Results of Village Hall Survey

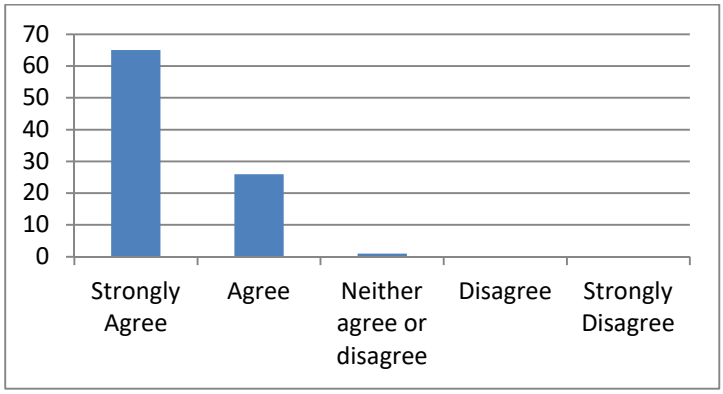
Individual Forms

A total of 92 forms were returned – 55 paper forms and 37 online forms.

---

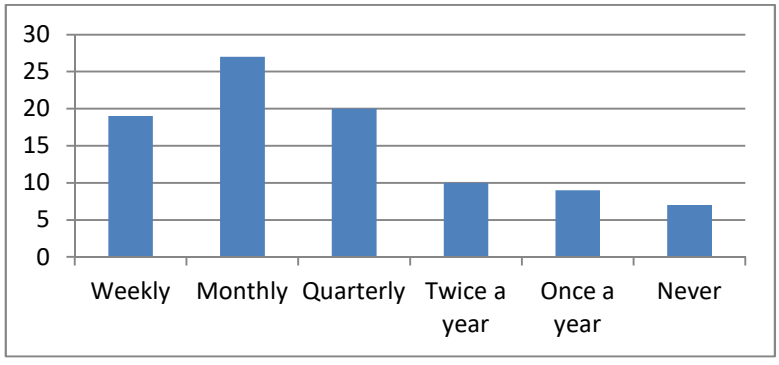
1. **Parracombe needs a high quality village hall for use by the whole community. To what extent do you agree or disagree that these facilities are needed?**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
65	26	1		



2. **How often do you use the village hall?**

Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly	Twice a year	Once a year	Never
19	27	20	10	9	7



3. **In the last four years, have you attended an event/activity at the village hall?**

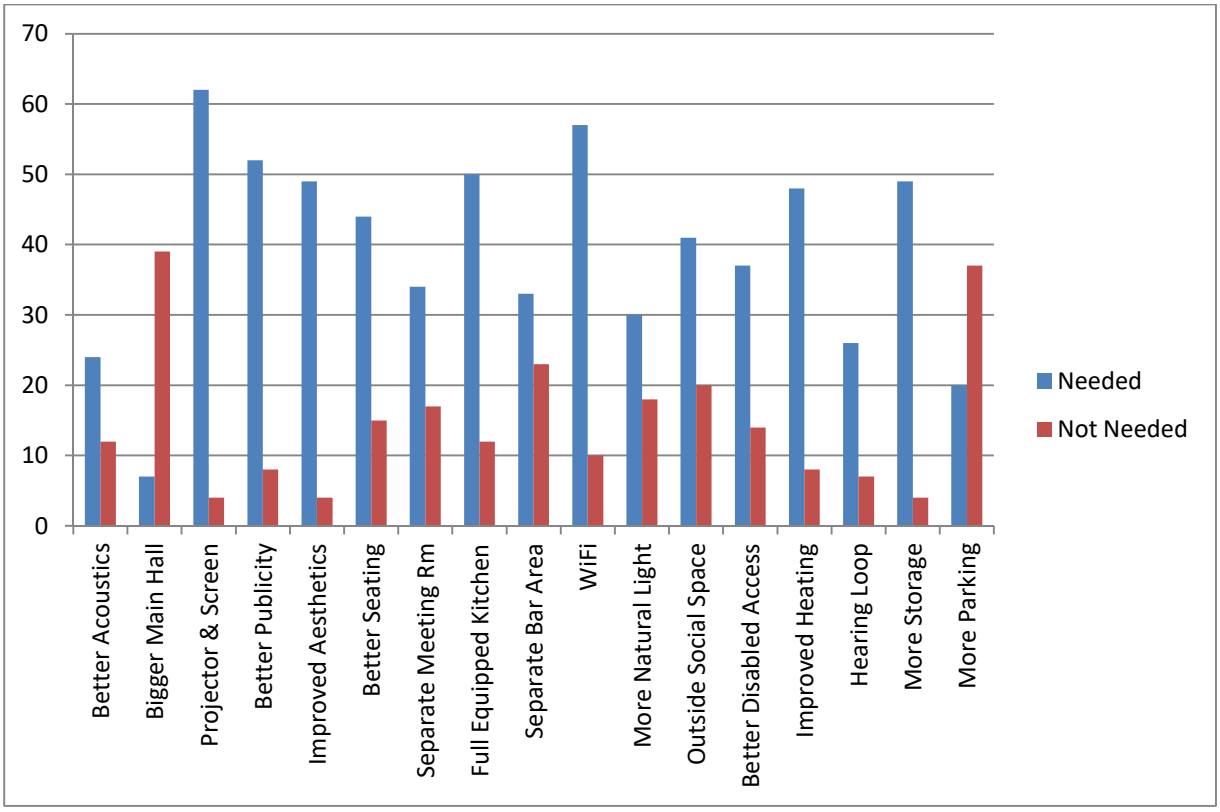
Craft Group	26
Talks	35
Coffee Mornings	50
Art Club	12
Table Top Sales	44
Parish Council Meetings	50
Private Events / Weddings / Baptisms / Wakes etc	33
Church related functions (harvest supper etc)	24
Music / Theatre	54
Young Farmers Events (breakfasts, dinners)	15
Exercise Classes (Pilates, Zumba)	25
Meditation / Mindfulness	6
Committee Meetings (PCT, History, etc)	37
Others …..	
Table Tennis	9
Quizes	8
ENPA meeting	1
Plant Sales	1
Sports game screenings	4
Flower Sewing	2
Voting	1
Wine Tasting	2
Doggy Christmas	1
Dancing	1
Willow Weaving	1
Ferret Racing	1
Games Night	2

4. **Are there activities or events that you would be interested in attending at the village hall that do not currently take place?**

Singing / Choir Group	*Talks on local history*
2 x Workshops / Learning New Skills	*Book Club & Author talks*
Play Group. Parent / Child activities.	*2 x Dancing*
Puppy Training	*Sports activities*
3 x Stage Shows. Music / Art. Cabaret.	*Quiz Nights*
4 x Social games evening – skittles, darts, snooker, cards, board games.	*2 x Dinner evenings like the Polish evening two years ago.*
5 x Yoga for All & Yoga for Men	*Coding Club for older children*
School events	*Lego Club*
2 x Farmers Market (very local suppliers)	*L&BR Presentation evening*
Daytime Pilates	*Cookery*
Wine Tasting	*Flower demonstrations*
2 x Badminton	*Disco*
Art / Craft Exhibitions	*3 x Film nights*
Community meals like Harvest Supper, Big Breakfast	*Large screen sport screenings.*

5. **What potential improvements are needed at the village hall to make you more likely to attend events & activities?**

	Needed	Not Needed	No View either way
Better acoustics	24	12	56
Bigger main hall	7	39	46
Projector & screen in main hall	62	4	26
Better publicity of events/activities	52	8	32
Better aesthetics in the main hall	49	4	39
More comfortable seating	44	15	33
A separate smaller meeting room	34	17	41
Better and fully-equipped kitchen	50	12	30
Separate bar area	33	23	36
Wi-Fi	57	10	25
More natural light	30	18	44
Outside social space	41	20	31
Better disabled access	37	14	41
Improved heating	48	8	36
Hearing loop	26	7	59
More storage with easier access	49	4	39
More parking	20	37	35



Please tell us about any other ideas for improving facilities that will make you more likely to attend events & activities.

We have attempted to group the various comments into categories in the table below.

• *Lighting outside* • *Better use of existing space away from the building including lighting* • *Outside seating / function area that takes advantage of south facing view.* • *Maybe re-organise plot so only disabled / delivery parking by the building* • *Re invent the outside tarmac and front to make a more Green holistic space*	• *Improved toilet facilities* • *Unisex toilets.* • *Better loos* • *Better WC's.* • *Hot water* • *New ladies & disabled toilets in new extension to right of existing building, with new entrance.* • *Make the ladies loo less of a cold echo chamber and site on the same side as the storage spaces and kitchen.*
• *I'm more than happy with the facilities* • *It's a great hall for a small village and I love it.* • *Only been inside a couple of times but seems like a nice useable hall*	• *Make it more homely and inviting* • *Décor* • *Better finish, including ceiling, lighting and decorative state.*
• *The better the facilities the more likely it is that members of the community would feel inspired to initiate new activities and events, especially if the hall is more efficiently and cheaply heated (eg for more sedentary activities such as yoga).*	• *Some people in the village may appreciate a space to come and work with office space and WiFi*
• *I already attend regularly but a dedicated bar and secure storage area would help make functions more efficient*	• *2 -3 seater sofas (doesn't have to be expensive). Gives greater comfort at a private function and maybe higher spend at the bar (of opened to the private event), which will benefit the community hall in the long run.*
• *Flatten & clear the car park* • *Hall is big enough for lots of people, but parking is a problem* • *Car Park needs levelling & gravel - like the shop* • *Car Parking*	• *More flexible lighting in main hall.* • *PA for music events, some stage lighting* • *Better sound system required.* • *More sympathetic lighting in main hall.*
• *Microwave oven* • *Better design of kitchen to meet current legislation needed, but extending facilities to enable onsite cooking will require extra storage \ cleaning \ managing etc. A clear need must be investigated and established before a fully equipped kitchen is considered.* • *Put storage and kitchens on the side where the entrance door is, as its less of a view there too and would facilitate delivery of food stuffs etc.*	• *Electrical /manual awning at front to increase useable space* • *Outside social space would be nice* • *Landscaping.*
• *Better advertising* • *Easy way to book - App?* • *Easier to book online. Online calendar*	• *Chair Carrier* • *Easy to move and put away furniture - everyone helps including the elderly*

• *Restore vaulted ceiling* • *I am a glass artist/craftswoman, but I would never do a workshop in the hall as it is at the moment, because the main hall area is also used for activities where people are barefoot. A flexible/divisible space would be useful.* • *Increased ceiling height to accommodate activities such as badminton* • *Would be good if the large room could be split for small functions and opened up for larger. Would keep areas warmer* • *New roof - larger PV array.* • *Make with natural materials eg shingle roof* • *Increase the height of the roof and slope it.* • *Much better childrens facilities, play and climbing wall* • *Possibly a separate space for 'messy' activities and/or cleaning art materials - at the moment we do that in the toilets!*	• *Add a glazed wing on right where cabin is that could be more of comfortable meeting and waiting area.* • *So much more could be done easily with this space and open up light into the back of the building over the field.* • *if you opened up the wall on the back along the kitchen/ladies loo side, all the way along, put in glass sliding doors and bought a strip of land you could put a veranda up. (Solar panel could go on the roof.)This could be under the sloping roof that could have glazing in up to the top of the side walls. Double glazed glass doors all the way along would allow air and light in, improve the view and ventilation (esp with covid around for years possibly). The doors be opened when the weather was nice and would be nicer for private parties too.* • *It would be lovely to have more glass / natural light to take in the views* • *Windows that open would be good*
• *Exhibition space for History Society*	• *Removable stage*
• *Clubs, groups aimed towards school age children* • *Only been once in last 4 years. Would attend an exercise class, but cannot at the moment* • *More indoor sports, table tennis, badminton, pool, darts, basketball, bowls, skittles* • *Noticeboards advertising events around the village*	

6. **What activities/groups do you already attend at places other than Parracombe village hall?**

4 x Yoga
3 x Choral Society / Choir
Big Breakfast
Bridge Club
Open Gardens
Gym
Craft Fairs
Coffee Meetings
4 x Films, Music, Theatre
Dog Training
Bingo
Exercise Class
Karate
Garden Group
Womens Institute
Exercise Classes
Quiz Nights
Plant Sales
Spanish Class
2 x Chess Club
Music Gigs
2 x Badminton
Book Club
Line Dancing
2 x Church activities
Nth Devon Museum
3 x Plough Theatre
Band Practise

7. **What prevents you from attending this type of activity/group in Parracombe?**

No activity of this type in Parracombe	Parracombe Village Hall is not suitable	Facilities are better elsewhere
20	6	5

Could you help by explaining why it is not suitable?
Could you help by explaining what is better elsewhere?

• *Modernisation* • *Aesthetics and everything else!* • *The hall isn't comfortable for group gatherings* • *The hall is cold and uninviting*	• *Access / heating / shape of space available.* • *Ceiling too low for badminton.* • *Hall too narrow / small for line dancing. Other venue has large dance floor and UF heating in the winter* • *Not big enough*
• *Publicity – have to rely on friends telling me.*	• *Ease of access / parking in winter*
• *Acoustics not great at hall. Limited PA equipment and limited sound insulation* • *Acoustics not great. Lack of power points.*	• *It is difficult to book without asking someone*
• *No kitchen*	• *Cost of hire - free elsewhere*

8. **How do you get to know about what is going on at the village hall?**

Notice Boards	Facebook	Email	Parracombe. org.uk	Word of Mouth	Other (village shop)
34	58	34	17	70	1

Please tell us how we could improve communications about village hall events & activities

NOTE: The feedback received below will be acted upon straightaway by your Village Hall Committee as it is not strictly part of any renovation project.

• *Communications are good in my view* • *Think you do a great job informing everyone with the notice boards and info is available on social media* • *It is good now* • *They are good already* • *I think the communications are fine.* • *I find Parracombe Community News is very good at advertising events at the village hall, although it would be an improvement if the village hall could also have its own way/system of funding notifications specific village hall events* • *Do you not think your comms are already adequate?*	• *Events being advertised on both notice boards in the village* • *Noticeboard at village shop* • *Display on notice boards & village shop. Noticeboard in the shop.* • *Notice board outside* • *Better use of notice boards* • *Village hall notice board. Collaboration of groups in hall.* • *Posters on noticeboards for all events. Some of us are not on Facebook* • *Kentisbury and Trentishoe notice boards.*

• *More advanced notice of events* • *More notice so able to plan ahead. Calender?*	• *For me Facebook is best and also word of mouth* • *Twitter*
• *Stop relying on Facebook as many people don't use it. Use all means of comms. Publish a calender of events on noticeboards and on website* • *FB not the best medium. Often vital info missing. Decent monthly email news letter would be useful.* • *Facebook difficult to go back to get details. Consistent emails may help.* • *Monthly email of events* • *Clearer advertising, reoccurring events that everyone knows. Bookable page, it's own online site? Emailing list* • *An events diary on web site. Events recorded as events on Facebook. Don't overdo social media posts - feel like I am being shouted at!*	• *Mail drop* • *Post for homebound & those not digitally connected* • *Quarterly newsletter with forthcoming events* • *Local Free Newspapers* • *Print of events at Barbrook Fuel Station* • *Leaflet for local distribution.* • *News letter for local houses* • *Lyn Valley News. It's no good when you are not on Facebook etc to know whats going on.* • *Adverts on A39.* • *Do not rely on FB. Some people do not use it* • *I struggle to know what is going on*

9. **Would you miss the village hall if it wasn't there?**

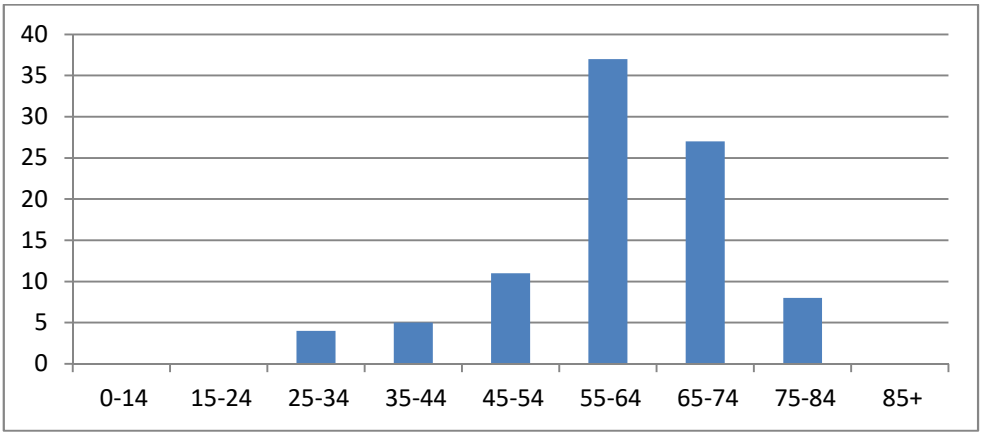
Yes	No
82	10

10. **Do you live in Parracombe?**

Yes	No
74	18

11. **How old are you?**

0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
		4	5	11	37	27	8	



Do you have any other suggestions, or comments to make:

NOTE:

(1) There were three comments regarding a logistical issue that has no bearing on the future renovation of the hall. These comments have therefore not been included and will be addressed separately by the village hall committee.

(2) We have again attempted to group the various comments into categories.

• *With the present hall now 90 yrs old, a repair & renovation would only be a sticking plaster, as with insulation boards fitted some years ago which caused damp to appear in the hall. What is needed, based around the present hall footprint, would be a redesigned hall interior with some small additions to the right hand end of the site. A full structural survey would show up a considerable amount of problems to achieve a hall that would be an asset to the village.It would be better to consider demolishing and rebuild project to todays specification as with footings, roof stresses, insulation, heating, heat loss, power harvesting, etc thus providing a wonderfully useful hall to cover the village needs in future decades.* • *Given the state of the hall, it might be more economical to demolish and rebuild.* • *Consider radical change to the way the plot is used* • *Eco-build - improve insulation and take advantage of solar gain on south facing windows.*	• *Ambient lighting for social lights. Proper bar area.* • *Improved and adjustable lighting* • *If the grant allows us to restructure the space, I wonder if we could "turn the hall around" with the view at the back being made a feature - I imagine folding doors and decking.* • *Remodel interior so less wasted space - eg: toilets.* • *Open up south window to take advantage of views.* • *Entrance area for collecting tickets / info and 2nd door to improve heat retention* • *Cloakroom to include lockers for secure storage and space for outisde clothing - especially important for kitchen helpers.* • *Utility room for cleaner & lockable cleaning store* • *The structure and material of the building requires much improvement. Better storage required for equipment.* • *Better acoustics for events.* • *Consider approaching neighbour and ENPA to purchase small area of adjacent field to extend at south side and/or external social area.*
• *The present car park has an unacceptable finish and allows weed infestation. This needs upgrading to a proper tarmac finish to create a large usable finish.*	• *The hall would benefit from some aesthetic internal updates - most definitely lots of natural light. I hope to be more involved in village hall* • *Lots of glass and light if possible*
• *Very important to keep the "Buff Hall" history of the hall. Update & renovate, but please don't change.* • *Good hall for size of village. Lucky to have so many good facilities. They are appreciated* • *Please see previous answers but this is a big hall that could be used more for indoor events and clubs, if it was easier, clearer and cheap it would get used more.*	• *The Village hall is the lifeblood of the village but it is now very dated. Improving or refurbishing it will strengthen community links and help reduce the need to travel for leisure activities.*

• *Keep the access for main space use, the bar and kitchen are a bonus*	
• *Fully equipped kitchen would make VH more attractive for potential hire.* • *A kitchen that can support fully catered events. Good cloakroom facilities for hats / coats. Audio / visual systems to enable performance entertainment. A means of hanging decorations in the hall - eg: bunting or xmas decorations. Better ventilation including windows that open. More power sockets.*	• *I will use the village Hall more when my health improves* • *Love that there are events that happen in the village, sorry I can't make many due to working hours* • *Not having lived in Parracombe for long, have film nights or quiz nights occurred in the past? They would be appreciated.* • *With an improved hall, more things will be organised. Therefore more people will attend, including us.*
• *Heating system inadequate and not fit for purpose. We need to make it attractive for external groups to use.*	• *Resources for community groups - eg: laminator, paper, trimmer, copier.* • *Hanging rail / easy to change frames for exhibitions. Display cabinet for history group.* • *History group storage.*
• *Mobile stage - blocks that can be stored and moved around.*	• *More comfortable seating for groups to meet socially.*
• *Some permanent planters by the main door, with perennial plants would take away the "stark" look of the hall*	• *Better toilet facilities needed*
• *We have only lived in the village for a year, but we are not on FB and therefore rely on word of mouth and noticeboards for advertising any events. Perhaps a quarterly mag with details of forthcoming events*	• *Maybe hostel provision could be included in the refurbishment for young people alighting from the train at Parracombe Halt and wishing to explore Parracombe*