

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall Roof-Us Survey Results



Summary

Following the progression to stage two of the Lottery Grant Application and to inform the current business plan for Sampford Courtenay Village Hall a number of surveys have been undertaken. Event Specific surveys have been carried out by volunteers to gain feedback on not just the event but the facilities at the hall.

The information in this survey is centred around the communities opinion on what the hall means to them and their families, positive feedback on what they like about the events and services the Village Hal currently provides and what they would like to be included and why.

In order to collate the views and interest from the residents a survey has been undertaken to every home in the Parish and this report gives an outline of the responses received.

Methodology

It was decided to provide every household with the opportunity to undertake the survey and to this end volunteers attended every premises in the local community and either spoke with the residents directly, left the survey with the householder and arranged collection or provided every household with a copy and requested that they fill it in and either deliver or post to the Village Hall.

The survey was compiled and then advertised through various mediums including -

- ❖ advertisement in Roundabout Parish Magazine
- ❖ on the local Parish Websites
- ❖ through the local Facebook pages
- ❖ on the village notice boards
- ❖ personal encouragement during local organised social events

Objectives of the survey

The objectives were to -

- a) Ensure effective consultation with the community
- b) Identifying needs / desires of residents

¹ NB we have 300 premises in the Parish and 530 Parishioners

- c) Enable collation of data for presentation as part of the current National Lottery Grant
- d) inform the current Business Plan

The survey

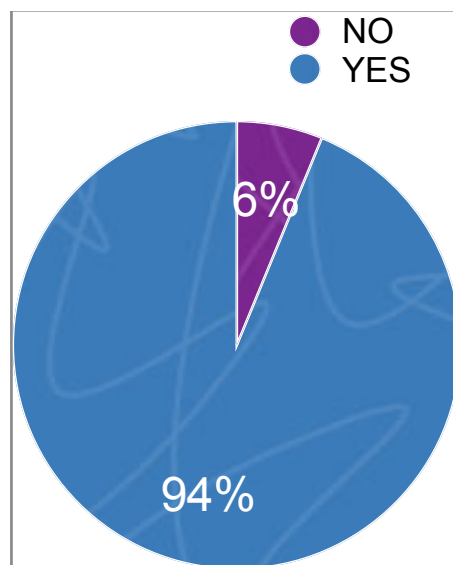
Since the survey was distributed at the end of December 2021, 88 households, representing 228 individuals, engaged and had their say.¹

Survey summary

- The respondents were evenly balanced between Male and female with 5.8% respondents preferring not to say their gender.
- over 83% of respondents were over the age of 50
- 93.8% of respondents feel that the Social activities organised at/through the village hall are one of the key strengths or positive features of our community. Many of the respondents highlighted the positive impact that the Village Hall has on the mental well being and prevention of isolation to those who may be isolated especially due to age

The survey Analysis

Q1 Do you feel that the Social activities organised at/through the village hall are one of the key strengths or positive features of our community?

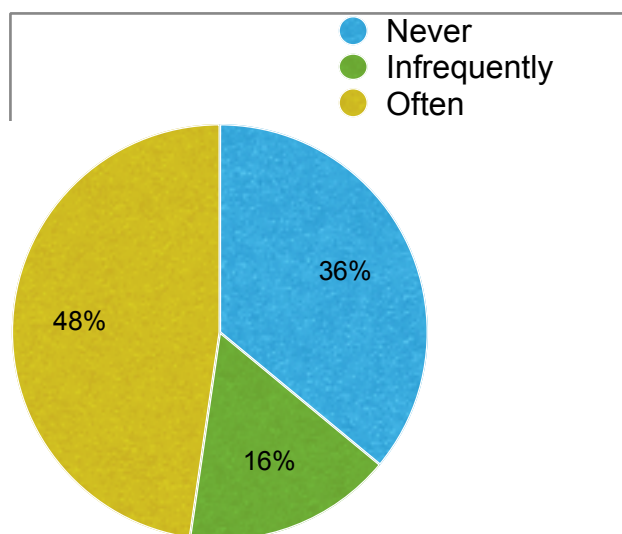


In Q2 the respondents tried to explain why the hall was so important here are just a few of the comments (full details in Appendix A - Data sheet)

- Helps combat loneliness and isolation by bringing villagers together in a controlled environment
- It gets people together who might otherwise have little opportunities to mix
- Brings the community together and supports older and disabled members of the community
- Its a very important part of of village life for those that live alone for lonely folks improves mental health
- Our village hall is a vital part of the community before and during COVID and for the future
- Social hub meet old/new people in and outside the parish

- the village hall is at the absolute core of most activities undertaken in the village
- We are very impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of the village hall committee we did not need help during lockdown but we were offered help many times (being aged!)

Q3 asked How often do you use facilities at the village hall?

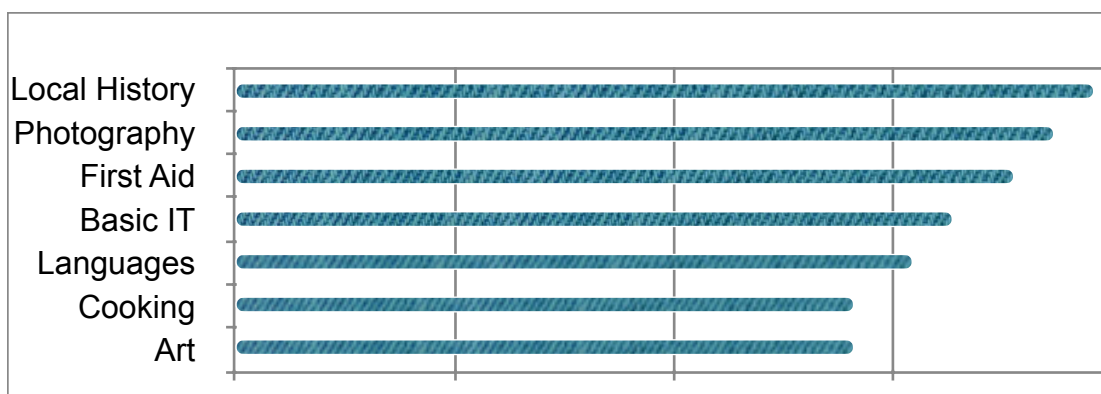


In Q4 only 77% of respondents answered but of them 78% stated that they thought there was a need to expand activities at the hall.

For Q5 the main reasons for adding more activities were

- the more varied activities that can be put on at the hall will benefit a wider range of residents
- the more the hall is used the better for village inclusion and cohesion
- to help broaden peoples interests and to share and experience it with the community
- Its a lovely venue and extra activities could bring in more revenue for its upkeep

Of the suggestions in Q6 respondents showed a preference in the following order



But a number of other suggestions were provided in the 'Other' category and these included:-

Horticulture/gardening club	Repair cafe
learn a musical instrument	Antique/craft fairs

Cycling group	Pet based events
Social hub with WiFi cafe	Crafts

For Q7 whilst only 67% of respondents answered banking services, library and peoples health and wellbeing was key and could very well help to focus the themes for the Come and Chat sessions that are held regularly at the Village Hall



Of interest the examples given for Other included Post Office facilities, parent child facilities, environmental issues and rural support services.

In Q8 regarding support for the events in the future it is heartening that of those that responded 100% indicated that they would be happy to attend events whereas only 25% indicated that they would be happy to help organise events. It has to be borne in mind that with a significantly older demographic this is inevitable however based on the willingness to attend there is scope to identify how more people could be part of the volunteer network in supporting the organisation of future events.

The responses to Q9 gave a very broad brush with many respondents indicating that they are very active and come to most events.

Regarding the marketing and promotion of the Village Hall events in Q10 most people included all the current standard modes used it being key that both digital and traditional methods were equally relevant. Of note several indicated the broadening of the circulation to notice boards further afield to advertise to those outside the parish.

There were a good selection of ideas in Q11 for developing and diversifying the village hall that sought to balance the need to increase revenue and the need for more community based events, several suggestions included both the older and younger residents on the same theme suggesting a Senior Citizen lunch and Children's parties. There were also suggestions regarding the use of the carpark to support electric charging and the use by Campervans for Overnight stops.

For Q12 "What the Village Hall means to you and your family?" the comments just show how the Village Hall is at the heart of the community. The work that is ongoing by the Hall trustees is obviously recognised. Comments demonstrate that the role of the hall is vital

'as the heart of the village and the parish the VH should play an important part in bringing people together to provide recreational entertainment and well being for the benefit of the community, use the step free access for all community activities'

'through our involvement with the VH we have met and made some lovely new friends and contacts within the Parish Keep up the great work that you are already doing VH committee. The hall committee encourage everyone within the community to be involved with all the events and activities'

'essential for close village life and vital social outlet particularly for older people'

Thanks is given to everyone who has taken the time to provide this feedback. It is encouraging that there is such a positive feeling for the work that the Trustees and volunteers do to make the Village Hall beat at the 'Heart of our Community'. The suggestions and ideas can now be put together with the feedback from specific events and form part of the planning for the future.