

# 3. HALL USERS' NEEDS AND REQUESTS

There is considerable consistency in what existing users of the hall need and have requested from a new hall.

## HELCCATS

- A car park for 30-40 cars
- A green village hall by which they mean having solar panels, car charging points & maybe an electric community car. Ann Bell has been doing a carbon literacy course with Peterborough Council & grants are available for green projects.
- A sound system & projector for race nights, parties etc.

## BEER FESTIVAL

- Larger main hall to accommodate approximately 200
- If a stage is considered in the new hall could it be fully retractable/removable?
- Storage area for tables and chairs - ideally with internal and external access (thinking more from Helpstonbury point of view)
- Car parking
- Secure bike shed
- External power source for outside catering vans
- One level entry for wheelchairs, mobility issues, and for wheeling in barrels of beer!!
- External paved seating area (possibly bifold doors from the main hall), from which a marquee can be added for larger events (planning ahead)
- Fire exits not in the corner of the rooms - limits their use
- Industrial spec kitchen
- Dishwashing (fast one for glass cleaning)
- Integrated PA system
- Projector and screen
- Storage space for Beerfest stuff
- Decent recycling facility

## BAND PRACTICE

- Some storage space if possible
- A smart thermostat so the heating can be switched on remotely for each booking
- From a personal perspective a bar in the new hall for functions

## KNIT & NATTER

- Chairs with high backs and arms for people with back and/or mobility issues
- Pre-bookable for events
- Badminton net, table tennis

## FRIENDS OF JOHN CLARE SCHOOL

Here is the compiled list from our members who both had their member heads on and with a view of hiring privately:-

- Outdoor space - this was unanimous
- Good heating system
- Well-designed toilets, Good kitchen facilities
- Hooks positioned so it's easy to attach your own decorations like balloons, bunting etc. and not damage the walls
- Storage space - suggested but not overly important
- Bigger capacity

## PARISH COUNCIL

- Large area for activities such as elections, village meetings etc.
- A smaller meeting room would be ideal with permanent table and seating for up to 12 people plus a dozen 'audience' chairs for the monthly PC meetings
- Projector in hall and meeting room(s)
- Keypad/code entry system
- Storage (currently use shed in cemetery)

## HELPSTON HISTORY GROUP

- Parking
- Accessible for the less able, wheelchair bound and hearing impaired (hearing loops?)
- Easy to maintain toilet and kitchen area facilities
- Audio and visual compatible equipment including Wi-Fi, projector and screen, microphone and speakers
- Main hall with capacity for 50+ seated
- Meeting room with capacity for 20
- Comfortable seating and tables of varying sizes
- Storage facilities
- **Nice to have**
- Printed copies of enclosure maps displayed which generate interest from villagers (see Maxey Village Hall)
- Museum

## CHURCH

- Reasonably large hall with a kitchen + tables and chairs for seated meals such as harvest suppers and the John Clare Festival catering
- A smaller meeting room might be useful for more intimate meetings
- Permanent or stackable stage

## HELPSTON BELLES

- An attractive building in keeping with its surrounding / area/village
- Access to all areas for adults and Children with mobility issues
- A ramp up to the entrance & Wheelchair friendly access
- A covered porch for those waiting outside
- Adequate outdoor safety lighting for meetings held during winter months
- Entrance and Exit to new hall adequate for cars going in or out
- Ample parking spaces
- Good outdoor areas/cafe/warm hub for people to meet/feel safe
- Built in latest IT equipment e.g. projector / built in screen and wall mounted TV (for film afternoons ) all connected to Wi-Fi; microphone system
- Excellent heating system and air conditioning system
- Plenty of cutlery/crockery
- Modern larger kitchen with ovens, microwave toaster, dishwasher etc
- Wall mounted boiler for hot drinking water
- Large Storage/Cupboard for regular users/groups
- Library/rest room
- Smaller rooms for smaller groups. Rooms adequate for larger groups
- Windows that actually let light in
- Disabled toilets
- Pleasant, landscaped exterior. Access to this by anyone wanting to meet up with friends
- Benches for relaxing outdoors
- Decent tables and chairs for meeting/speakers at meetings
- Stage with changing room facility
- Access keys appointed to regular users
- Rates of hire according to size of room - Preferential rates for villagers

## CARPET BOWLS

- Double door cupboard with shelving for the bowls and carpet racking system
- 17m minimum length requirement

## BEATZ EXERCISE

- As a regular user Beatz main wish would be for the hall still to have the wooden sprung floor that is suitable for dance and fitness
- Larger hall, A built-in sound system/speaker
- Simpler heating/ air conditioning system
- Main wish is still that it will be affordable within the community.

## TAI CHI

- Tai Chi only uses the main hall and the toilets
- Apart from the obvious of a warmer building, the only thing is the space in the main hall. The length of it is ideal but a wider hall would be helpful. At the moment it is a long hall and they would be happy to compromise on the length if it was made wider
- Windows are nice be they don't need natural lighting so, from a security perspective could manage without. However, some form of natural lighting could be incorporated in the roof

## TENNIS CLUB

- **Committee Meetings** - Use the hall for regular committee meetings, especially during the off-season or for planning larger events.
- **Social Events** - Host club social gatherings, award ceremonies, and fundraising events. A hall with a proper kitchen could make these events easier to cater for.
- **Junior or New Player Sessions** - Organise beginner or junior player education sessions, including basic rules of tennis, sportsmanship, or fun activities on rainy days when tennis on the grass courts are called off.
- **A few fold-up table tennis tables** – the space would ideally be used as a wet-weather plan when tennis socials are rained off, or as an alternative space for club meetings, so some kind of access to ball sports such as table tennis would be amazing.
- **Fundraising Events** - Use the hall for bake sales, quiz nights, or themed fundraising evenings to generate funds for the club.
- **Equipment Storage** - Request secure storage for shared equipment, such as trophies and new battery

