



Public Consultation Survey RESULTS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

WHAT YOU SAID

Melvich Village Hall Association
Melvich Village Hall, Melvich, Sutherland KW14 7YJ

20th October 2020

Thank you

The Committee would like to thank everyone that took part in the survey and those that managed to attend the Open Day.

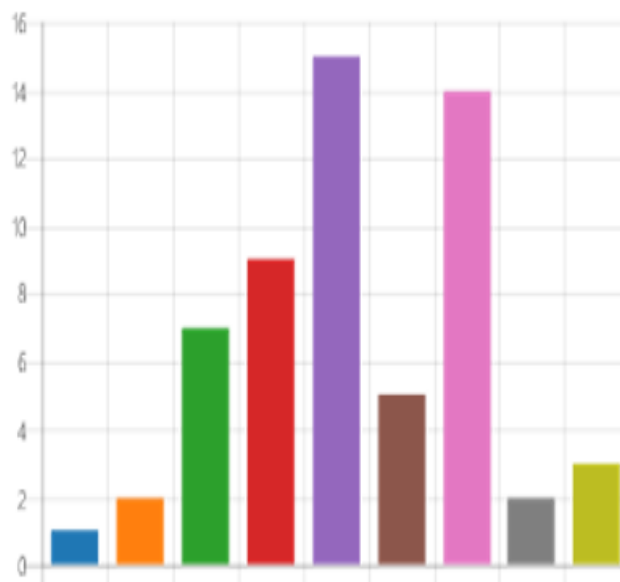
We received 62 responses to the Public Consultation Questionnaire and 23 people took part in the Open Day.

Enclosed are the results of the Questionnaire and comments.

There is a Summary document that accompanies this document and is available by emailing melvichvillagehall190@gmail.com

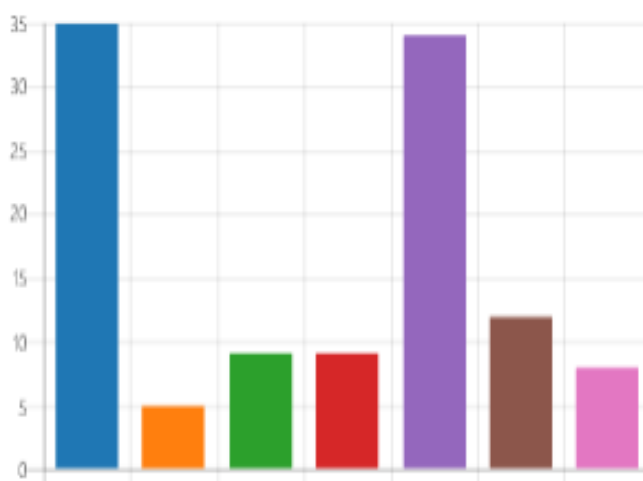
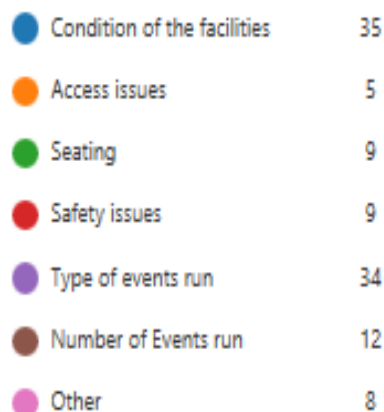
1. How often do you use or visit the village hall?

- Once a week or more 1
- At least twice a month 2
- At least once a month 7
- At least once every 3 months 9
- At least once every 6 months 15
- At least once a year 5
- Less than once a year on aver... 14
- Never 2
- Other 3



2. What impacts on how often you use the village hall?

[More Details](#)



Q2. What impacts on how often you use the village hall?

It is filthy, dark and depressing

Dark

WORK RESTRICTIONS

NOT AT HOME OFTEN

PARKING

AS IT STANDS I WOULD NOT CONSIDER USING THE HALL FOR ANY FAMILY FUNCTIONS.

THE SEATING IS DAMP AND STAINED FABRIC

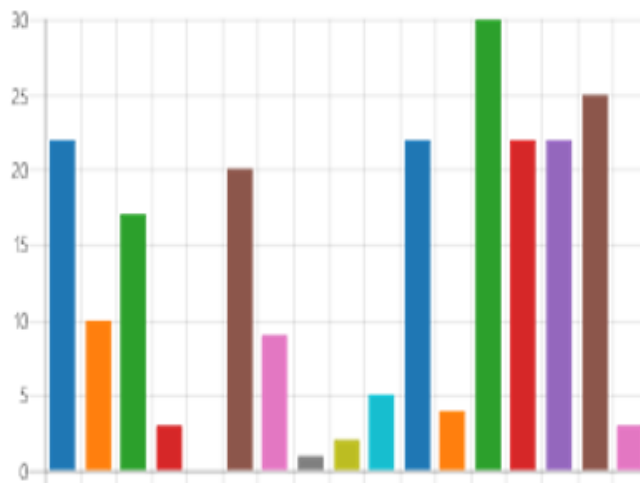
KNOWING WHAT IS ON AND BEING AROUND

3. If these factors were addressed would you attend the hall more often?



4. What activities have you attended or organised at the hall in the last 3 years?

● Private hall hire (e.g. a birthda...	22
● Story telling event	10
● Live music event	17
● Toddlers group	3
● Football	0
● Bingo	20
● Whist	9
● Roller disco	1
● Gaelic Choir	2
● Halloween party	5
● Christmas time events	22
● Hogmanay party	4
● Pop up Cafe	30
● Wakes or other Rememberanc...	22
● Meetings	22
● Public Consultation events	25
● Other	3

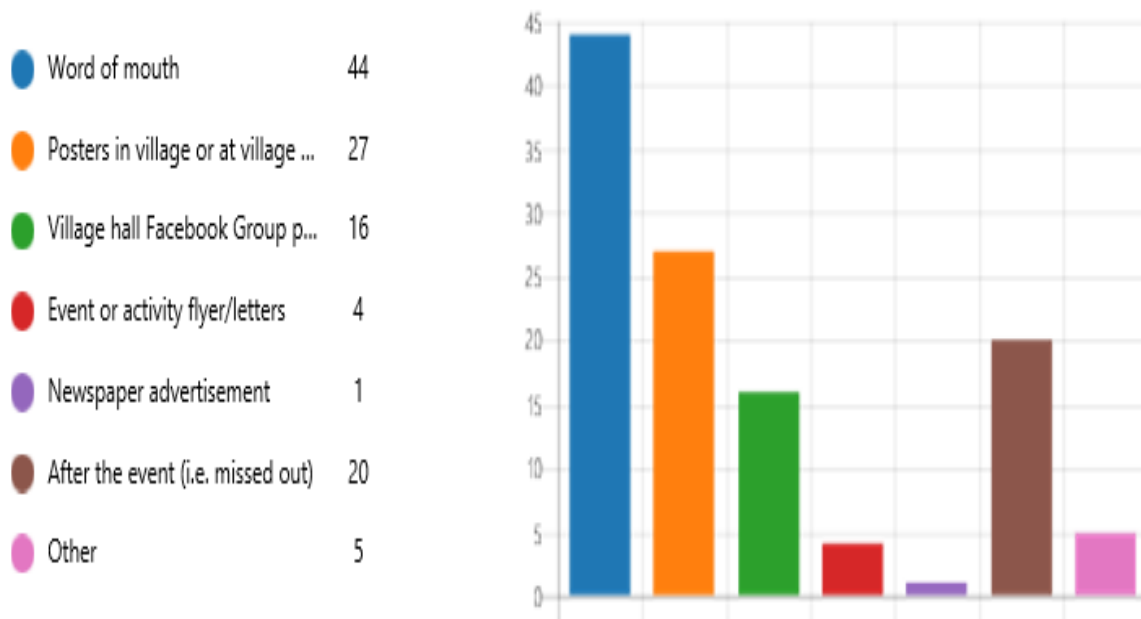


Q4. What activities have you attended or organised at the hall in the last 3 years? ▼

BURN SUPPER, BUT ALL OVER 3 YEARS AGO

NETBALL - SCHOOL ACTIVITY

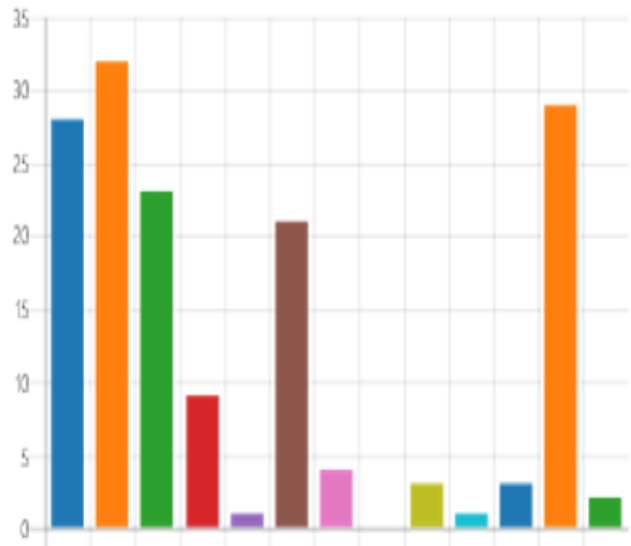
5. When activities or events are held at the hall how do you normally find out about them?



ID	Q5. When activities or events are held at the hall how do you normally find out about them?
21	invitation (private party)
57	SANDWICH BOARD OUTSIDE HALL BUT OFTEN ON THE DAY

6. In an ideal world, how would you like to find out about things going on in the Village Hall and wider community?

● Website (www.melvich.com)	28
● Posters in village or at village ...	32
● Facebook (www.facebook.com...	23
● Flyers through your door	9
● Newspaper advertisements	1
● Email	21
● WhatsApp message	4
● Twitter (village hall postings)	0
● Instagram (village hall message)	3
● Text message to your mobile ...	1
● Personal phone call	3
● Village newsletter	29
● Other	2



Q6. In an ideal world, how would you like to find out about things going on in the Village Hall and wider community?

NEED A BIG NOTICE BOARD ON FRONT OF THE VILLAGE HALL

WORD OF MOUTH

7. What types of activities or events or services would you like to see at the hall in the future?

[More Details](#)

● Computers and Printers	10
● WiFi - Internet Access	21
● Film / Projection facilities	20
● Book club / Library	11
● Other	21



Q7. What types of activities or events or services would you like to see at the hall in the future?
INDOOR BOWLING AND SOCIAL GET TOGETHERS;
COURSES LIKE PHOTOGRAPHY INTRODUCTION. SOCIAL INCLUSION GROUPS FOR CERTAIN CRITERIA EG YOUNG MUMS, LUNCH CLUBS FOR ELDERLY AND PEOPLE STRUFLING FINANCIALLY, POSSIBLE FOOD BANK POINT, COMMUNITY FRIDGE
LIVE MUSIC, SHOWS, BURNS SUPPER, DISCO FOR KIDS
PRINTING FACILITIES, LAMINATING MACHINE, GOOD STORAGE, MODERN KITCHEN AND TOILETS, HEATING, OUTSIDE LIGHTING, BIN STORAGE, EVENTS NOTICE BOARD, FLOWERS, GENERATOR, GAS COOKER/OVEN
KEEP FIT/YOGA.PILATES/ZUMBA/DANCING eg COUNTRY DANCING
TALKS, LECTURES
TABLE TENNIS, INTERESTING TALKS, MUSIC AND DANCE, CHRISTMAS PARTY, YOGA, INDOOR FOOTBALL, JUDO, GYM WITH FREE WEIGHTS NOT JUST MACHINES
GARDEN PLANT SWAP
LIVE MUSIC. I ENJOYED VENT DU NORD BACK IN 2015
SOMETHING FOR THE LOCAL CHILDREN EVERY MONTH OR TWO - FRIDAY AFTERNOON OR WEEKENDS eg BOUNCY CASTLE, SOFT PLAY. TALKS FROM LOCAL PEOPLE ABOUT AREAS THEY ARE EXPERT IN/INTERESTED IN. EXERCISE CLASSES. INFORMAL BOOK EXCHANGE
EVENING PRESENTATIONS FROM LOCAL PEOPLE ON THINGS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMUNITY AND PRESENTATIONS FROM INVITED SPEAKERS. MORE EVENTS/ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL AGE RESIDENTS
TABLE TENNIS/ INTERESTING TALKS/ MUSIC AND DANCE/ CHRISTMAS PARTIES/ YOGA/ INDOOR FOOTBALL/ JUDO/ GYM WITH FREE WEIGHTS NOT JUST MACHINES
START A DARTS LEAGUE/ BOWLING LEAGUE / DRAFTS AND CHESS
CRAFT CLASSES/LIVE MUSIC/ TALKS/ KEEP FIT CLASSES
FUN EXERCISE CLASSES EG ZUMBA OR TAI CHI
FITNESS ACTIVITIES - ZUMBA / CIRCUIT TRAINING
EXERCISE
KEEP FIT
KEEP FIT
YOGA
FITNESS CLASSES eg ZUMBA

8. Do you believe that the local community has adequate resilience arrangements in place? Resilience is defined as the ability to recover from setbacks, adapt well to change, and keep going in the face of adversity following a major incident of some kind.

● Yes 17
● No 37



Q9. Do you have any thoughts on this issue?
THE HALL SHOULD BE CENTRAL TO ANY OF THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS
WOULD BENEFIT FROM HALL BEING AVAILABLE IF ANY POWER CUTS TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO HAVE SOMEWHERE TO GET A HOT DRINK OR MEAL.
COMMUNITY GENERATOR BESIDE BOTTLE BANK FOR WINTER POWER CUTS, FUNDED BY WIND FARM MONEY
HALL NOT FIT AT THE MOMENTS FOR THE ABOVE. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET POWER?
VERY RESILIENT WHEN CALLED UPON. HALL NOT FIT IN CURRENT STATE TO BE CENTRAL POINT. REPLACE IT AND MAKE IT FIT FOR PURPOSE THEN IT COULDBE A CENTRAL POINT.
A MODERN FRESH HALL WOULD BE IDEAL FOR A CENTRAL HUB IF SAY THERE IS MORE FIRES OR POWER CUTS. AS IT STANDS NOW IT IS VERY DATED AND HAS BEEN FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.
SUTHERLAND PEOPLE HAVE BEEN RESILIENT SINCE THE HIGHLAND CLEARANCES PUT OUR PEOPLE TO THE COASTAL FRINGES ADN OUT OF THE GLENS. THE WEATHER IS TO BE EMBRACED AND MAJOR EVENTSARE ALWAYS OVERCOME. WE DO ALL LIKE THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE BUT CAN EASILY COPE WITH THE OCCASIONAL POWER CUT OR MAJOR EVENT. IN TEH EVENT OF ROAD CLOSURES DUE TO ACCIDENTS, TRAVELLERS MAY BENEFIT FROM OUR HALL DOORS BEING OPENED UP. BUT NOT AS IT CURRENTLY STANDS - NEED IMPROVEMENT

HAVING PREVIOUSLY EXPERIENCE PROLONGED POWER CUTS IN LATHERONWHEEL, HOT FOOD VANS PROVIDED FOR THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEERS TOOK FOOD TO THOSE THAT WERE HOUSEBOUND. WOULD BE GOOD TO HAVE CATERING FACILITIES.
DEPENDING ON THE INCIDENT I WOULD ANTICIPATE PEOPLE WOULD REACT ACCORDINGLY AND MANAGE THE SITUATION
AS A REMOTE VILLAGE AWAY FROM FACILITIES WE DON'T HAVE ADDEQUATE FACILITIES. HOWEVER, AS A COMMUNITY WE WOULD ALL PULL TOGETHER TO SUPPORT ANY ISSUES FACING US OR OTHERS
THE HALL WHEN REBUILT WOULD MAKE A GOOD CENTRAL POINT IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY
RECENT FIRES - HALL COULD HAVE BEEN USED AS A HUB FOR VOLUNTEERS
WITH MANY WIND GENERATORS CONNECTED TOT HE ELECTRICAL GRID IT IS LIKELY THAT COINCIDENT INPUT FAILURES TO THE SYSTEM WILL CAUSE SIGNIFICANT OUTAGE OF HTE GRID, TAKING MUCH TIME TO RE-INSTATE i.e. MANY DAYS. ARE WE READY FOR SUCH A FAILURE OF THE GRID?
TOILETS SHOULD HAVE SHOWER FACILITIES
THIS SHOULD BE A COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL. A MEMBER OF THE MVHA WHO IS ALSO ON THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL COULD BE THE LIAISON BETWEEN THE TWO TO ENSURE THERE IS A "PLAN". PERHAPS COORDINATED WITH THE CARE HOME AND SCHOOL ALSO.
SINCLAIR COURT (MCCU) HAS A GENERATOR AND COULD BE USED AS A HUB
IT COULD SERVE AS A REFUGE IN AN EMERGENCY BUT I DON'T KNOW IF IT IS THE BEST SPOT.
I THINK INDIVIDUALS, SOME OF THEM ANYWAY, HAVE STRONG RESILIENCE ARRANGEMENTS
I THINK SOME MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER IN THESE SITUATIONS, BUT THERE WILL BE SOME WHO WILL NEED SUPPORT
COMMUNITY NEEDS RESILIENCE PARTICULARLY DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND FREQUENCY OF EXTREME EVENTS
COMMUNITY VIA COMMUNITY COUNCIL PROVIDED SUPPORT DURING WILD FIRES. IF THERE WAS A POWER CUT AND ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS A WELL EQUIPPED HALL WOULD BE CENTRAL TO SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY
THE VILLAGE NEEDS A PROPER HUB WITH FACILITIES/ACCESS FORN ELDERLY ANAD DISABLED. MINI GP SURGERY WITH STOCK AND EQUIPMENT, PLUS NECESSARY ELECTRICAL SOCKETS TO MANAGE DISABLED EQUIPMENT SUCH AS OXYGEN FOR MULTIPLE PEOPLE. THE HUB WOULD NEED IT'S OWN GENERATOR.
NEED A TELEPHONE NUMBER IN THE HALL SO PEOPLE CAN RING TO FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN A MAJOR EVENT. THIS WOULD MEAN VOLUNTEERS AND THE HALL COMMITTEE MANNING THE PHONES IN TURN

10. Would you like the village hall to be set up to provide a Central Point of help in the event of an unforeseen major incident?



11. Is there anything else that the Melvich Village Hall Association should do to try to improve social welfare or improve conditions for people in our area, now or in the future?

Regular Coffee Mornings	40
Mental Health Cafes	14
More Day time activities	31
Other	16



Q11. Is there anything else that the Melvich Village Hall Association should do to try to improve social welfare or improve conditions for people in our area, now or in the future?
ALL THE ACTIVITIES IN Q4 ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO WORK A GOOD HALL COMMUNITY
MONTHLY SOUP AND SANDWICHES LUNCH. POP UP CAFE WAS GREAT. USE HALL AS A STARTING/END POINT FOR A WALKING GROUP WITH A CUP OF TEA AT THE END
SCRABBLE CLUB AFTERNOON FOR SENIORS
EVENTS THAT GET PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR HOUSES IN WINTER WOULD BE WORTHWHILE SOCIAL AND GENERAL INTEREST
MUSIC WORKSHOPS/LESSONS. SPORTS SUCH AS JUDO. BE A COMFORTABLE AND WELCOMING PLACE FOR CLUBS AND FOR PEOPLE WITH COMMON INTERESTS
MY MOTHER ENJOYED ALL THE VILLAGE EVENTS. I THINK A LOT OF THE OLD PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND STUFF ON A REGULAR BASIS, LIKE HALLADALE COFFEE MORNING
COFFEE MORNING SEEM TO BE POPULAR AT HALLADALE AND REAY, SO SOMETHING MID-MONTH TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH THEM WOULD BE GOOD
MAYBE SOMETHING LIKE REAY HALL DOES FOR THE OLDER FOLK
MORE WHIST
HAVE MONTHLY MVHA GENERAL MEETINGS WITH INVITATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY TO COME ALONG. BETTER STRUCTURED MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY VOTING
MUSIC WORKSHOPS/LESSONS. SPORTS SUCH AS JUDO
DIFFICULT TO ATTEND DAY TIME EVENTS DUE TO WORK SO EVENING CLASSES WOULD BE GOOD. HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FIND UPHOLSTERY CLASSES, SOME IN CASTLETOWN
CHILDREN'S STUFF THEN MORE FAMILIES MIGHT MOVE INTO THE VILLAGE
CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CLUB
COFFEE AFTERNOONS
MARKET STALLS FOR LOCAL PRODUCE

Q12. Do you have any SKILLS that could help make our village hall a 'centre of the community'?

JOINERY

REIKI, PELLOWAH HEALER, WITCH CIRCLES, TAROT CARD READER

SECRETARIAL WORK, FUNDRAISING, EVENT ORGANISING

RUNNING A BUSINESS AND RAISING MONEY

HIGH LEVEL ADMINISTRATION; GOVERNANCE; CONTRACTS; POLICIES AND PROCEDURES; TRAINING MANUALS; FUND RAISING; SALES & MARKETING EXPERIENCE

REIKI AND PELLOWAH HEALER, WITCH CIRCLES, TAROT CARD READER

LEGAL SERVICES - COULD OFFER LEGAL APPOINTMENTS THROUGH MY WORK RATHER THAN CLIENT HAVING TO GO TO THURSO OFFICE

THEATRE MAKER, PODCAST MAKER, STORYTELLER

Q13. Do you have any INTERESTS

HEALTH, YOGA, NON MAINSTREAM MOVIES

PUBLISHED AUTHOR WORKING ON 6TH BOOK, POLITICS, WRITING ARTICLES

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY - MAYBE AN AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

2ND HAND GOODS AND RECYCLING

HEALTH, YOGA, NON MAIN STREAM MOVIES

LOCAL HISTORY / CARD PLAYING / SCRABBLE / DOMINOES

ENVIRONMENT, WOULD LIKE TO SEE MELVICH TIDIED UP

SEE WHAT SKILLS WE HAVE IN THE COMMUNITY AND PLAN AROUND WHAT WE HAVE HERE

Q14. Do you have any HOBBIES?

GARDENING

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE/THERAPY

READING, GARDENING, COOKING

SURFING, CLIMBING, SKIING, MOTORBIKE

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINES/THERAPY

GARDENING

SEW, READ, BAKING, WALKING

Q15. Do you have a MICRO BUSINESS

MASSAGE

ASSITING CURRENT VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION AS TREASURER ON FINANCIAL MATTERS

MASSAGE

Q16. OTHER

WILLING TO VOLUNTEER AT ANY EVENT IF ABLE TO AND IF ASKED

I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED THERE TO BE A GAELIC BREAKFAST CLUB - PART OF LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FOR IMMERSION. WOULD NEED A GAELIC TUTOR BUT THERE IS A NATIONAL PROGRAMME TO ASSIST.

WOULD BE HAPPY TO VOLUNTEER AND HELP WITH EVENTS

17. REAY Village Hall has a '100 Club' where community members help support their hall. A small monthly commitment offers the chance to win a cash prize and the remainder of is surplus towards the village hall. Would you be interested in supporting a similar scheme for our hall?

● Yes	41
● No	5
● Maybe	11
● Other	3



Q17. REAY Village Hall has a '100 Club' where community members help support their hall. A small monthly commitment offers the chance to win a cash prize and the remainder of is surplus towards the village hall.

IF THE HALL WAS TO BE REBUILT AND NOT REFRESHED

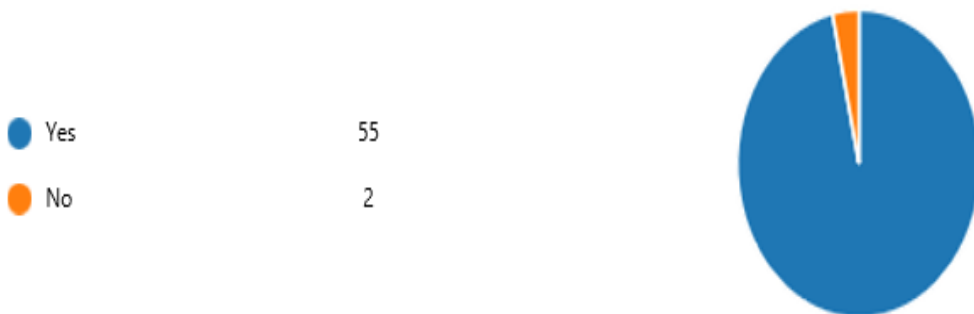
I CURRENTLY DO THE WEEKLY £1 CHRISTMAS TREE BONUS BALL. PROCEED TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE HALL

ONLY BECAUSE I SUPPORT HALLADALE HALL

18. Did you know the Melvich Village Hall Association is a Scottish Registered Charity?



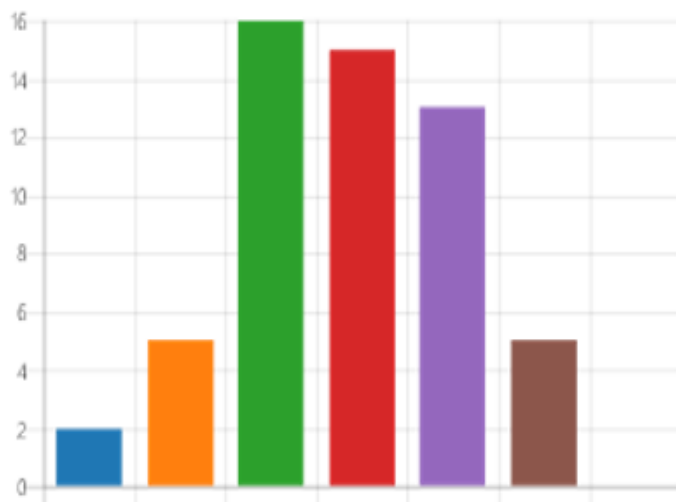
19. Do you think a Monthly Calendar or Events for the Village Hall and surrounding communities would be beneficial?



20. Which age group are you?

- 16 - 24
- 25 - 40
- 41 - 55
- 56 - 70
- 71 - 80
- 81 - 90
- 91 or over

2
5
16
15
13
5
0



Q21. Additional comments

THE BEST THING WOULD BE TO DEMOLISH THE HALL AND BUILD A NEW ONE THAT WOULD PROVIDE EXCELLENT CONDITIONS FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

I THINK THE BEST THING FOR THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE TO DEMOLISH THE HALL AND BUILD A NEW ONE. THIS WOULD THEN PROVIDE BETTER CONDITIONS FOR EVENTS.

THE HALL WILL ONLY BENEFIT IF IT IS TOTALLY RECONSTRUCTED

MY OPINION TO MAKE THE HALL FIT FOR THE FUTURE IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO "REFIT" THE HALL. THE HALL IS A VERY AGED BUILDING. WHEN THEIR IS WIND FARM GRANTS UP FOR GRABS IT'S TIME TO TAKE THEM AND MAKE GOOD USE OF THEM. START FRESH WITH A NEW BUILDING. IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE BIG OR FLASHY JUST SAFE, CLEAN AND WARM. TO "REFIT" THE HALL TO A GOOD STANDARD WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY AND ONCE WORK STARTED YOU COULD SERIOUSLY OPEN UP A CAN OF WORMS.

PROVIDE A NEW HALL FIT FOR PURPOSE, FIT FOR THE FUTURE AND FIT FOR ALL. I WOULD LOVE TO SEE A "NEW" BUILDING WHERE THE OLD BUILDING HAS PROVIDED THE VILLAGERS WITH THEIR SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING GATHERINGS FOR THE PAST 100+ YEARS. FOR MANY OF US IT WAS WHERE WE HAD OUR 1st SANTA, 1st DANCE, 1st CONCERT ETC. THE HALL HAS SEEN IT'S LAST, LET IT GO ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHER CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND HALLS AROUND THE COAST AND BUILD AGAIN FOR OUR CHILDREN SO THEY CAN EXPERIENCE THEIR "FIRSTS".

Q7. THEATRE, MUSIC, EXHIBITIONS OF ART, PHOTOGRAPHIC LOCAL INTERESTS, SOMETHING TO DRAW PEOPLE INTO THE VILLAGE HALL. COLLABORATION WITH LYTH TO PUT ON SHOWS.
FOCUS ON GETTING A WIND/WATER TIGHT HALL WITH DECENT TOILETS AND KITCHEN

HALL WOULD NEED A GENERATOR TO BE ABLE TO ACT AS A CENTRAL POINT

FUTURE LUNCH CLUBS/DAY CARE FACILITIES TO COVER THE CLOSURE OF SINCLAIR COURT (MCCU)

IT IS A VERY RUN DOWN HALL COMPARED TO OTHERS ON THE NORTH COAST. THIS MAY DISCOURAGE PEOPLE. A COSIER ENVIORNMENT IN THE HALL WOULD HELP IN GETTING A BETTER ATTENDANCE AT SUCH EVENTS. THE VILLAGE HALL SHOULDN'T TRY TO DO STUFF IT ISN'T CURRENTLY SUITED TOO - E.G. SPORTS WHERE STRATHY IS BEST SUITED FOR OR FILMS WHERE HALLADALE DOES THIS,

THE HALL IS VERY BASIC

I AHVE RECENTLY RELOCATED BACK UP HERE AND WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND EVENTS IN THE FUTURE.

I AM AWARE THE HALL IS IN A POOR CONDITION. IT HAS NOT STOPPED ME USING THE HALL, BUT I THINK THIS NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED.

ONLY FOUND OUT THE VILLAGE HALL FUNCTIONED AS A CHARITY AFTER I JOINED THE COMMITTEE

THE HALL NEEDS A USEABLE OUTSIDE SPACE. COULD BE USED AS A POLLING STATION. NEEDS TOILETS AND SHOWERS AND A CHEMICAL TOILET DISPOSAL FOR VISITORS TO THE AREA

THE HALL IS IN A VERY POOR STATE AND I THINK IT SHOULD BE KNOCKED DOWN AND REBUILT. NOT NECESSARILY IN ITS CURRENT LOCATION.
THE HALL SHOULD BE A COMFORTABLE AND WELCOMING PLACE FOR CLUBS AND FOR PEOPLE WITH COMMON INTERESTS
WOULD LOVE TO ATTEND OPEN DAY BUT SADLY I HAVE TO WORK AT THE WEEKEND
REPLACE THE HALL WITH A NEW BUILDING
EXISTING HALL SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH A MODERN BUILDING.
JUST HAVE HALL CLEAN ENOUGH TO USE. KNOCK IT DOWN AND START AGAIN
WE USE STRATHY FOR CHILDRENS PARTIES DUE TO THE TERRIBLE HYGIENCE AT OUR HALL. PLUS THE HEIGHT OF THE CEILING DOES NOT ALLOW FOR A BOUNCY CASTLE
I DON'T THINK YOU ARE GOING TO GET PEOPLE COMING TO THE HALL AS IS. IT'S A COLD, DANK, GRUBBY DEPRESSING PLACE. I'M SURE THERE ARE MANY A SUCCESS TO BE HAD IN THE HALL AND FOR THE COMMUNITY IF IT WERE FIT FOR PURPOSE.
I PERSONALLY FEEL THE HALL WOULD BENEFIT FROM BEING REBUILT, GIVEN THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE
NO REFURBISHMENT. BUILD A NEW HALL (WOULD BE CHEAPER). I ONLY RECENTLY FOUND OUT THE MVHA WAS A CHARITY
IN MY OPINION WE SHOULD GO FOR A NEW HALL, WELL PAST IT'S BEST. I ONLY RECENTLY FOUND OUT THE MVHA WAS A CHARITY
ELDERLY PEOPLE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO DRIVE ANY DISTANCE. A MONTHLY EMAIL SENT OUT WITH INFO. ENTERTAINMENT MAY BE MORE APPRECIATED IN THE AFTERNOONS. MOST YOUNGER PEOPLE ARE WORKING AND HAVE SCHOOL CHILDREN. A LARGE AMOUNT OF CAPITAL WOULD BE NEEDED TO RUN THIS CONTINUALLY. ALL THIS WOULD NEED A FAIRLY LARGE NUMBER OF STAFF AND CLEANERS ON A REGULAR BASIS
HALL IS NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE - NEEDS TO BE REBUILT
NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE - NOCK IT DOWN
THE HALL NEEDS TO BE REBUILT
THE HALL IS NO LONGER FIT FOR PURPOSE. IT SHOULD BE KNOCKED DOWN AND REPLACED
WE HAVE AND INTERNET ACCESS THROUGH A COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAMME. WE HAD A PROJECTOR I THINK, PERHAPS IT WAS THE COMMUNITY COUNCILS, BUT I WAS TOLD WE COULD USE IT AT THE HALL. USE THE HALL AS A BASE FOR MICRO BUSINESSES. HAVE REGULAR 'VILLAGE@ GATHERINGS TO MAKE VILLAGE PLANS (6 MONTHLY) MARKET STALLS AT THE VILAGE HALL FOR VEG, EGGS, LOCAL MERCHANDISE WITH AN HONESTY BOX INBETWEEN TIMES
FITNESS CLASSES DAY AND EVENING TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE AND MORE INTERACTIVE WITH OTHER MEMEBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

OUTCOMES

A total of 235 Questionnaires were distributed throughout the Melvich, Portskerra, Goval, Bighouse and Kirkton area, all in the Parish of Farr. Of those, we had 62 questionnaires returned which is a return rate of 26.38%, which means a quarter of the community engaged.

Very few people actually use the hall on a weekly basis, but most use the hall once or twice a 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 surveyed would come to the hall more often.

The most popular events attended were:

30 votes - Pop Up cafe

25 votes - the Public Consultation Open Day

22 votes - Private hire events; Meetings; Wakes & Remembrance events and Christmas events

20 votes - Bingo

Currently the main method of communicating events is via word of mouth, posters in the village and on the Village Hall web site. Twenty people (20) stated they only found out about an event after it had taken place. Looking forward the most popular choices for improved communication were:

32 votes - Posters in Village and at Shop

29 votes - a village newsletter

28 votes - Website (www.melvich.com)

23 votes - Facebook

21 votes - Email

The type of events and services the community would like to see are as follows:

21 votes - WiFi Internet access

21 votes - Other - consisting of lunch clubs for the elderly; indoor markets; live music; indoor games; interesting presentations and a variety of exercise classes during the day and evening.

20 votes - Film club/projection facilities

11 votes - Book club/library

10 votes - Computers and printers

60% of those surveyed do not believe the community has adequate resilience arrangements in place. The condition of the current hall is not up to any major resilience event due to it's deteriorated condition. There are calls for the building to be replaced and made fit for purpose with upgraded communications and facilities.

90% of those surveyed would like to have the village hall as a Central Point of help in an emergency situation.

With regard to improving social welfare and conditions for people in the area there was a consensus that regular coffee mornings were a priority (40 votes) with more day time activities (31) also being important.

There are people in the area with some great skills that could contribute to the improvements needed. There are also residents with specific interests and hobbies that could be encouraged to come and share their knowledge with the community.

There was large support (41 votes and 11 maybe's) for a '100 Club' where residents make a small monthly committment to the maintenance of the hall.

Awareness of the fact the village hall association was a registered charity was split relatively evenly with No (32 votes) and Yes (24 votes). It is important the association promotes this benefit to the community.

There was large support (55 votes) for the concept of a Monthly Calendar of Events for the village hall and surrounding areas. This could be addressed by use of a Village Newsletter.

The age groups responding to this Questionnaire were:

- 41-55 (16 replies)
- 56-70 (15 replies)
- 71-80 (13 replies)
- 81-90 (5 replies)
- 25-40 (5 replies)
- 16-24 (2 replies)
- 91 or over (0 replies)

There are 37 comments throughout this document relating to the current state of the village hall, it's lack of amenities and need to be rebuilt. There are no references to keeping the current hall.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION OPEN DAY -

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAID...

- Strathy Hall too big! Ours should be a realistic size.
- Take it back to the boundary line. Push it back for parking and extend (square it off).
- Professional kitchen.
- Nice toilets with showers (could earn money off tourists).
- Sports activities.
- Legacy project.
- Try to buy land behind the hall.
- Rebuild
- Is Sinclair Court (Melvich Community Care Unit) going to be moved to Tongue.
Is Sinclair Court to become a Hub? Ask questions – urgently of NHS and Highland Council. Speak to the Far North Development Trust (Simon Lee)
- Knock it down!
- Not suitable for much as it is.
- Parking is an issue at MCCU.
- Make the building completely different, so it is warm, inviting and safe for elderly and children.
- Hall not fit for purpose. Infested with vermin.
- Keep the iconic blue colour.
- Knock it down and turn it into a Memorial garden.