

Your view counts!

Amberley Church Hall Community Survey – Headline Results

March 2023

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey! It was useful to hear your views and the freestyle comments were particularly helpful in giving insights into the thinking behind the headline results. We are summarising here the key themes that you raised.

As the next step, The Hallraisers will put together a plan for improvements and fundraising, based on the survey responses. We will communicate this for feedback in the May edition of *Wildbrooks*.

Best wishes from *The Hallraisers*

24%

of Amberley residents participated in the survey (130 responses). 65% were women and 69% were over 55.

95%

of those who responded agreed that Amberley needs a modern and comfortable hall, for use by the whole community.

85%

of those who responded would miss the current Hall, if it wasn't there.

38%

of those who responded use the hall weekly or monthly but mostly, (43%) people use it infrequently, only visiting a few times a year.

Headline Results

- Many recognise the need for a community hall *'to support friendship'*, as an *'essential social hub'* and to provide a *'vibrant community space as the heartbeat of a modern village'*.
- It's also seen as essential facility: *'in the event of an emergency, it's very important to have a central meeting place that everyone knows'* and *'it's the only inside community space. Without a Hall as a venue, the community will dissipate'*.
- Attending social events was the most popular reason for using the Hall, followed by public meetings and talks.
- The most popular suggestions for additional events were: film nights, musical evenings, drama productions, quizzes, games nights and more physical classes and activities – table tennis, dance classes, badminton and martial arts - as well as for voting in elections.
- Upgrading the lighting, heating & ventilation, toilets and kitchen were seen as the priority improvements. Many commented that the Hall is cold, that it smells damp and musty and that the kitchen is an environmental risk, due to the blocked drains.
- The introduction of an online booking system is seen as beneficial.
- Many people recognise the limitations of the Church Hall (too small, lack of parking and storage, *'antiquated'*, *'dismal'*) and welcome the plans for a brand new, purpose built community centre.
- Some feel that the Church should pay for upgrading their hall and that fundraising should go towards a new community centre.
- There is also recognition that community centre plans are still being drawn up – and that some immediate modernisation of the Church Hall is essential: *'in the meantime, there is a need to spruce up the church hall to make it more user-friendly, and this is a laudable initiative'*.