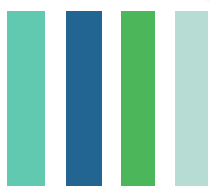


# Watchfield Village Hall Community Consultation 2023

Delivered by

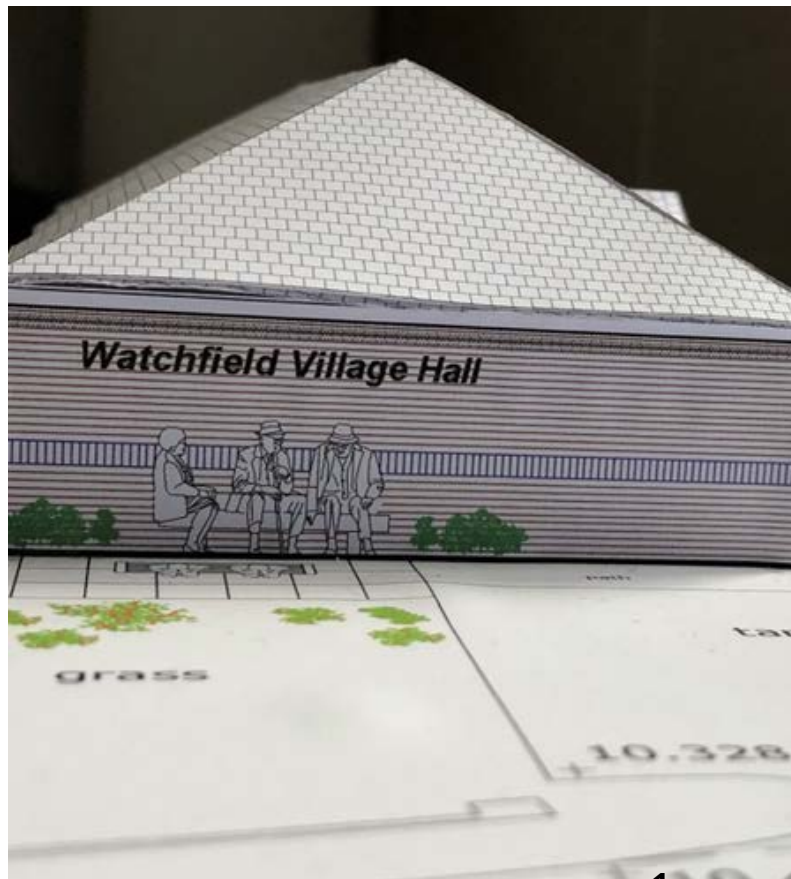


**smart  
communities**  
part of the CCS group



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# Introduction and Background

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Watchfield Village Hall sits within the Parish of Burnham Without with the Village Hall being situated in the heart of the hamlets of Watchfield, Edithmead and Walrow. The Village Hall attract users from across the Parish and also from the neighbouring rural and urban communities. It is attractive due to its size and location.

The existing Village Hall has been in place for 90 years. However in 2016 when the Hall Management Committee looked to undertake some refurbishments and improvements, they were advised that the wooden structure was not safe and such work would not be able to take place. An internal scaffold system was erected in the existing hall to enable it to be used until work on a new hall could begin – this has resulted in limited use but has none the less enable fundraising events and social gatherings to continue in this vital community facility.

During the years 2016 -18 the Village Hall committee had plans drawn up to replace the hall on the existing site and carried out a consultation with the local community. With a clear agreement from the community that a new hall was needed and wanted, the hall committee started the process of raising funds.

During the time when the hall was closed due to Covid in 2020, the Hall Committee continued their work and spent their time converting the charitable status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This was finalised with the Charity Commission in 2021.

Fundraising has continued including securing a grant from Sedgemoor District Council before it merged into Somerset Council in 2023. This grant was matched by Burnham without Parish Council.

Building costs and regulations have changed since starting on the journey of replacing the hall so plans and costs have been updated accordingly. Planning permission is in place.

In 2023 the hall committee engaged Smart Communities Ltd (part of the CCS group) to update the community consultation. This report provides the findings of that consultation which will provide evidence to funders and donors of need and requirements of the hall by its current and future users.

# Aims of the 2023 Community Consultation

- To update and gauge the current level of community support for the replacement of the existing Watchfield Village Hall and establish the level of community engagement through voluntary support of the project as it progresses and beyond completion.
- To identify what facilities would be needed in a new facility.
- To understand which activities people would like to see offered in future at the Village Hall and measure the level of interest in hiring facilities.
- To identify which activities and groups parishioners currently attend outside the parish and the barriers to taking part in these in the parish.
- To understand the difference having a new modern hall will have on the community and current and future users.

## Methodology

An online survey was created based on the 2016 community consultation but included additional questions as required. The survey was created on Survey Monkey and a link to the survey widely circulated for completion. Posters with QR codes were also used as well as launching the survey at the 90th birthday celebrations of the Hall on 24th June 2023. For those unable or unwilling to complete an online survey a paper copy or help from a volunteer was available ensuring the widest possible engagement. See Appendix 1 for the survey.

The survey took place between 24th June 2023 and 20th July 2023 (extended from original 14th July deadline).

**Watchfield Village Hall Community Consultation 2023**

We need you to complete this important survey about a **NEW** replacement Village Hall

Please complete the Survey online  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/watchfieldVH>

**CLOSING DATE: 14th July 2023**

Or scan here

**PRIZE DRAW:**  
2 x £20 meal vouchers  
for Rich's Cider Farm.

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# Summary of Findings

- 70 of the 71 respondents agree or strongly agree that the community needs a high-quality Village Hall for use by the whole community.
- Key features are a commercial specification kitchen, main hall and well insulated so energy efficient/ an occasional bar, energy efficient heating system and wifi also feature quite highly.
- Many activities and events are of interest to respondents with social events / clubs followed by Flower show/Harvest supper at the top of the list.<sup>7</sup>
- Activities of interest as well as whole community events were most likely to make people attend
- It is clear that the hall has great potential to be well used throughout the week.
- A variety of activities and groups are attended outside the village with the main reasons being that there is no activity of this type provided in the village or that the facilities are better elsewhere.
- The main concerns are that there is not enough opportunity to get together and not enough for children/young people to do.
- Whilst the new Village Hall would be hired for a wide variety of activities and events the most likely use would be for private functions (52 of 66 respondents)
- There is clearly support for the new hall with 62 of the 72 respondents offering help with the project.

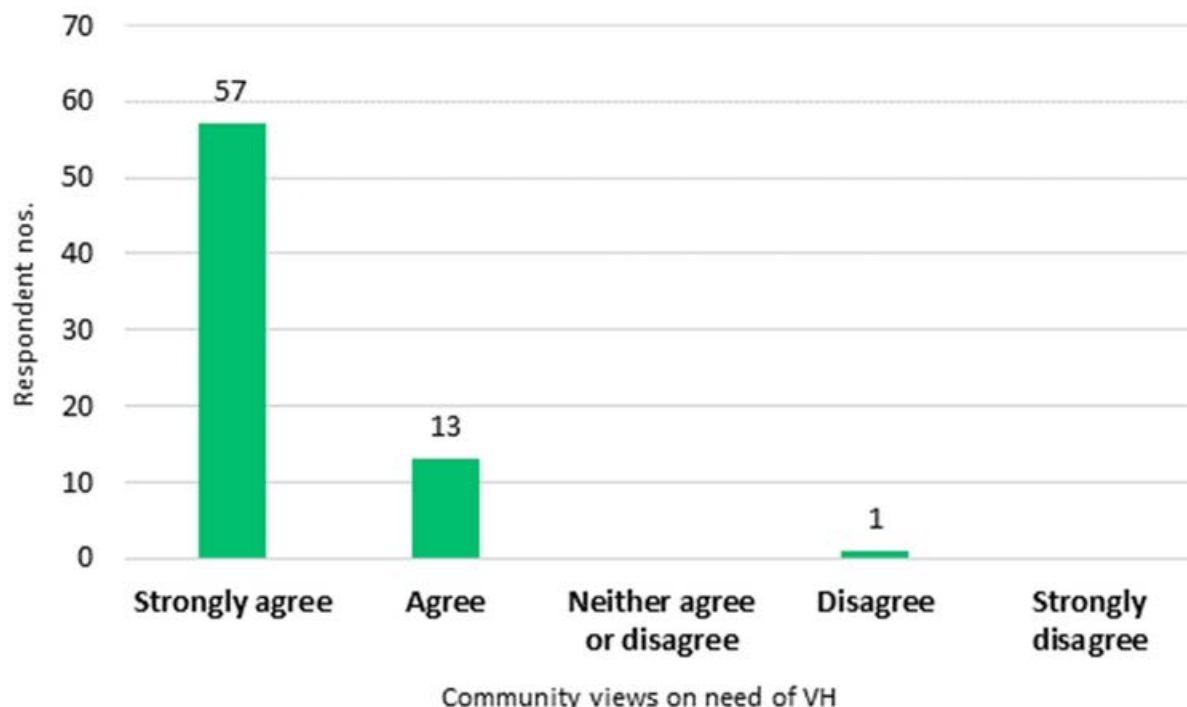


# The Findings

There were 72 responses to the online survey A full set of the 'other comments is available on request.

**Q1 Our community 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?**

**Answered 71**  
**Skipped 1**



70 of the 71 respondents agree or strongly agree that the community needs a high quality Village Hall for use by the whole community.

In addition there were 19 comments regarding this question.

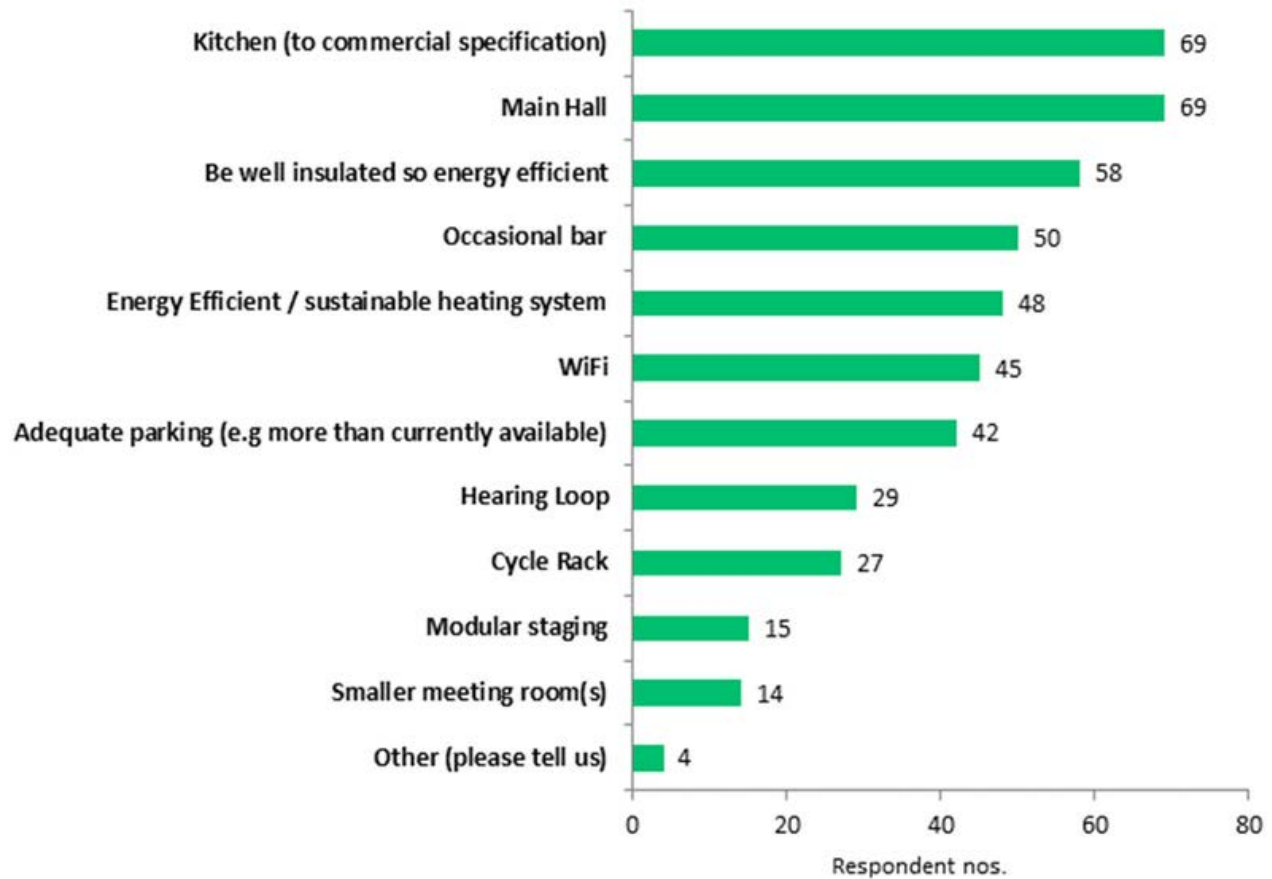
Comments include highlighting the need for a safe meeting space to bring the community together for events, activities and family gatherings.

Comments also highlight that there is no alternative venue of similar size or type in the parish and that the current hall is no longer fit for purpose.

A couple of comments mention the pub with one suggesting that using their facilities could be an option, however other comments state that some people do not want to use a pub for gatherings.

## Q2 What facilities do you think the new building should have? Bearing in mind that disabled facilities will be included as standard (tick any that apply)

Answered 72  
Skipped 0



There were 72 respondents to this question with 'Kitchen (to commercial specification)' and 'Main Hall' being requested by 69 respondents each. Over half of respondents also highlighted the following facilities:

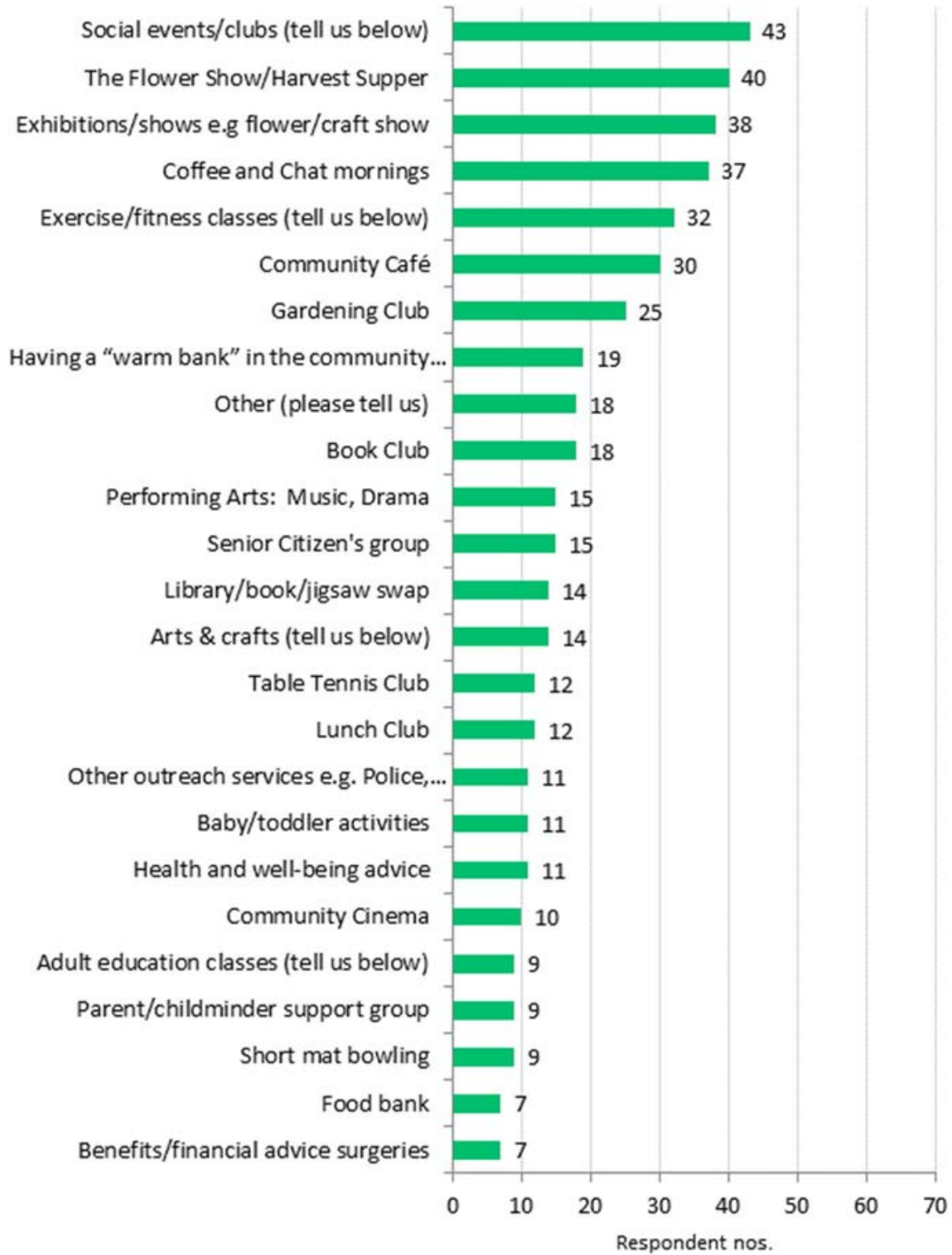
- Be well insulated so energy efficient
- Occasional Bar
- Energy efficient / sustainable heating system
- Wifi
- Adequate parking (e.g more than is currently available)

There were 4 'other' comments which were:

- *"I've ticked only what I consider essential but obviously many of the others are desirable too if possible."*
- *"Disabled access"*
- *"A cheap wooden structure if at all"*
- *"Storage"*

**Q3 What types of activities would you or someone in your household be interested in attending at the Village Hall? (tick any)**

Answered 70  
 Skipped 2



70 respondents chose to answer this question with a wide range of activities and events being of interest to respondents and members of their households’.



## The most popular activities include:

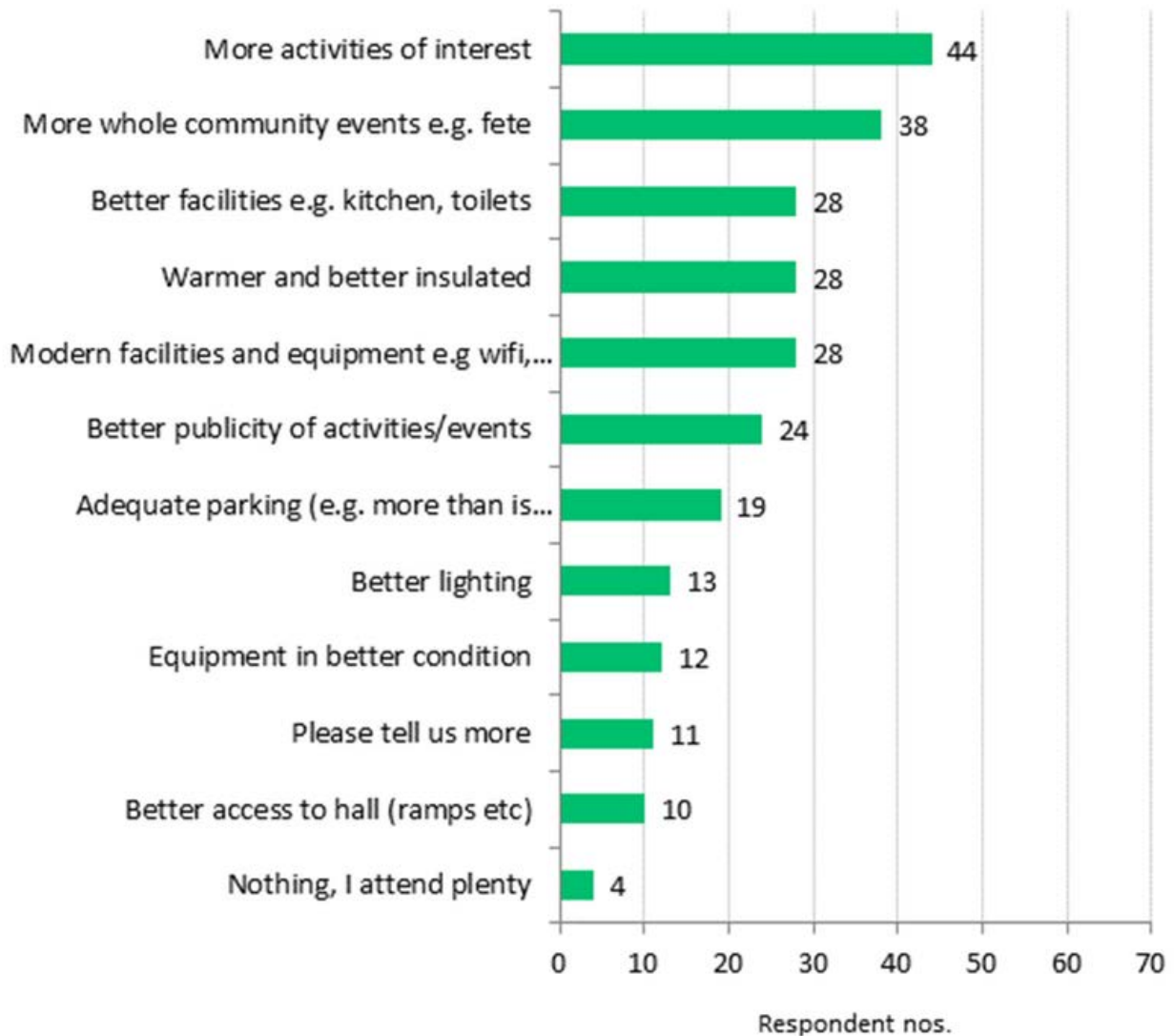
The most popular activities include:

- 43 respondents seeking social events/clubs
- 40 respondents would like to see the Flower Show/ Harvest Supper
- 38 respondents are interested in Exhibitions/shows e.g. flower /craft show
- 37 respondents are interested in coffee and chat mornings.
  
- There were 18 'other' comments with respondents being interested in the following activities:
  - Bingo
  - Yoga / Zumba/ table tennis
  - Social events especially those that engage all age groups such as craft
  - Opportunity to meet the police / local councillors
  - Evening classes / training venue
  - Youth Club
  - Meetings
  - Cake sales



#### Q4 What would make you more likely to attend activities/events at the village hall? (tick any)

Answered 71  
Skipped 1



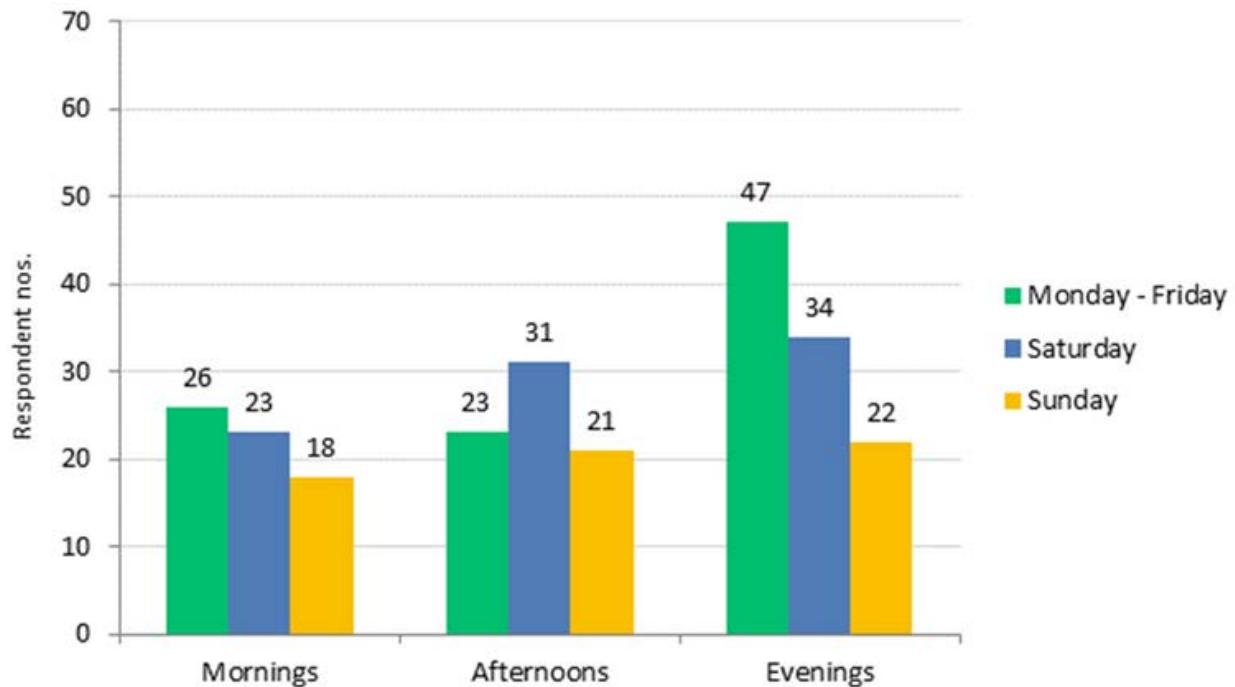
Of the 71 respondents, 44 were more likely to attend activities/events at the village hall if there were more 'activities of interest' and 38 were more likely to attend if there were more 'whole community events e.g. fete'. There were 28 respondents choosing improvements; better facilities e.g. kitchen, toilets; warmer and better insulated; modern facilities and equipment e.g. Wi-Fi, broadband equipment. Only 4 respondents felt they attend plenty.

11 respondents added more information about what would make them more likely to attend activities/events at the village hall which included:

- More regular events, e.g. similar to bingo, keep fit, IT hub, flower club, choir practice
- A modern fit for purpose hall
- LED lighting

## Q5 If you were to use Village Hall, when would be the best time for you?

Answered 68  
Skipped 4



Of the 68 respondents, 47 state that the best time for them to use the hall would be week day evenings, 37 state Saturday evenings and 31 state Saturday afternoons. Whilst evenings are generally the time when most would use the hall, Sundays are the day that the hall is least likely to be used. That said, from the 68 respondents it is clear that the hall has great potential to be well used throughout the week.

## Q6 What activities/groups do you attend outside the village?

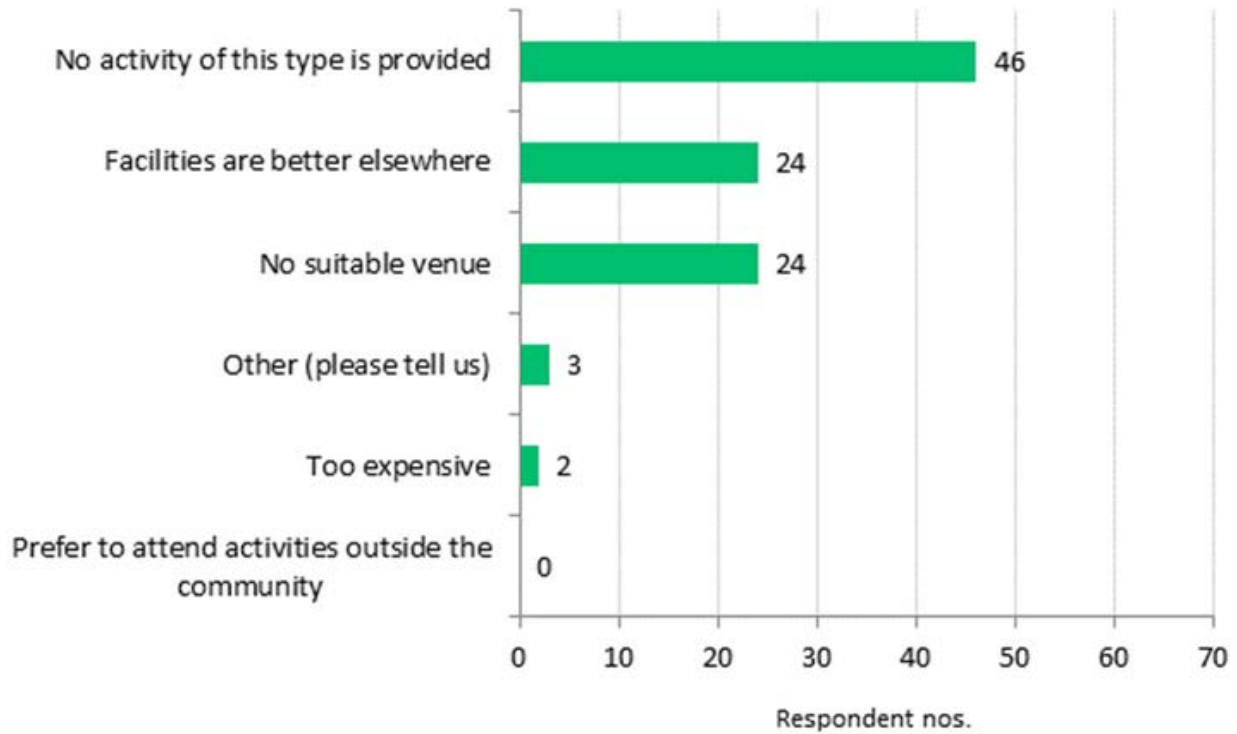
Answered 50  
Skipped 22

The 50 respondents attend a wide range of activities/groups outside the village including:

- Creative groups – art classes, flower arranging, craft clubs, gardening club
- Exercise/ fitness – badminton, ball sports, exercise/keep fit class, bowling, golf, cricket, cycling, yoga, table tennis, gym, paddleboarding, skittles, park run, Pilates
- Groups / activities – book club, Moot group, Church, film club/ cinema, coffee morning, WI, car shows, dinner club, harvest home meetings, choir, band
- Age specific groups – playgroup, over 60's club, local children's groups, toddler groups
- Social events – Wedmore Street Fair, Highbridge Festival of arts, Wells market, events at Mark Village Hall, craft fairs.

**Q7 What prevents you from attending this kind of activity in this community? (tick any)**

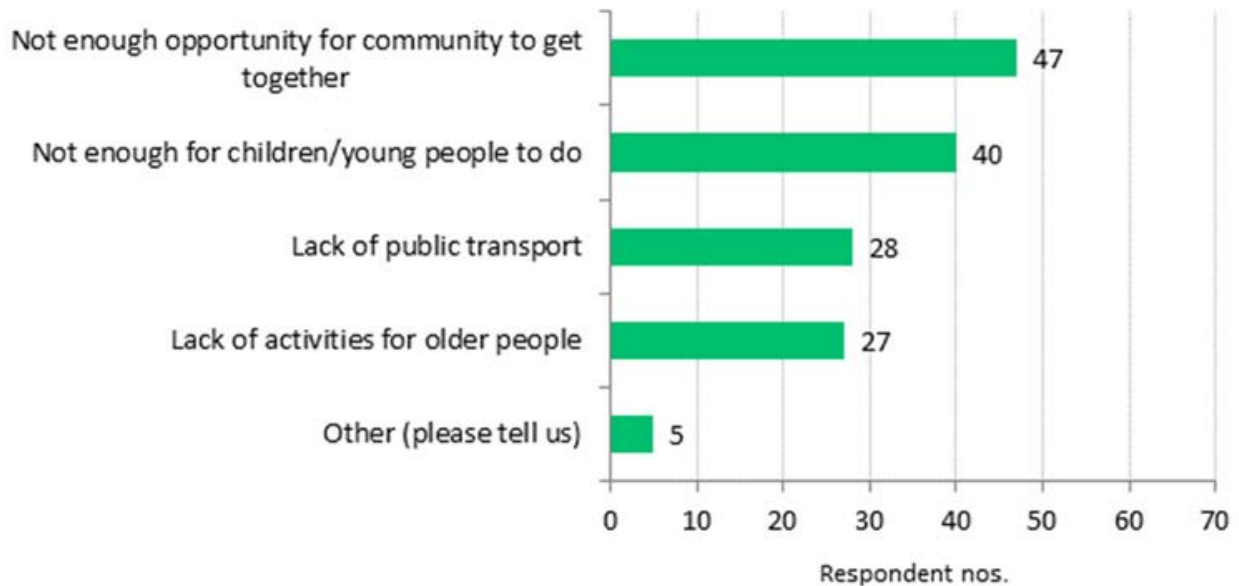
Answered 62  
Skipped 10



There were 62 respondents to this question relating to what prevents them from attending this kind of activity in this community. 46 respondents stated that there is 'no activity of this type provided', 24 said 'facilities are better elsewhere' and 24 said 'there is not suitable venue'. There were three comments including a suggestion that the local pub could be used.

### Q8 What are the main things that concern you about where you live?

Answered 65  
Skipped 7

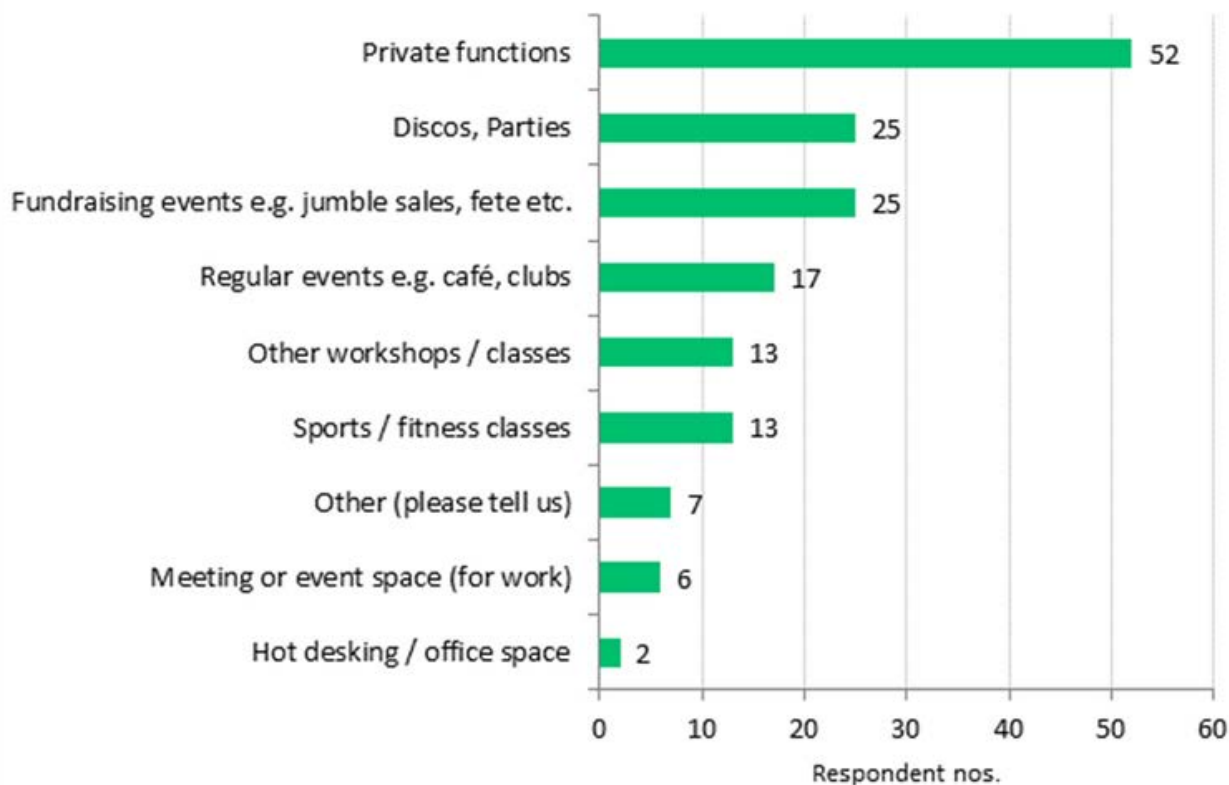


The main concern about where they live from the 65 respondents to this question, is that there is 'not enough opportunity for the community to get together' (47). This is closely followed by 40 respondents stating that there is 'not enough for children/young people to do'. There were five 'other' comments which were:

- *"We must support both the young and the old"*
- *"Lack of local support"*
- *"Lack of Pavements"*
- *"Not enough action to people breaking the law and not enough safeguarding"*
- *"Lack of interesting activities/events for non-retired adults"*

### Q9 Would you be likely to hire the new Village Hall for any of the following? (tick any that apply)

Answered 66  
Skipped 6



There were 66 respondents to this question and 52 of those stated they would be likely to hire the new Village Hall for 'private functions', 25 said 'discos, parties' and 'fundraising events e.g. jumble sales, fetes etc'.

There were 7 'other' comments which included:

- Meetings – parish council, allotment
- Rehearsal space for music practice
- Quiz night
- Unlikely

## Q10 What difference do you think a new Village Hall in Watchfield would make to you and your household? What would be the benefits of a new hall?

Answered 53  
Skipped 19

There were 53 responses about what difference a new village hall in Watchfield would make with a wide range of opinions and ideas which can be summarised in the following way:



**Social Aspects** – a new heart/centre of the village, bring people together, an opportunity to meet new people.



**Community events** – a space big enough for community events, a better hall will attract more people, new opportunities, local business will benefit, family gatherings.

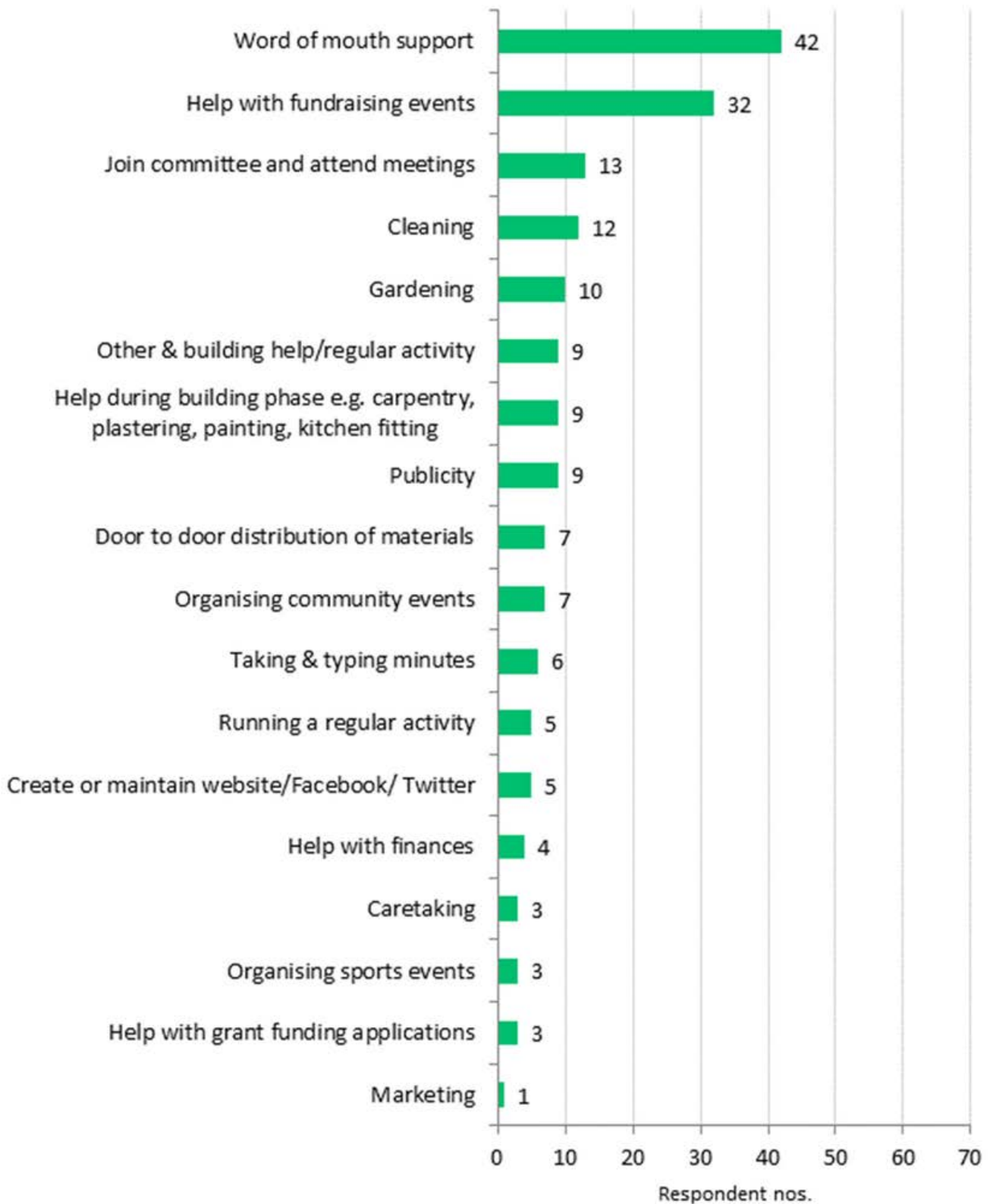


**Physical improvements** – comfortable, welcoming, cooler in summer and warmer in winter, look better than the current 'shed', need a new hall, up to date building with modern amenities.



### Q11 What help might you be able to give as we progress with the project? (tick any that apply)

Answered 62 Skipped 10



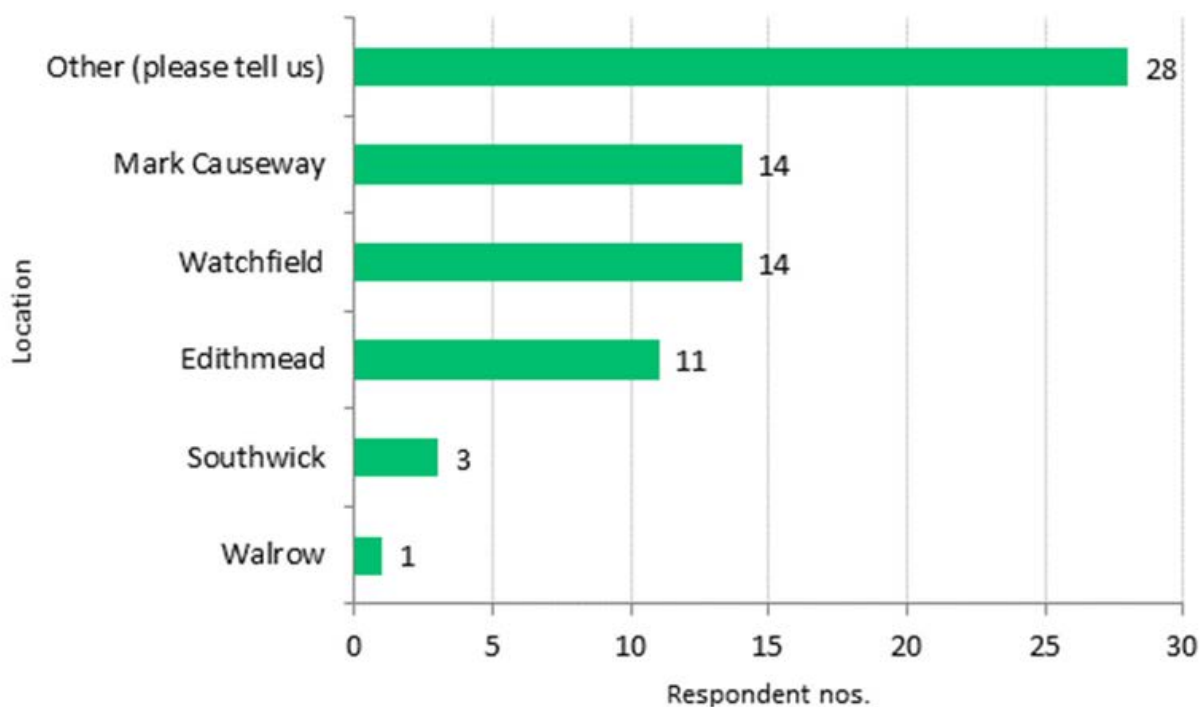
62 respondents offered help in some way with the project. 42 respondents offered 'word of mouth' and 32 offered help with fundraising events. In addition there was good support and help offered for a whole range of activities which will help with the project to build a new hall as well as the running of the hall. In the comments specific help was offered which included:

- **Practical help:** painting, solar panel installation, Quantity Surveyor (QS), general maintenance, donation of aggregate, key holder
- **Events help:** launch event music, run exercise classes, music events



## Q12 Where do you live?

Answered 71  
Skipped 1



Of the 71 respondents, 14 live in Mark Causeway, 14 in Watchfield, 11 in Edithmead, 3 in Southwick and 1 in Walrow with a further 28 respondents living in 'other' places including:

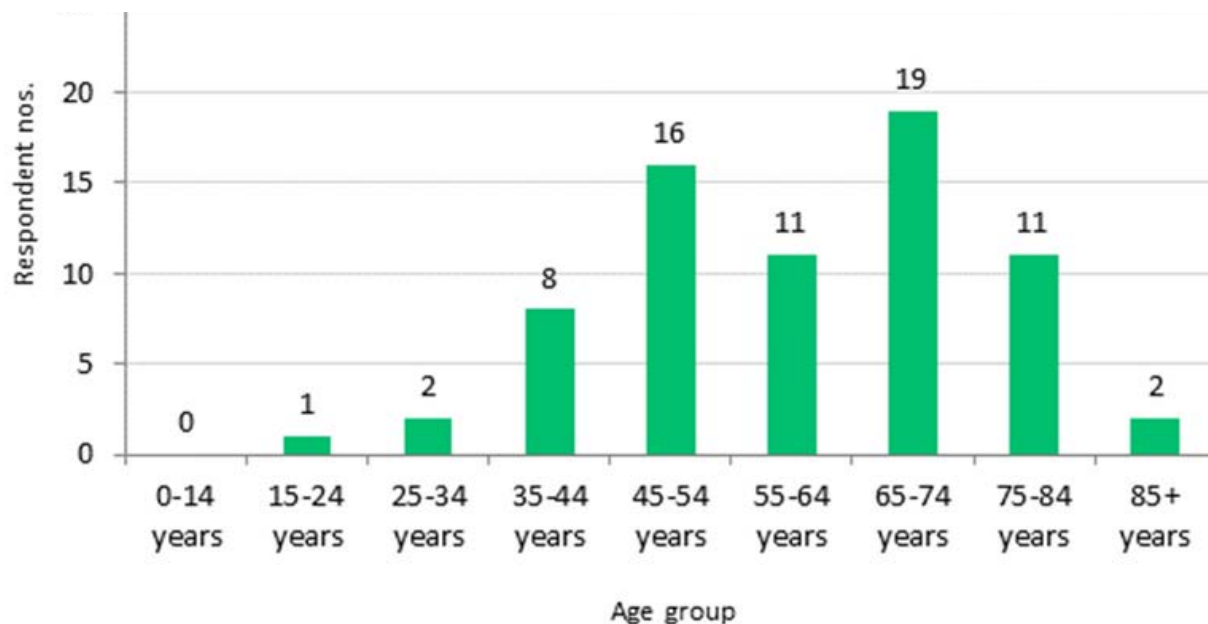
- Bleadon,
- Bridgwater
- Burnham on Sea
- Burnham Without Parish (urban area)
- East Huntspill
- Highbridge
- Mark
- West Huntspill
- Woolavington

This shows how residents of neighbouring communities also have a good interest in a new Village Hall facility

### Q13 How old are you?

Answered 70

Skipped 2

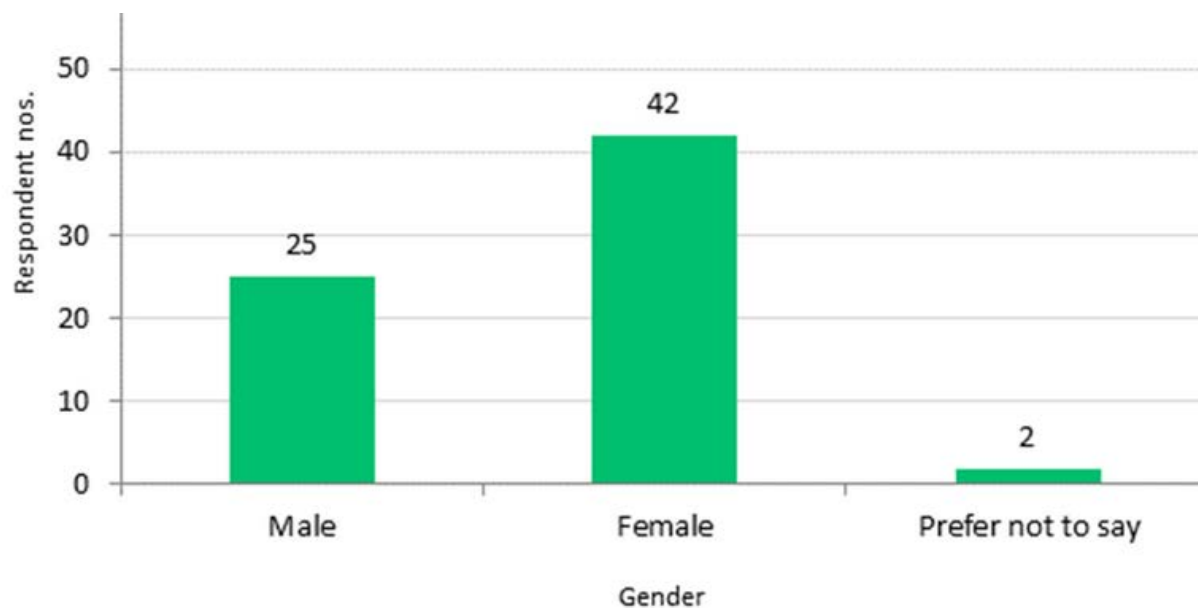


Respondents were from a good cross section of the community although 65 of the 70 respondents were aged between 35 – 84 with 19 in the 65 – 74 age bracket.

### Q14 Are you Male, Female or Prefer not to say?

Answered 69

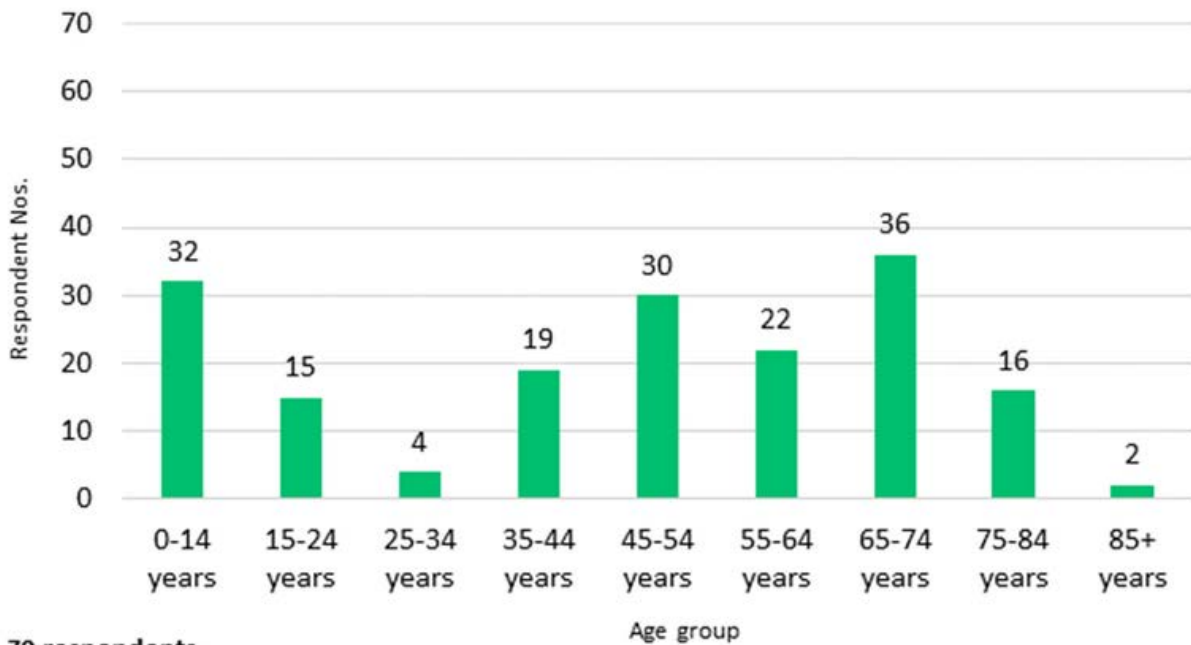
Skipped 3



42 of the 69 respondents were female, 25 male and 2 preferring not to say.

**Q15 Please tell us the number of people living in your home, in each of the following age groups (please state the number of people in the box next to the relevant age group):**

Answered 70  
 Skipped 2



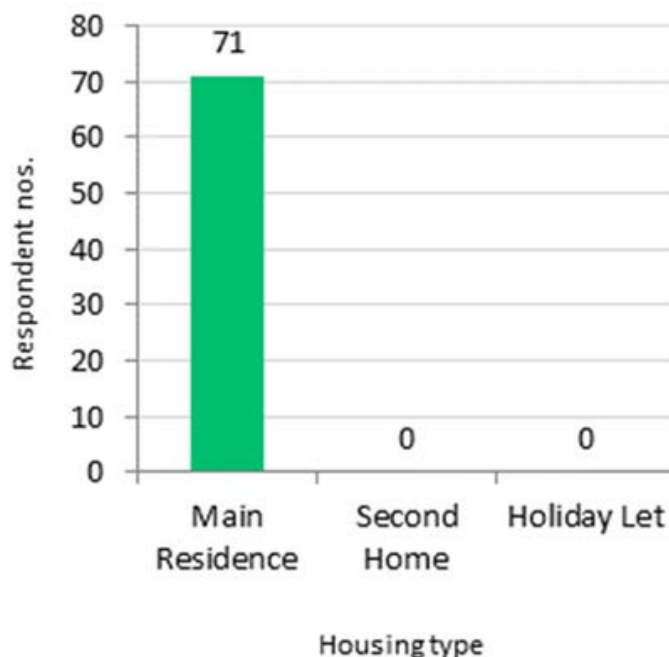
**70 respondents representing 176 household members overall**

This question about the age of people in the households shows a good representation of ages across the community representing 36 people aged 65-74, 32 children aged 0-14 and 30 people aged 45-54.

**Q16 Is your house your main residence, second home or holiday let?**

Answered 71  
 Skipped 1

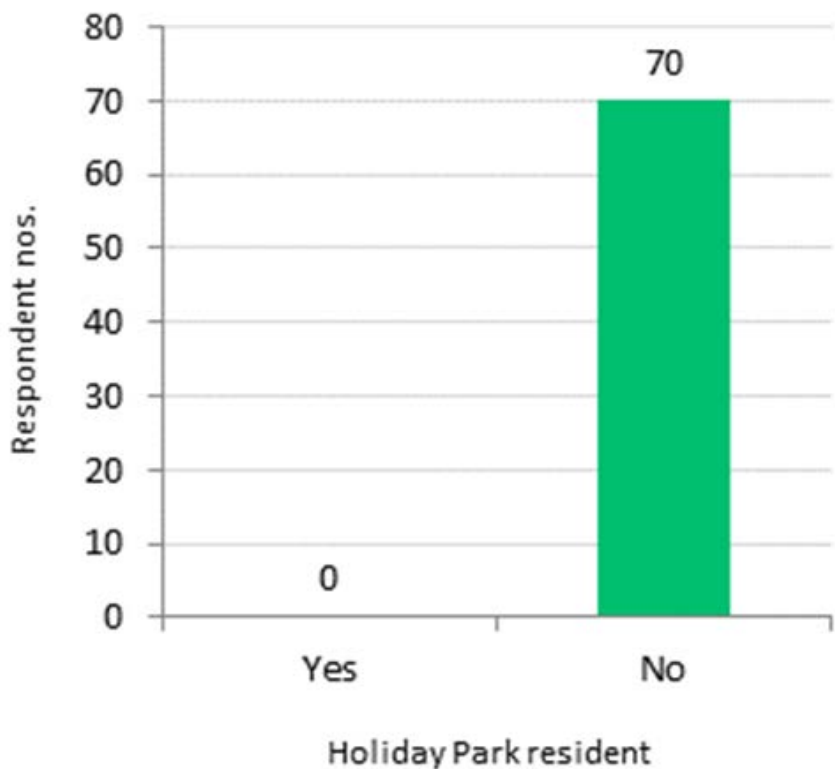
All 71 of the respondents to this question have their house as their main residence.



### Q17 Are you a Holiday Park Resident?

Answered 70  
Skipped 2

None of the 70 respondents are Holiday Park Residents.



# Conclusion

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This 2023 consultation was an update of the consultation in 2016 and it is extremely encouraging to see that respondents have the same views as those completing the survey in 2016. There is overwhelming support and agreement that there is a need for a high-quality Village Hall in Watchfield and that it would be used throughout the week for a wide variety of activities and events. Respondents particularly wish to see the Village Hall as the 'heart of the community' and 'somewhere to bring people together'. This was reiterated time and again by the respondents answering the question about what difference a new hall would make to them and their household.



Created in wordart.com

Appendix – all comments

Analysis has been conducted by Smart Communities Ltd part of Community Council for Somerset (CCS) Group. Data was captured for legitimate and contractual purposes. Information was collected and analysed in accordance with Smart Communities Ltd role as a Data Controller and Data Processor.

Watchfield Village Hall Committee entered any paper copies using standard proprietary online survey software and signed a nondisclosure agreement to protect your personal data. Once entered all paper copies were destroyed.

Digital copies are retained for 12 months and deleted after this period. Any personal data that is captured is anonymised with the report and held securely for the purposes of analysis.

No data will be published which can identify an individual without their consent. If you have indicated your wish to be kept informed about future developments at the end of this survey, your contact details have been passed to Watchfield Village Hall Committee.

If you would like to find out more about how we use your data or want to see a copy of information about you that we hold, please contact [info@smartcommunities.online](mailto:info@smartcommunities.online) or call 01823 331222. Protecting your Personal Data is important and we fully comply and adhere to the Principles of Data Protection set out in our Data Protection / Privacy Policy visit: <https://smartcommunities.online/smart-policies/>



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