

# Swalcliffe Village Survey Responses April 2021

## Background

Swalcliffe Village Hall is more than 100 years old. Despite refurbishment works undertaken in the mid 2000's the structure is tired, difficult to heat and does not provide an adequate environment for hirers particularly in the winter. As a result, usage of the hall has declined over recent years.

The Parish Council and Village Hall Management Committee have sought the views of villagers regarding the current village hall and attitudes towards potential replacement or refurbishment of the current structure through an open survey.

## Method

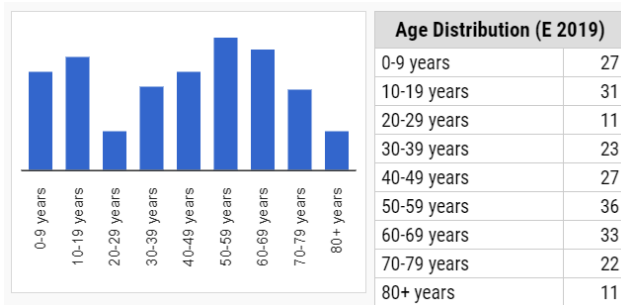
A short-written survey was distributed to all households in the village and responses received during the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Respondents could also access the survey through the Village Facebook pages and website. The survey results were input into Google Forms and the analytics were created from the data gathered. The survey is attached at Appendix 2.

## Overview of the Results

### 1. Response rate

2019 survey data gives the population of Swalcliffe as 221 people, split 117 male and 104 female. There are 100 dwellings in the Village catchment area.

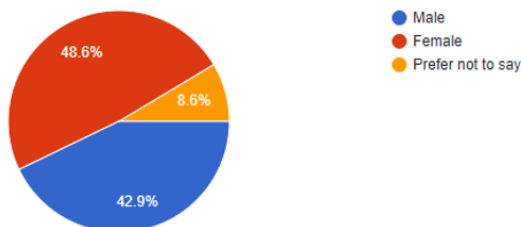
([https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/southeastengland/admin/cherwell/E04008086\\_swalcliffe/](https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/southeastengland/admin/cherwell/E04008086_swalcliffe/))



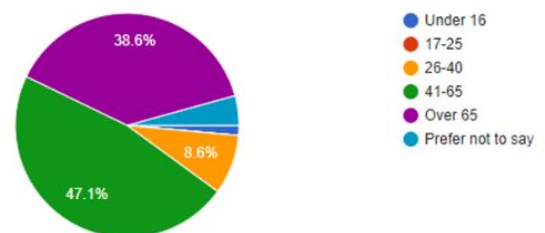
41% under 40  
59% over 40

**73 completed surveys were received. The response profile was -**

Gender  
70 responses



Age Range  
70 responses



As a result, the **total response rate was 33% of inhabitants**. Data is not available for the number of households that responded.

85% of respondents were over 40 years old, giving a **50% response rate from the over 40's** but a minimal response from younger village inhabitants.

There was a slightly higher response rate from females than males but broadly in line with the population split.

## 2. Headline Findings

### Importance

88% of respondents believe that a Village Hall is important.

### Fitness for Purpose

40% of respondents believe that the Hall is not fit for purpose.

32% of respondents marked the Hall as neither fit nor unfit.

28% believe that the Hall is fit for purpose.

### Options for the Hall

44% of respondents would like to review the options for a new Hall.

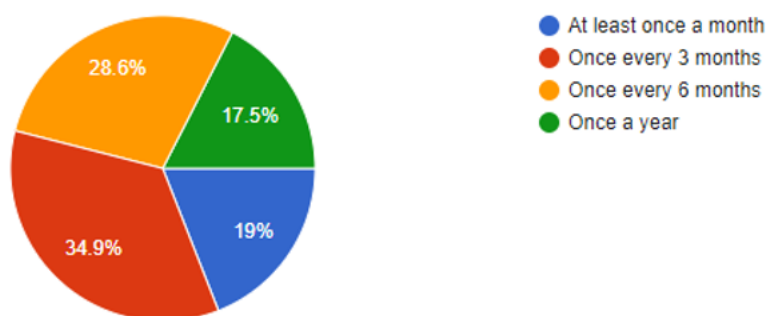
52% of respondents believe it is sufficient to refurbish the Hall.

13% of respondents were content with the Hall as it is.

## 3. Usage of the Hall

How frequently did you use the Hall when it was open? Leave blank if you did not visit the Hall

63 responses



54% of respondents to this question used the Hall in the past at least every 3 months. 10 respondents had not used the Hall.

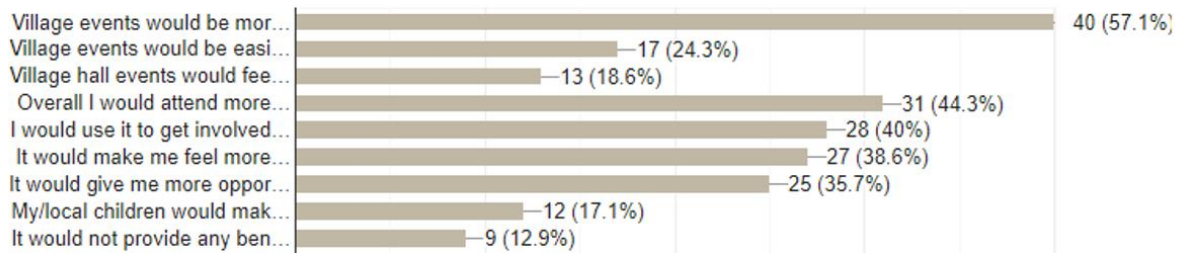
The highest responses for activities were:

Themed Events	– 86% of respondents
Art Exhibitions	– 78% of respondents
Farmers Markets	– 76% of respondents
Parties	– 69% of respondents

#### 4. Benefits of a New/Upgrade Hall

What benefit would an upgraded or new Hall have on you and your family? (Tick all that apply)

70 responses

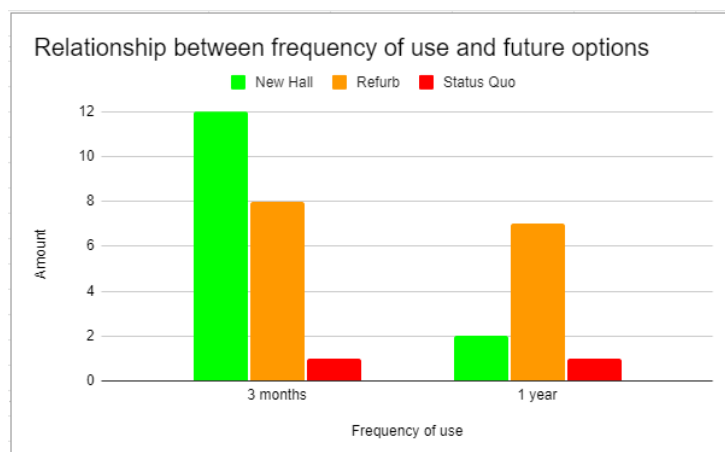
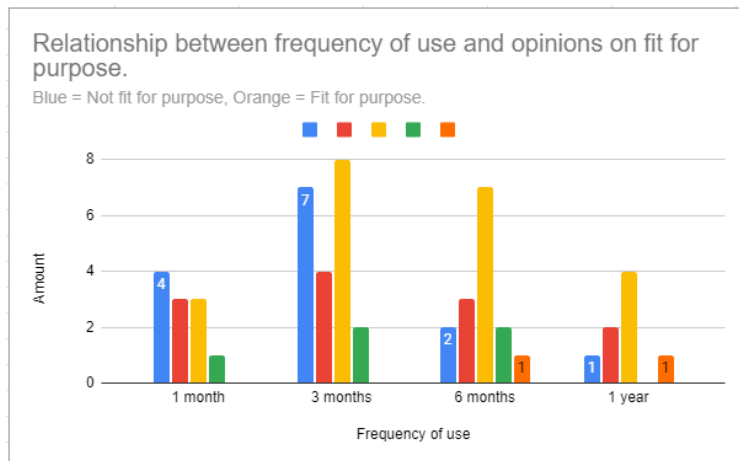


Highlights here are that 44% of respondents would attend more events and 40% would get more involved in Community Events. Nevertheless, 13% felt an upgraded or new Hall would not provide a benefit.

#### 5. Further Analysis

This section links the frequency of use to the responses given.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, those who use the Hall most often had a stronger view towards the Hall not being fit for purpose and preferred a new build solution.



Also, 66% who answered the hall was 'fit for purpose', felt that a refurbishment could help the current situation.

## **6. Comments**

There were a good range of comments provided within the responses. The main themes to come out from these were –

Issue of limited car parking

The use of other buildings in the village, such as the Church, Pub and Tithe Barn

Cost effectiveness of any proposed solution

Coordination with other parties in the village concerning fund raising

The full list of comments is contained at Appendix 1.

30 unique email addresses were collected from respondents to aid in communicating the results of the survey plus other information about plans for the Village Hall.

The source data containing the survey responses is available on application to the Chair of the Parish Council.

## Appendix 1. Swalcliffe Parish Council Village Hall Survey, Written Responses

Make the existing hall work and raise money over several years to build something better but get a clear target/vision

Have used the Hall for many family and social events over many years. Although basic it can have atmosphere with a little effort. Well worth saving.

Thank you for progressing this

I think a new hall could lend itself to become more commercially viable especially when considering people will be working from home more so an option to make it available for hot desking would plug quiet times in the week.

I feel the village hall is currently underutilized. This is a result of it being an old building with a small hall space. Could be a huge part of village activities.

I think more thought needs to go into what the hall would be practically used for, and who would organise it. If worthwhile then it's worth doing up. Unfortunately it seems to have been a largely unused empty building with little relevance to the village for some time now  
Remove stage, good insulation, good heating.

We've only been here since Dec prior to lockdown, hence such infrequent visits! I think a village hall is a great way for new residents like us to integrate into the community - and a great way for everyone to socialise!

Would very much like to see build options and budget capital costs, through life costs and possible revenue. Brain storming suggestions are: 1. Sell the land (if possible) with favourable caveats to Swalcliffe. Lease back the land and spend the money raised on a new village hall. 2. Sell the land and negotiate a purchased share of Tadmarton, Sibford, or Shutford village halls. 3. Sell the land for affordable housing and develop a church hall abutted to the village church. 4. Set up a Swalcliffe Village Hall company and invite share ownership from villagers. 5. Undertake an in depth assessment of the experience of other village hall rationalisation projects ie Shutford village hall. All of the aforementioned may have been done. If so, it would be good for villagers to know the pros and cons of each suggestion.  
Thanks.

Leave the hall as it is. It is part of the heritage of the village and most likely originates from the 1940ties.

Parking facilities need to be in relation to the size of the hall to minimise impact on villagers and adhoc parking throughout the village if usage increases.

Knock it down as soon as you can.

I'm sure money could be better spent the village hall does not get used enough to knock down and build a new one , of that I am sure.

Would like a comparison of what could be done with our hall as it is and approx costs with the design and costs of new build. Unfortunately it will still have very little car parking, and if used more we may get more parking on the roadside, where foot path width isn't good for pedestrians now

As a family we have arranged various events at the village hall and helped and attended the majority of the "annual" fund raisers - Harvest Supper, Burns Nights, themed fund raisers- Proms, Speak easy etc. I don't know the details of key areas that need renovating and to what extent (floor?). Personally I'm in the "make do and mend" camp. The Hall is a fantastic village asset, along with the church, pub and under utilised Tithe Barn

Need to have some idea of costing before can decide whether it should be refurbished or rebuilt. Car Parking is a big issue to consider if it is hoped to hold more or larger events in the future. A larger carpark would be needed. Where could it go?

A new village hall would be a lasting legacy for the village ..with an opportunity to see vastly increased usage

There really is only one option. Demolish the old village hall and build a new one. Follow the example of Shutford and Balscote....

The existing hall is a lovely historic building, part of the village history with lots of stories associated with it, but it's time is up. It is so hard to heat and keep warm, the condensation is appalling, it is unwelcoming and the facilities are very out of date. A new hall has the potential to right all these drawbacks.

The next generations should have a new Village Hall that they can respect and find enjoyment in

I do not feel qualified to say whether refurbishment is possible and have chosen that option simply because it would be the most affordable option. I would expect for those more qualified than me to determine the best option to support the village for the next 50 years  
Comfy seating for events(if I could I would attend Film Club). Heating, Toilets (cold and old), Kitchen (its clean but grotty), understand purpose v church as a venue to hire.  
Have had many events over the years. Yes the hall is more than tired, always with effort looks good for events, but a lot of work! The kitchen is a disaster area. The stage needs to go, to enlarge the hall as before. If fashion shows on stage ever required can get portable blocks. A village needs a hall.

Toilets are in the wrong place.

With at a guess, no more than 70 households in the village, raising money to maintain both the church & village hall is a tall order. Having recently seen such elevated 'churches' as Ripon Cathedral and Dorchester Abbey where they have removed their pews so the space can be used for community and commercial purposes, I would favour this route rather than

the village hall. Deddington church has successfully made these changes and have a meeting room and stage plays by re-using the space. I realize I'm in a minority so will support whichever verdict is decided on!

Location is good and preferable to other sites. It's not in such bad condition. It is a shame that local yoga classes that started in the village hall were well attended had to stop as the rental for the hall was increased too much for the yoga instructor to be able to continue with the classes. This was not a good decision to increase the fees when it was benefitting the community. Would be good to have the classes reintroduced to see the village hall rental fee are less in other villages + I used to enjoy the classes. Given our council tax already substitutes this, local fees should be nominal.

There are four places for the community to assemble in Swalcliffe - the Village Hall, the Pub, the Church and the Tithe Barn. In many ways they compete with one another for our attention and, if there were no village hall and a proposal to build one, I would suggest better use of the other three venues. They are more important to preserve for village's built heritage than the hall, but underused. I am familiar with the objections put up to use them better, but think we should continue to try.

Given the increase in home working re-imagining what role the VH could play in supporting this and providing a local space for meetings should be considered. A flexible space rather than one huge venue would make it more versatile. Supporting both economic and social health should feature in the VH purpose.

Post COVID we've all come to rely on each other more - I think this needs to be encouraged/maintained. Wishing you all well in the future, it can only be of benefit to the lovely village.

Refurbishment vs replacement would need to depend on relative costs and return on investment. If the current VH is going to be poor value for money to refurbish a brand new hall may be the better option.

I fully support all efforts to re-invigorate the village hall as this will benefit the community at a time when we really need it. I can't comment on whether the hall needs to be replaced or refurbished but aside from cost (financial) perhaps environmental/sustainability considerations should also guide this decision. Shutford have an active and seemingly successful village hall, can we learn from this?

Any improvement to the village hall would generate income and be an asset to the village. I think a new designed small community hub, designed with flexible uses, would be an asset. Hopefully, the church would be used more for larger events eg concerts etc. I am happy to talk to the SPC to bring you up to date on church plans, as we should be talking to each other.

## Appendix 2. Survey Form

### Swalcliffe Village Hall Survey 2021

*Please Help.... Your views are important for the future of our Village Hall!*

We are all looking forward to the end of the Covid-19 restrictions and a return to an ability to meet, socialise and play. With this in mind, we want to consult the village on the future of our Village Hall as a focus for village activities. We all know that the hall has shortcomings and its usage in winter is particularly difficult. The Village Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council have a vision to reenergize the usage of the hall and encourage a wider range of activities and visitors.

Your views are critically important for us to shape this vision and drive the project to implement it.

Please fill out this questionnaire to help us. All the members of your household are invited to give their views, so please download more copies of the survey from the Village website or Facebook page.

We would like to get your **responses back by 18<sup>th</sup> April**. You can return the survey in a number of ways –

- The secure post box at the Village Hall
- Complete online via the link on the Village Facebook and website pages
- Scan and email your response to Kate Foley at [katefoley1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katefoley1@hotmail.co.uk).

Thank you!

#### The Village Hall Management Committee

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How important do you believe it is for Swalcliffe to have a Village Hall?

1     2     3     4

Unimportant

Very important

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Is the current Village Hall fit for purpose?

Don't know     1     2     3     4     5

Not fit for purpose

Fit for Purpose

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What events would you like to take part in at the Hall?

	Have used in past	Would use in future
Exercise classes, e.g., yoga, pilates	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No
Dance classes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No
Music lessons/practice	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No
Film Club	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No
Work/meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No
Adult or children's parties	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No
Art exhibitions	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No
Horticultural Society Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No



Parish Council Meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No
Village themed events (e.g., Burns Night)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No
Touring music/theatre events	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No
Coffee mornings/Café	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No
Farmers/artisan markets	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No
Sports Clubs, e.g., table tennis	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No

What benefit would an upgraded or new Hall have on you and your family? (Tick all that apply)

- Village events would be more enjoyable for me
- Village events would be easier for me to help organize
- Village hall events would feel safer
- Overall I would attend more events
- I would use it to get involved in more community activities
- It would make me feel more part of the village community
- It would give me more opportunities to interact socially
- My/local children would make new friends and develop their social skills
- It would not provide any benefit

How frequently did you use the Hall when it was open? Leave blank if you did not visit the Hall

- At least once a month  Once every 3 months  Once every 6 months  Once a year

Would you prefer refurbishment of the Hall or a new structure?

- I would prefer a new Hall and would like to see options
- It is sufficient to refurbish the current Hall
- Neither, I am content with the Hall as is

About you - Gender

- Male  Female  Prefer not to say

Age range

- Under 16  17-25  26-40  41-65  Over 65  Prefer not to say

Email address (optional)

*If you would be prepared to share your email address with us please include it here. By doing so you give your consent to the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee communicating with you on business related to the Village Hall. You may opt out at any time by emailing [swalciffpc@btinternet.com](mailto:swalciffpc@btinternet.com).*

Please share any additional comments or suggestions

Thank you for your help with this short survey. We will share the results with you at the next Parish meeting.

#### Swalcliffe Village Hall Survey 2021

*Swalcliffe Parish Council is a public authority under Section 7 of the DPA2018 for the purposes of UK GDPR. Swalcliffe Parish Council may lawfully process the information in the completed survey under the 'public task' basis.*