



We are Listening.....

Many villagers have expressed their views regarding the operation etc of the village hall recently. Some were regular users of the hall and some had rarely or never attended. Here are a few of the subjects raised:

Why is the hall so expensive to hire?

We have carried out a survey of similar facilities around the region and our hourly rates compare favourably. Unlike many village and community halls, Wheatley village hall is self funding and, apart from occasional grants awarded to us in the past, we receive no outside subsidies. Our annual costs—which include wages for the booking clerk/ caretaker, insurance, maintenance, utility bills, and licences amount to around £10,000 per annum. We have two main sources of income, from lettings and from fundraising events. This income, post Covid, has reduced considerably and we are grateful for the Covid grants received during the last 2 years to help make up the shortfall.

Unlike some halls, our hire charges are inclusive of all the hall's facilities

I don't come because you never have entertainment that I like

We try to provide a variety of entertainment but can never satisfy everyone. However, many sceptics in the past have said how pleasantly surprised they were when an entertainment genre they previously hated was presented "Live and Local". Of course, we don't always get it right, but we try. Anyway, tell us what you would like to see!

The tickets to your shows are expensive

Ticket prices are based on the cost of staging the event plus an additional margin going towards general running costs (fundraising). The fees being charged by entertainers has rocketed in recent times. For instance the comics entertaining us in the forthcoming Comedy Club show require a fee of £1200. We need to sell at least 60 £20 tickets just to break even. It's a risk, but one we are prepared to take for quality entertainment.

Why doesn't the hall have a cosy lounge bar where we could meet friends?

Good news! We have started the ball rolling towards providing a comfortable licenced lounge facility open to villagers on certain evenings. There are legal, practical and financial hurdles to be overcome, and we need enthusiastic volunteers to come forward to help make it happen. Watch this space!

The interior of the hall is rather utilitarian and austere

The hall interior has to be neutral due to the wide variety of different uses it is used for. However, we are considering ways to improve and "soften" the large hall

Hiring the hall is not user friendly and the rules are very rigid and inflexible

We are currently examining the entire process of booking and using the hall to ensure that it is flexible and user-friendly. However, we cannot lose sight of need to satisfy the Charity Commission, Health & Safety and our insurers.

Any additional comments? Would you like to get involved? If so, please contact us via the comments form on this website on the tab above or follow the link: <https://wheatleyvillagehall.org.uk/contact-us>