



## February 2020 Public Consultation Summary

# WHAT YOU SAID

## 1. Thank you and introduction

The Melvich Village Hall Association (MVHA) would like to thank everyone who took part in our survey and those that managed to attend our Open Day on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

A total of 235 questionnaires had been distributed throughout the Melvich, Portskerra, Goval, Bighouse and Kirkton area, all in the Parish of Farr.



We received 62 responses to the Public Consultation Questionnaire (26.4% return rate) and 23 people took part in the Open Day. We are really pleased that so many people from our community engaged in this consultation and the feedback has been really useful. This document contains a summary of the key results and our planned next steps. There will be opportunities for further engagement as we progress.

It should be noted that MVHA is an unincorporated registered charity and our object is *“To provide, or assist in the provision of, facilities for the recreation of other leisure-time occupation, in the interest of social welfare in an effort to improve the conditions of life of the inhabitants of the district of Bighouse, Melvich, Portskerra, Golval and Kirkton, all in the Parish of Farr.”*

## 2. Key results

A good cross section of the age profile of the local community responded to the consultation questionnaire.

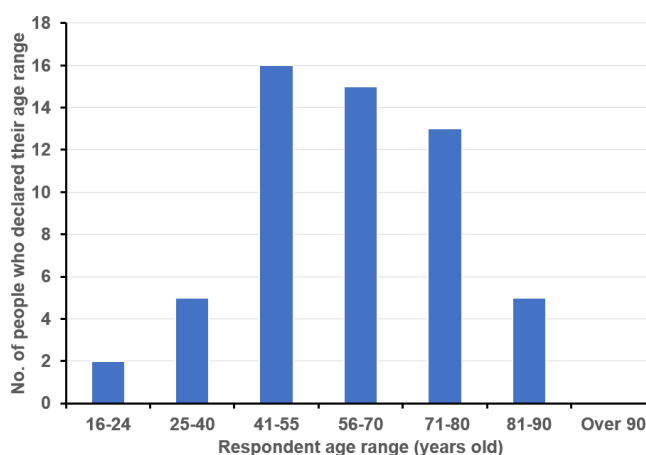
Less than half of the respondents were aware that MVHA was a registered charity.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, very few people used the hall on a weekly basis, but most use the hall at least once or twice a year.

The condition of the hall and type of events put on were the main reason for not using the hall more often. However, if these issues were addressed over 95% of those who responded would come to the hall more often.

The most popular events attended included Pop Up cafes, the Public Consultation Open Day, Private hire events (Meetings; Wakes; Remembrance events and Christmas events); and Bingo.

Currently the main method of communicating events is via word of mouth, posters in the village and on the Village Hall web site ([www.melvich.com](http://www.melvich.com)). Disappointingly



some people only found out about events after they had taken place. This highlights that a variety of communication methods are needed to raise awareness of events.

The type of additional events the community would like to see run at the hall included lunch clubs for the elderly; indoor markets; live music; indoor games; a book club; interesting presentations and a variety of exercise classes during the day and evening. With regard to improving social welfare and conditions for people in the area there was a consensus that regular coffee mornings were a priority with more day time activities also being important.

The type of additional services the community would like to see provided at the hall included WiFi Internet access; projection facilities; computers and printers. 60% of the respondents did not believe the community has adequate resilience arrangements in place.

Although the hall has been used to support the distribution of Co-op food deliveries in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic the condition of the current hall is not suitable for meeting major resilience requirements. 90% of the respondents would like to have the village hall as a Central Point of help in an emergency situation should it be needed and if it was fit for purpose.

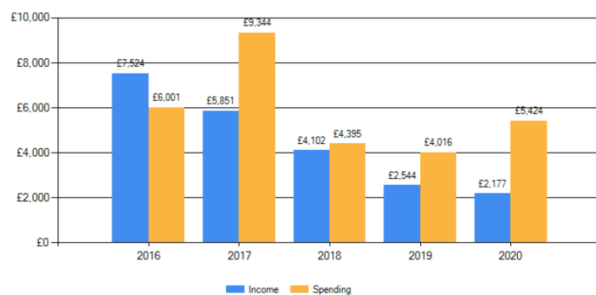
At the open day, the approved June 2019 renovation plans were shown to those that attended. However, overall there were significant calls from the respondents for the building to be replaced and made fit for purpose with upgraded communications and facilities to ensure that it could serve the community's needs long into the future.

The majority of people supported the establishment of a '100 Club' (or equivalent) where residents make a small monthly financial commitment towards the operating and maintenance costs of the hall in exchange for the chance of potentially winning a monthly prize.

### 3. Next steps

As at end of November 2020 there was about £8,500 of unrestricted reserves in MVHA's bank account. No restricted reserves remain.

MVHA has had no income since 1/4/2020 as the hall has not been in use. We also have no routine financial income from the community.

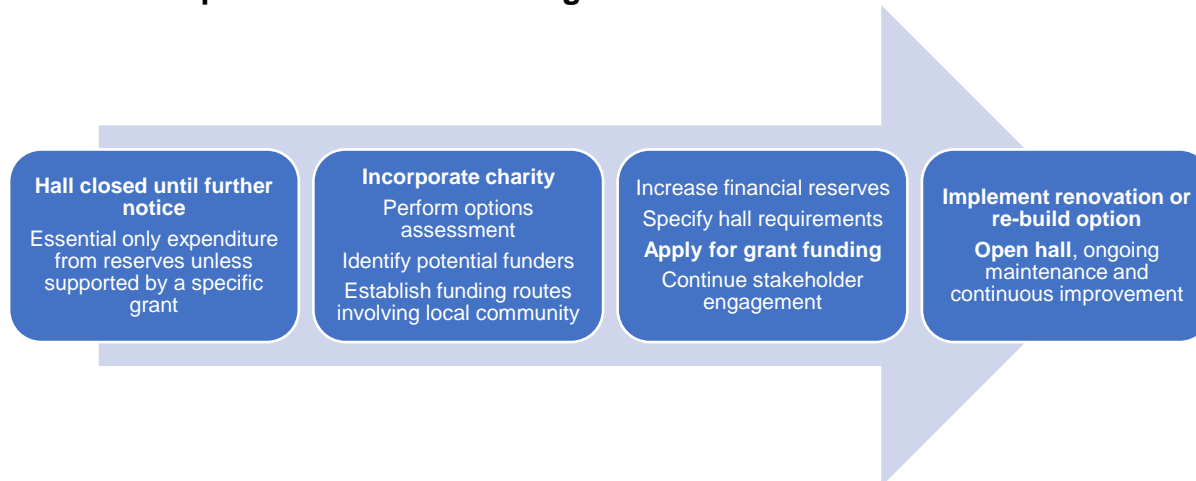


Routine outgoings (e.g. insurance, statutory inspections, essential repairs for insurance purposes, charity management costs, etc) continue despite COVID-19. Expenditure associated with holding events has been stopped (e.g. music license). We will be reporting a further loss for financial year ending 31/3/2021. This is not sustainable and if the community want MVHA to provide facilities and meet our charitable object then we need everyone to support us going forward.

The hall is currently closed due to COVID-19 however the heating system in the hall has been electrically condemned and we cannot reopen without legionella testing taking place and ensuring basic welfare requirements are addressed.

There is a new committee in place who want to improve the hall and meet the charity's object. However, the committee have significant concerns about the form of charity (currently unincorporated). As a result, no contracts will be signed for hall renovation or re-build as the trustees would be personally financially exposed. This can be addressed by becoming an incorporated charity.

**Our forward plan is shown in the diagram below:**



We are starting a journey of charity transformation, fundraising, consultation, planning for the future and in the medium term improving the facilities that we have in our community. We are having a structural engineering inspection and an asbestos survey carried out to inform us of the current condition of the hall and this will help inform an options assessment that we will be conducting.

Please let us know if you wish to be involved in assessing the options for moving forward with the hall renovation (or re-build) and helping define the specifications for our improved/new facilities.

Once we have completed the transition to an incorporated charity then we intend to start fundraising in parallel with applying to various potential funders.

Please get involved and support us. For more information or to get involved please email us at [melvichvillagehall190@gmail.com](mailto:melvichvillagehall190@gmail.com) or contact one of the MVHA committee members.

The Full Public Consultation Results are available upon request.