



GLATTON VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY SURVEY 2020 & ANALYSIS

For some time the Village Hall Committee have been aware that the building, first opened on 24th of May 1952, is becoming increasingly costly to maintain and manage and that action was required if the facility is to serve future generations of the community. Consequently, Gowers Surveyors of Stamford were commissioned to carry out a detailed professional survey to determine the condition of the Village Hall. That survey was carried out on 6th of May 2020 and was comprehensive and included both external and internal inspections. The 18-page survey was delivered on 18th of May 2020. It is available for viewing on the Glatton Village Website at: www.glatton.org.uk under Village Hall.



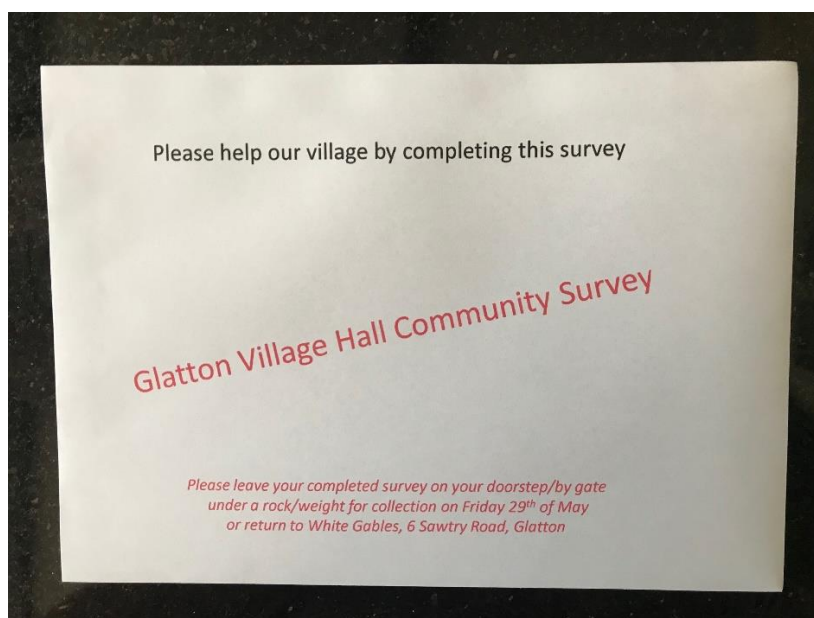
In conjunction with the Building/Condition Survey, the Village Hall Committee needed to determine the value the community places on the village hall as an asset to the community as a whole, and also as a facility provider for its various “user groups”, including St Nicholas’ Church.

A “Community Survey” was drawn up and circulated amongst committee members for comment before it was finalised. Comment was also sought from Action with Cambridgeshire Communities in Rural England (Cambridgeshire ACRE) who provided advice and guidance.

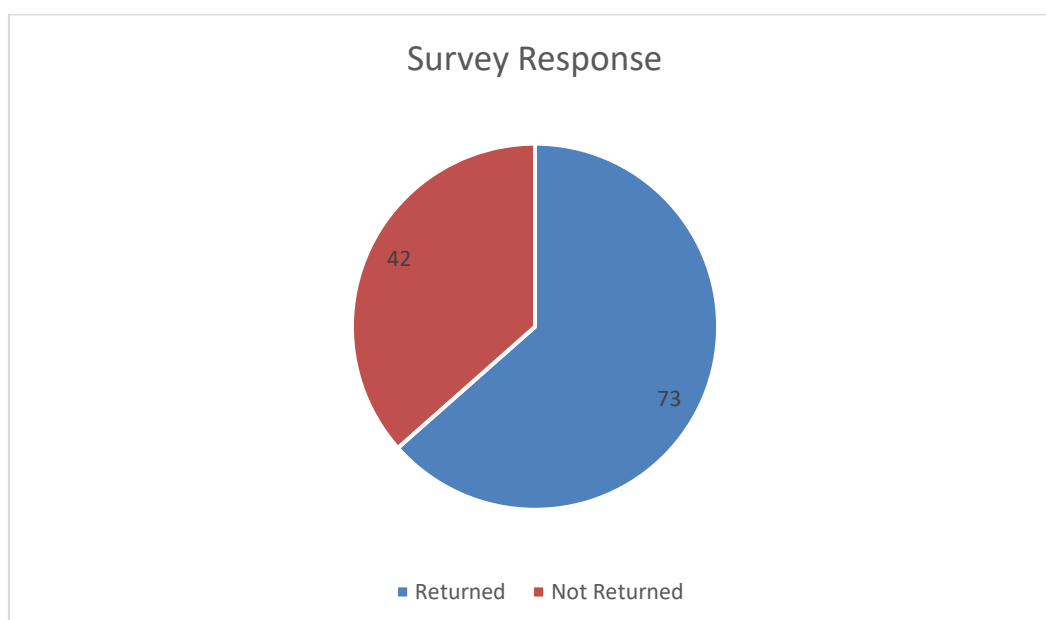
Both the Village Hall Community Survey and the Building/Condition Survey are important documents since, whatever action your Committee decide to take in the future, including applications for grants/awards, will need to be evidence based and these two documents together form an important part of that audit trail.

THE SURVEY

The survey was one double sided questionnaire with a total of ten questions plus a covering page to explain the purpose of the survey. It was delivered to 111 houses in Glatton Village and the immediate area and to 4 “user groups” including St Nicholas Church; Total = 115. The survey was a paper questionnaire with “tick” boxes to ease simplicity and encourage maximum participation. There was also opportunity to offer personal written comment on any/all aspects of the Village Hall and its future. Surveys were hand delivered on Tuesday 26th of May and collected on Friday 29th of May.



Of the 115 surveys delivered, 73 were returned (42 Not Returned) i.e. a 63.5% return rate. This analysis is based on the 73 returned surveys only. Numbers may not add up to 115 since sometimes specific questions were not answered. Also, the survey was conducted by “household” i.e. one return per household.



[This page is the covering attachment to the survey questionnaire.](#)

COMMUNITY SURVEY TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF GLATTON VILLAGE HALL

“WE NEED YOUR HELP”



BACKGROUND

Glatton Village Hall sits geographically at the centre of our Village and provides services for the Village Community, St Nicholas' Church, Glatton Parish and Huntingdonshire District Councils, various clubs, institutions, organisations and activities and to individuals organising private parties/events. All of these are important, to varying degrees, for our mental and physical wellbeing and for the maintenance of our much-cherished community spirit.

Glatton Village Hall is legally owned and managed by the Trustees of the Glatton Village Hall Trust and the Village Hall Committee are the Trustees. The Village Hall is not the property or responsibility of Glatton Parish Council.

The Village Hall was formally opened in May 1952 making it some 60 years old. The building originally stood at RAF Glatton (now Connington Airfield) and was gifted to Glatton Village after WWII when RAF Glatton was decommissioned. The building was moved and has served our community well for almost 60 years. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult and costly to maintain and to heat. A building survey has been commissioned and this questionnaire will sit along-side that survey, to help the Committee determine the future of our Village Hall.

Whatever the conclusion of the building survey, it is anticipated that the Village Hall is going to require some major financial investment if it is to continue to provide a service, even at its current level.

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

This survey is a preliminary survey to determine the value of the Village Hall to the Community it serves. We, the Village Hall Committee, are keen to understand your views of this important village asset and how you think it could be better utilised within the community in the future and also what improvements, if any, should be considered in its development, which might ultimately mean

rebuilding the hall. The funding issue is another matter which will need to be addressed at a later date but that should not influence your response to this survey.

QUESTIONS AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Numbers on pie charts are the number of answers received.

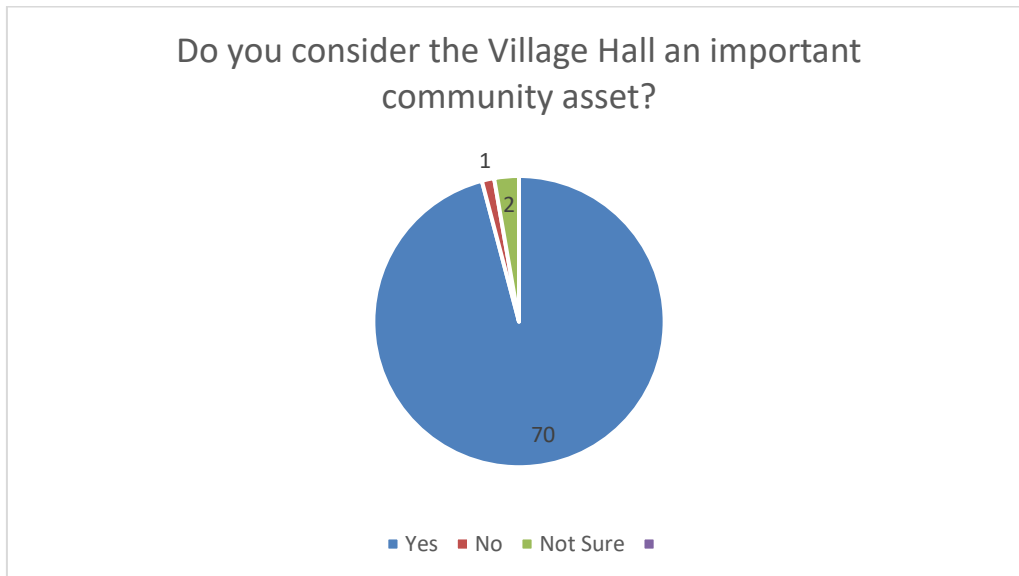
Percentages in brackets below question are rounded up or down.

Q1. Do you consider the Village Hall an important community asset?

Yes – 70 (96%)

No – 1 (1%)

Not Sure - 2 (3%)

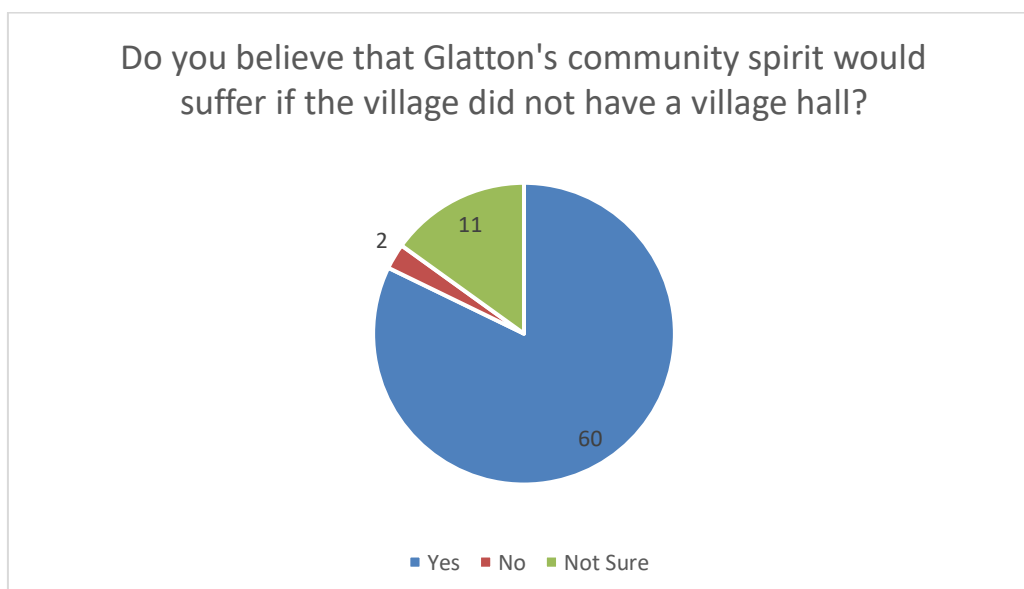


Q2. Do you believe Glatton’s community spirit would suffer if the village did not have a village hall?

Yes – 60 (82%)

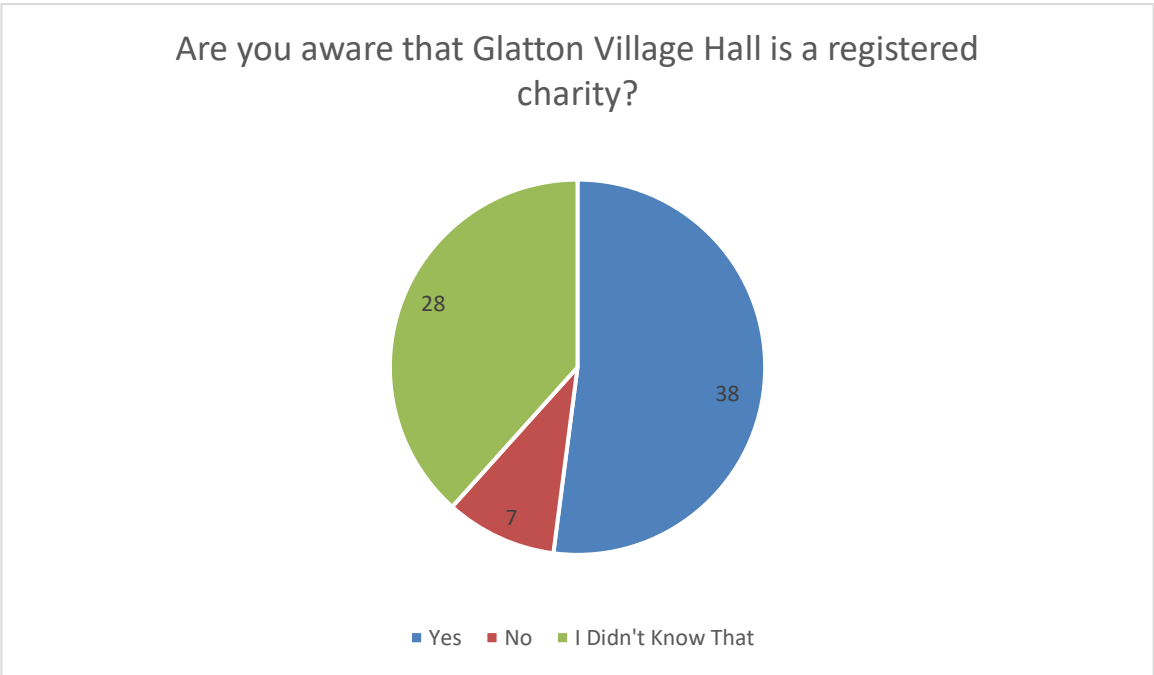
No – 2 (3%)

Not Sure – 11 (15%)



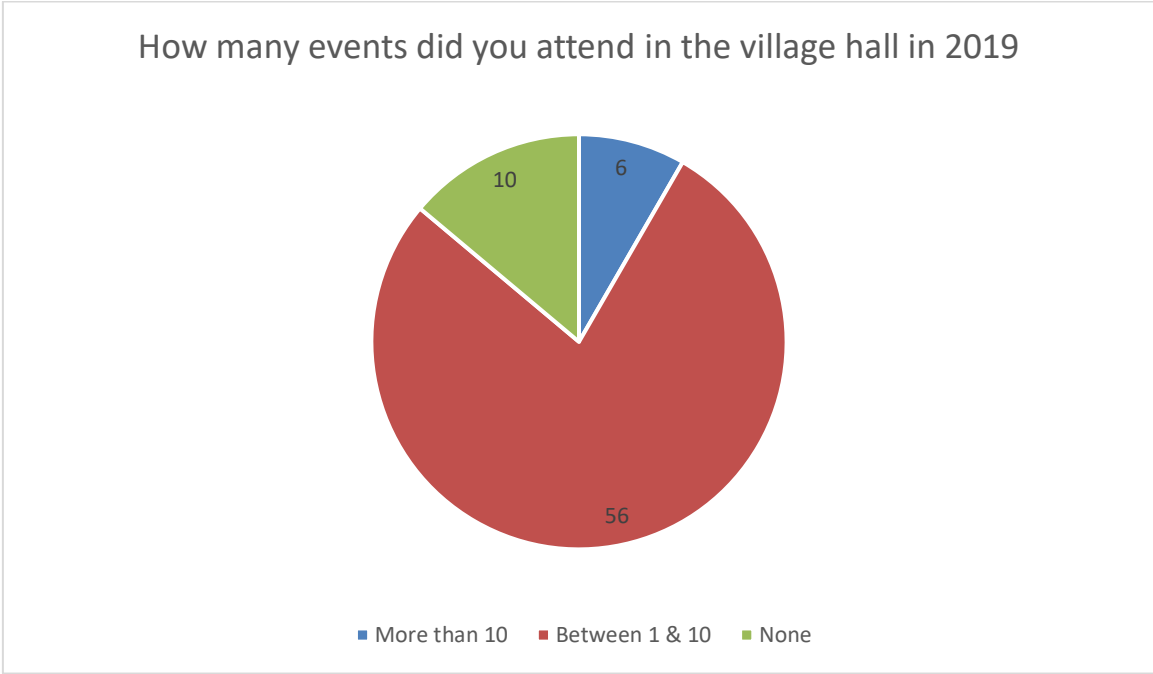
Q3. Are you aware that Glatton Village Hall is a registered charity (number 302636) and relies totally on income from events & rentals to pay all utility bills and routine upkeep and maintenance and that it does not receive any funding from county, district or parish councils?

Yes – 38 (53%) No – 7 (10%) I Didn't know that – 28 (38%)



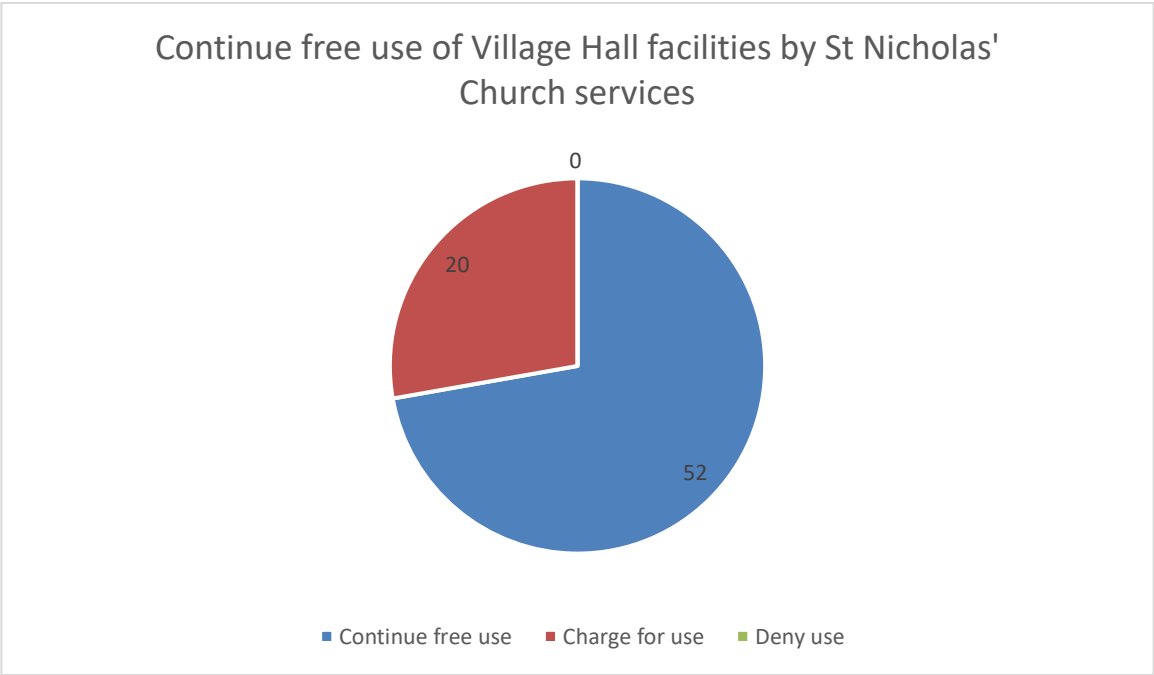
Q4. How many events did you attend in the village hall in 2019 (last calendar year)?

More than ten – 6 (8%) Between one & ten – 56 (77%) None – 10 (14%)



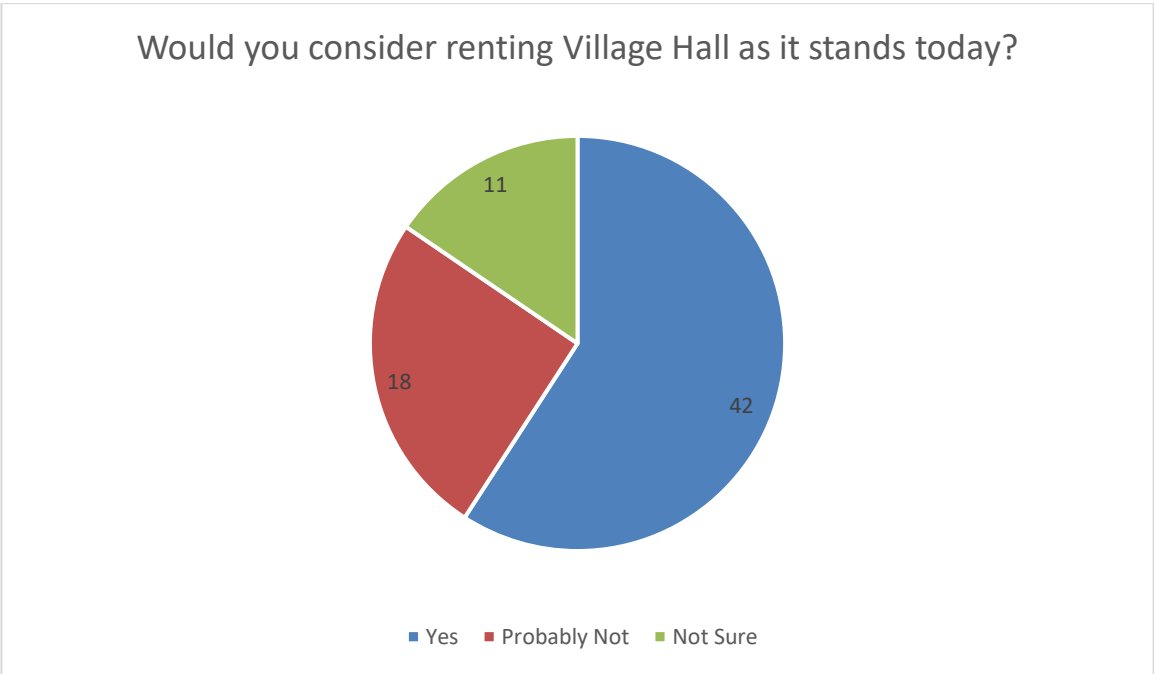
Q5. The village hall provides a free of charge service to St Nicholas' Church by allowing use of toilet & baby changing facilities & car parking for those attending routine church services, weddings, funerals, and christenings. Do you think this should continue as "a service to the community"?

Continue free use – 52 (71%) Charge for use – 20 (28%) deny use – 0 (0%)



Q6. Would you consider renting the village hall as it stands today for a private function (party, anniversary reception, wedding reception, etc)?

Yes – 42 (58%) Probably Not – 18 (25%) Not Sure – 11 (15%)

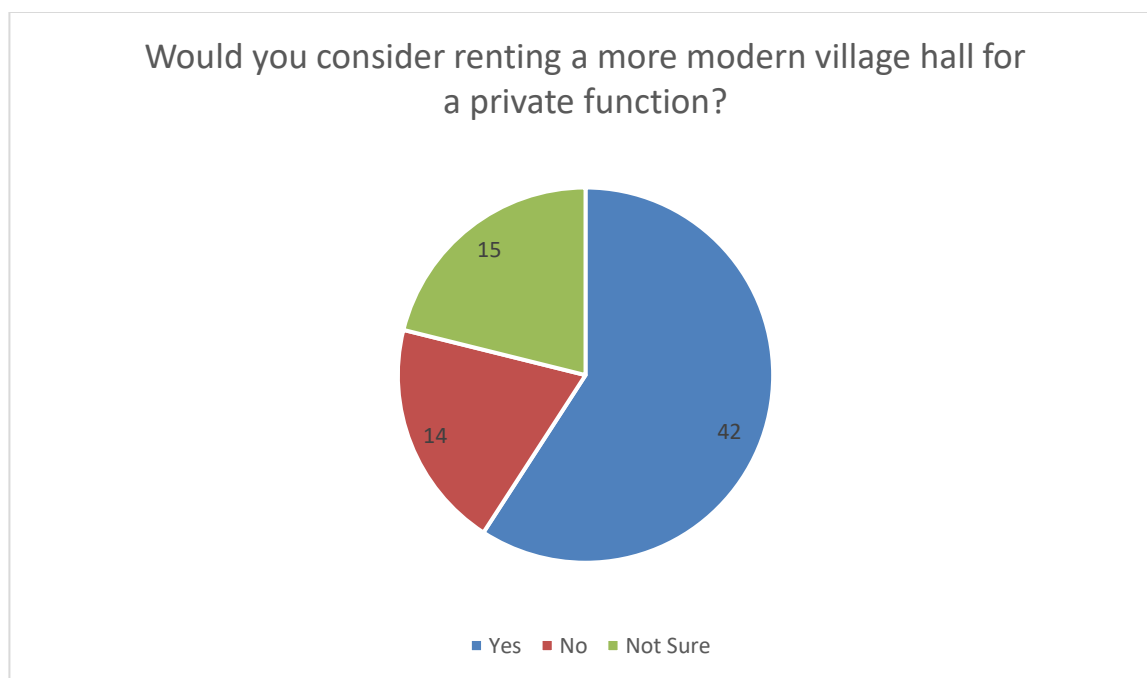


Q7. Would you consider renting a more modern village hall for a private function?

Yes – 42 (58%)

No – 14 (19%)

Not Sure – 15 (21%)



Q8. What do you like about the present village hall?

Central Location – 68 (93%)

Appearance – 20 (28%)

Rental Cost – 32 (44%)

Warm & Cosy – 26 (36%)

Kitchen Facilities – 34 (47%)

Toilet Facilities – 39 (53%)

Q9. What would you like to see if the hall were rebuilt (on the same site)?

Improved Kitchen Facilities – 40 (56%)

Side Meeting Rooms – 17 (23%)

Broadband & Wi-Fi – 40 (55%)

Storage Space – 22 (31%)

Projection Equipment – 22 (31%)

External Security (CCTV) – 21 (29%)

Dedicated Bar Area – 32 (44%)

Larger Stage Area – 17 (24%)

More Efficient & Controllable Heating – 50 (68%)

OBSERVATIONS FROM SURVEY RETURNS

- 21% of households would hire the Village Hall as it currently stands but WOULD NOT hire a more modern building.
- 19% of households WOULD NOT consider hiring the Village Hall as it currently stands but WOULD hire a more modern Village Hall.
- 16% of households would probably NOT hire the Village Hall, old or new.

MOST PERTINANT COMMENTS FROM SURVEY RETURNS (Non-attributable)

- *“without a village hall, Glatton is just a village. With a Village Hall, it’s a community”.*
- *“nothing wrong with existing village hall other than parking issues – a new hall would probably cause more parking problems and be a wasted cost”.*
- *“with any money raised, believe the village hall (iconic part of Glatton) should be maintained rather than replaced. If the hall is condemned because of asbestos roof than that’s a different beast (but we don’t know what the survey has revealed)”.*
- *“unless it is falling down, why the need to rebuild?”.*
- *“has consideration been given to approaching the church regarding adding toilets & kitchen if possible, seeking permission to remove the pews? This has been done in other parishes”.*
- *“if (a new hall was built) on the existing site, we need to maximize the opportunity”.*
- *“we need to create an environmentally friendly building”.*
- *“I believe that a vibrant village hall speaks volumes about its community”.*
- *“it would be good to improve on the appearance of the village hall”.*
- *“I think the current facilities match the scale of the hall – although a slightly larger storage area would be good”.*
- *“current hall is of historic value & has charm”.*
- *“it is almost perfect. People will ask for additional facilities for the sake of it”.*
- *“we would prefer to keep the current building as it is part of the village history and also our personal history”.*
- *“...the beautiful wooden floor is perfect for our aerobics class”.*
- *“..... without it (the village hall), the village would soon become a dormitory area with no community spirit”.*
- *“without a village hall, the village of Glatton would suffer immensely”.*
- *“A valuable resource. The village would be lesser without it. Modern, but “in keeping” facility would be welcome (low energy, eco-friendly, sustainably built, etc”.*
- *“A village hall is a vital part of a village community. GVH has served many generations for a variety of events over the generations/years and we hope that it will do so for many more”.*
- *“If it (the village hall) was to be re-built on the same site, there would be no room to make it bigger. What other site could be used?”.*
- *“Hall the dated & unfunctional, could use for work if modern & had facilities...”.*
- *“ I think the usefulness of the village hall should not be considered beyond 20 years, as I believe inevitably the village will have to choose between making the church a more useful*

facility or keeping the hall. However much is spent on the village hall, it is always going to be restricted by the size of the plot. Eventually the church will be allowed to make the pews moveable and install toilet & kitchen facilities and proper heating. The church is of greater importance and potentially a much more useable space for balls & entertainment”.

- *“we need to plan for the next 60 years & leave a legacy (for future generations)”.*

CONCERNS FROM SURVEY RETURNS

- Potential loss of Village Hall to community.
- Cost (both rebuild/refurbishment cost & ongoing running/maintenance costs).
- Car parking.
- Disability access/facilities.
- Potential loss of facilities for St Nicholas’ Church (ablutions, car parking, etc).

CONCLUSIONS

This Village Hall Community Survey was carried out in parallel with the Building Condition Survey and the conclusions/findings of that survey were not made publicly available prior to completion of the Community survey. This was deliberate since the aim of the community survey was to focus on the value placed on the Village Hall as a community asset, in whatever condition it might be. Knowledge of the building condition survey might have influenced the findings of the community survey, adversely or otherwise. However, moving forward, all members of the community should have access to both reports/surveys to ensure transparency of decision making (as requested by some households) and to ensure the community as a whole are “on-side” as the Committee plan for the future.

Several community survey returns suggested making use of available, in-house community expertise and many offered their specialist skills e.g. in surveying, engineering, building, etc

- There was a good response to the community survey (63.5%) indicating a high level of interest in the future of the Village Hall.
- The overwhelming majority of the community value the Village Hall and want to ensure such a facility remains available as a community asset for both current and future generations.
- The vast majority of households are “occasional users” of the Village Hall with a small minority of “frequent users”.
- The majority of Village Hall users believe that facilities like ablutions, baby changing facilities & car parking should continue to be provided free of charge to those attending services at St Nicholas’ Church.

- Exactly the same number of households (58%) would hire the Village Hall as it currently stands or a re-built/refurbished Village Hall.
- 40% of households would not, or would probably not, consider hiring the Village Hall whether old or new!
- The overwhelming majority of households (93%) regarded the central location of the Village Hall to be an important factor.
- The majority of households would like to see energy efficiency improved i.e. better & more controllable heating.

THE NEXT STEPS

It is proposed that the way forward should include:

1. The current Village Hall Committee meet to discuss the implications of both the Building Condition Survey and the Village Hall Community Survey, accepting that the VH Committee may change after the forthcoming AGM and that this action may require more than one meeting if the committee changes.
2. The Parish Council are kept informed of the Village Hall's decision making.
3. Any future planning meetings make use of in-house expertise and possibly form part of any planning/steering/implementation groups.
4. Both the Village Hall Building Condition Survey and the Village Hall Community Survey are made available to all by placing the documents on the Glatton Village Website.
5. As requested by several households, the Village Hall Committee holds an "Open Meeting" to listen to the views of the community.
6. After Proposal 1 and 5 above, costed options (rough order of magnitude - ROM) are obtained for all options agreed. No assumptions made at this point.