

Community Consultation – Future of HOOE VILLAGE HALL

5.13 Response to Questions Raised to date

The following responses made to resident's emails and correspondence just before and during the consultation period regarding the consultation are published here if the council deems that those responses may be relevant and useful for all to see and not misdirect the purpose of the consultation. The council may decide to fully publish (in anonymity) all correspondence and replies after the consultation period ends.

4 Apr 24 Response to Resident 1

Resident 1 made a statement in an email in which it was clear they had misunderstood the quoted example cost to council taxpayers as an annual amount rather than over the loan duration as stated.

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The £854 per band-D council taxpayer quoted is the cost over the example 25-year timescale - if the council did raise £100,000 over 25 years this alone could increase the Hooe council tax bill element by £34 per year for each of the 25 years (£854 divided by 25 years) unless the council found other funds to pay for the loan repayments.

*Please note, this **does not imply** the council will borrow £100,000 or choose a 25-year repayment timescale, the amounts, timescale, interest rates and precept effect could be more or less at the time - but we have to give an example to show the long-term liability that could fall to taxpayers of Hooe.*

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Resident 1 further asked "Would it be possible to make it clear to everyone how much would be added each year to the council tax for how many years?"

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The Parish Council are required to illustrate the potential effect on council taxpayers, but we are only in a position to give an example as no firm decisions have been made on the exact nature of any renovations or improvements and the council have stated what they might consider doing.

The main purpose of this consultation is to gauge resident's preferences on which of the two options they would like council to explore at this time.

We have strived to make it clear that a significant part of renovation costs are likely to end up on our council taxpayers bills although we will explore grants and other funding as a priority but they are never guaranteed. Without the example statement, it could equally mislead readers in believing that the Keep and Renovate option is without significant cost implication, this might sway voters, in the opposite way you suggest that the inclusion of the statement might put off voters from that option.

The council believe the summary statements are fair and balanced.

I hope this clarifies the position.

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4 Apr 24 Response to Resident 2 INCORRECT DUPLICATE OF RESIDENT 1

Resident 2 received clarification about whether the example stated cost to council taxpayers was an annual amount.

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*Please note, this **does not imply** the council will borrow £100,000 or choose a 25-year repayment timescale, the amounts, timescale, interest rates and precept effect could be more or less at the time - but we have to give an example to show the long-term liability that could fall to taxpayers of Hooe.*

17 Apr 24 Response to Resident 2 CORRECTED ENTRY

Resident 2 received a response on their consultation comment that cannot be disclosed during the consultation period.

11 Apr 24 Response to Residents 3&4

Residents 3&4 received a response on their consultation comments and questions that cannot be disclosed during the consultation period.

12 Apr 24 Response to Resident 5

Resident 5 made a number of comments that cannot be disclosed during the consultation period, however, received clarification about whether the example stated cost to council taxpayers was an annual amount.

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*Please note, this **does not imply** the council will borrow £100,000 or choose a 25-year repayment timescale, the amounts, timescale, interest rates and precept effect could be more or less at the time - but we have to give an example to show the long-term liability that could fall to taxpayers of Hooe.*

Resident 5 asked whether the council had a strategy to initiate more usage [of the village hall] if renovation was the option chosen

The council have clearly outlined what improvements (parking, kitchen upgrade) will likely promote increased use. Whether this will increase community use or just attract outsiders is unknown and could never be quantified. Whether it will be sufficient to justify the expense and determine the appropriate levels of that expense have not been decided and will be a factor for councillors to consider alongside the results of the community vote.

All the activities that have happened in the past can all come back if the community wishes to organise them and approach the council for support. The council does not have the resources to promote, run and organise all community events. As you say, there has been an overwhelming request by the residents attending the Village Hall Project Committee meetings for the voluntary groups to return to using the village hall, particularly the coffee mornings, and that has not happened, and the residents should be given an explanation why. Some suggest without a village hall the community spirit dies, maybe the community groups should consider the views of the local community that are crying out for them to return to the village hall. The village hall cannot be the hub of the village if no one is using it.

17 Apr 24 Response to Residents 6&7

Residents 6&7 gave a comprehensive list of the past activities and potential leads for new users of the village hall, which the council deems useful to publish here together with the question they asked following.

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We would like to bring to the attention to the PC the activities that were incumbent to the village hall during our tenure thus far:-

1. PC meetings
2. Elections
3. History Society
4. Youth Club
5. Open Group
6. Line Dancing
7. Martial Arts
8. Home Education Group
9. Table Tennis
10. Harvest Supper
11. Pancake Lunch
12. Bonfire Lunch
13. Coffee Mornings
14. Open Gardens toilet stop
15. Beetle Drives
16. Suppers/Charity Fundraising events
17. Village morning organised by the Parish Council, Various organisations attended:- Fire, police commissioner, Hastings conservation, footpaths, first aiders, music group, Hooe silver band, Neighbourhood watch among others
18. Handcraft/Art sessions
19. Bazaar/2017 Christmas fayre
20. Children's Parties/adults parties
21. Funeral Wakes
22. Hooe Motor Club
23. Hooe Band
24. Ukelele Group
25. Conquest Dr's meetings
26. Cycle stop for charity event.

There were a number of enquiries for the hire of the hall before the covid19 closure:-

1. Art Club
2. Toddlers
3. Pilates
4. Cinema

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Residents 6&7 then asked "Where are the community going to congregate for civil matters, elections, PC meetings, Church and village social occasions and community meetings of all kinds?"

The response given is:-

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The answer regarding where the community will meet if the village hall and grounds are sold is two-fold. The official meetings of the council or polling station may not justify a building alone. Whilst the hall was closed for 6 months, these meetings were held at the Church or in a hireable room in Ninfield, just 1-2 miles away for residents. As for the social calendar of the village, it is clear the Church is a central place for the community and well utilised and even has parking, The council has already stated a desire to support it more financially, but unfortunately there are some legal barriers at present. The other local facilities at Ninfield are available less than 2 miles away and, as you point out, we have a thriving community pub, The Red Lion and nearby tea-shop/café Hope Cottage very close to the

village. All these and the other local businesses, not just the village hall, goes to make a thriving community.

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22 Apr 24 Response to Residents 8&9

Residents 8&9 received a response on their consultation comments that cannot be disclosed during the consultation period.

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This document will be updated as responses are issued.