the council taxpayers of Hooe.

Grants cannot necessarily be guaranteed and, as an example, a £100,000 public works fixed-rate loan over 25 years taken out on 13th March 2024 would equate to £854 per council taxpayer (band-D property) or £1,042 (band-E) over that timescale.

Option: CLOSE AND SELL

By selecting this option, you will be giving your support to the Parish Council to implement a planned closure and sale of the village hall site for development. The capital receipt received for the sale of Hooe village hall would generate savings interest that could be offset against the annual council tax payment (precept). The capital receipt may only be spent on new projects for the local community. **This option is to close and sell the site with planning consent.**

Your input to this consultation is vital.

Please encourage every eligible person in your household to participate and return the completed response form by the deadline.