

Thurloxtton Village Hall Summary

Demographic data for both surveys:

Main Survey

- From the 160 paper surveys distributed, 85 individuals in 82 households participated in the survey, representing 212 **household members overall**. In CCS's experience of conducting similar facilities surveys, the 53% response rate is a very strong community response, particularly on a single issue consultation.
- The small majority of respondents live in Thurloxtton itself (52%). Around 1 in 5 live in Adsborough, and the remaining respondents live in Clavelshay, Coombe and Farringdon. All respondents (with the exception of 3) live in the Parish and neighbouring local villages. For the overwhelming majority of respondents, their house is their main residence (98%).
- 1 in 4 respondents, have lived in the community for more than 31 years (25% - 21 respondents). On balance the majority are long term residents (56%), having lived in their Parish for over 10 years.
- Female respondents outnumber males by more than 2:1 (59% : 30%). The remaining respondents chose to answer the survey as a couple.
- 55-64 year olds are the largest group of respondents (27%), closely followed by 65-74 years (25%). Working age respondents outnumber those that are retired (60% vs 40%). None of the respondents were under 25 years.
- When looking at **overall household composition**, 65-74 year olds are narrowly the largest group (19%). They are very closely aligned to those who are 55-64yrs (18%) and 45-54yrs (17%). 3 in 10 households are families with children or young people (30%).
- Two thirds of respondents live in a single or two person household (67%). However, more than 1 in 5 live alone (21%) with three quarters being retirement age.

Existing User Groups Survey

- All existing Village Hall User Groups all participated in the survey 100% response, representing a maximum of 245 club members. The majority of club members live locally in the parish, however, half the groups do have members travel from a wider radius of up to 30 miles. The majority of club members are of working age.

- The overwhelming majority of respondents **support the view that the community needs a high quality Village Hall in Thurloxtton** (98%), with 4 in 5 strongly supporting this view (80%). Emerging themes from comments are the role that the Village Hall plays in bringing the community together, and the need for updating the current facility to ensure it meets the needs of all its users. The current Village Hall appears to be the only facility able to fulfil this community cohesion role, with the local Church (the only other facility) using the Hall as an additional resource for their activities as well.

All the existing Village Hall club/activities organisers/user groups who use the current facility also unanimously strongly agree that a high quality Village Hall is needed in Thurloxtton. All these respondents use Thurloxtton Village Hall **because of its location**.

- A good reflection of community support is that nearly than 8 in 10 parishioners (66 households) have **offered their help if the Village Hall project progresses**. Word of mouth support, help with fundraising events and distribution of materials door to door are the strongest ways in which of these members of the community will show their support.

All the **existing user groups** would help to support the project mostly through word of mouth support (90%) and helping through fundraising events.

- More than 1 in 3 **currently use Thurloxton Village Hall** regularly (weekly or monthly), most using it monthly. A further 3 in 10 use the Village Hall on a quarterly basis. 9 people do not currently use the facility, and further analysis shows all of them would be interested in using the Hall in future if it were updated and a wider range of activities are offered. Most of the **existing user groups use the Village Hall** on a weekly basis or more frequently.
- There is significant interest in **attending activities at the refurbished Village Hall** (98% of respondents expressing a preference). The most popular for majority are exhibitions and shows such as flower or craft shows. Nearly half would like to take part in exercise/fitness classes, social events/clubs, performing arts community cinema and Gardening Club.
- More than 2 in 5 respondents would be **willing to run or help run new activities and events**. Specific activities/events mentioned which may also include some current events are charity coffee mornings, community café, children's events, Gardening Club, Lunch Club, Messy Church, Mixed Media Art Group, Pantomime and talks.
- For those answering the question, a larger number would **prefer to use the Village Hall during the week** with the most popular time being in the evenings. Saturday is more popular than Sunday, however, there is no pattern of preferred times on Saturday.
- The large majority of respondents indicated the **likelihood of attending more activities/events at the Village Hall**, if there were better facilities and improved heating. More than half the respondents also indicated that a new building with modern facilities might increase their engagement. However they are also seeking many improvements to the existing building such as facilities, heating, equipment, lighting and access, which if made may offset the desire for a new building. Additionally, more than 1 in 3 would like more activities of interest. Improvements in lighting, more whole community events and better publicity of those events would also help increase community use.
- For **existing user groups, facilities** of primary importance in the Village Hall are storage and a main hall. A kitchen and stage are all sought by the majority. Additionally main changes that would make a **difference to their clubs/activities** encompass: addressing damp issues and improved heating, better toilet facilities, improved kitchen facilities, dedicated storage, off road car parking, renovated/extended main hall, soundproofing and improvements to the front entrance.
- Of those taking part in groups and activities outside the parish, the sizeable majority do so because **there is currently no activity meeting their need at the Hall** (albeit some activities are less likely to be provided locally e.g. swimming). A large proportion feel the facilities are better elsewhere and that there is no suitable venue.

The **cost of attending activities** does not appear to be a factor currently preventing respondents from taking part in activities at the Hall.

- Sport and fitness-related classes/**activities are most commonly attended outside the Parish**. These include specific fitness classes, swimming, badminton, bowls, dancing, Pilates and a variety of sports. Art related events and exhibitions, music, concerts, cinema and theatre visits appear popular pastimes with events specifically for children and young people also mentioned many times. 5 of the 6 respondents who currently attended no activities outside the village indicated an interest in participation in future activities at the Village Hall.

- The overwhelming majority feel the **Village Hall is less attractive to hire** because of the state of repair of the facility (86%). Similarly large numbers also consider the toilet and kitchen facilities are poor and a barrier to attendance/hire. 2 in 5 also see parking as a barrier to Hall use, while more than 1 in 3 feel that facilities are better elsewhere reaffirming findings elsewhere in the survey.
- Of those answering the question, around 3 in 4 would be **likely to hire the Hall** for private functions, while a sizeable proportion are likely to hire the Hall for fundraising events, such as jumble sales. Other suggestions include Art exhibitions/other exhibitions, music events and singing practice, coffee craft club, quizzes and a range of private and public social activities or parties.

Of the **existing user groups** answering the question just over half feel that **the current hire charges** are at a reasonable level.

- 1 of the existing user groups suggested that the **Village Hall refurbishment would provide an opportunity** for those wishing to use the Church for Wedding/Funeral/Christening receptions. They commented that currently would-be users turn it down because of poor facilities.

