

Community Consultation – Harburn Village Hall Analysis of Results (53 responses)

1. Living in Harburn

Commentary

Overall the residents who filled in this survey were very happy living in Harburn. 91% rated living here as excellent/good, and 93% considered the village friendly. Only 68% thought the village was a good place for things to do.

The best things were about the location and atmosphere of the village (36% of comments). The community spirit also rated very highly (16%). Friendliness and good neighbours were mentioned a lot (15%). The closeness to towns and amenities was also highly valued (15%).

- *Away from rat race in towns*
- *Friendly and vibrant community*
- *Friendly community, good community spirit*
- *Close knit, friendly community*

People responded negatively to the poor roads (20%) and to poor broadband (13%). Fast/dangerous drivers and the wind farms were mentioned in 10% each of the comments

- *Rubbish in the lanes a mess. Take a look around some of the very nice villages in Scotland and England and take note. Harburn and West Calder could learn a lot from them*
- *Totally reliant on car to go to shops etc*
- *Can be difficult in winter*
- *State of the roads*

The overall picture is of residents happy in the village, loving the countryside, the friendliness and the sense of community they find in Harburn

Results

How much do you like living in Harburn

| | | |
|-----------|-----|------|
| Excellent | 74% | (39) |
| Good | 17% | (9) |
| OK | 2% | (1) |
| NA | 7% | (4) |

How good is Harburn for things to do

| | | |
|----------------|-----|------|
| Excellent | 22% | (11) |
| Good | 46% | (24) |
| OK | 24% | (12) |
| Unsatisfactory | 2% | (1) |
| Don't Know/NA | 6% | (3) |

How good is Harburn for friendliness

| | | |
|-----------|-----|------|
| Excellent | 57% | (30) |
| Good | 36% | (19) |
| OK | 7% | (4) |

Tell us your three best things about living here?

There were 138 comments

| | |
|------------------------------------------|----|
| Countryside location/ atmosphere/scenery | 49 |
| Community Spirit | 22 |
| Proximity to towns/ cities/ amenities | 21 |
| Good neighbours | 12 |
| Peaceful | 11 |
| Friendly | 8 |
| Regular community activities and events | 4 |
| Other | 11 |

Tell us the three not so good things?

There were 118 comments

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Poor Roads | 24 |
| Poor Internet/ Broadband | 15 |
| Fast and dangerous drivers | 12 |
| Turbines/wind farm | 12 |
| Poor public transport | 11 |
| Litter/lack of cleaning | 10 |
| Poor hall facilities/communication | 9 |
| Lack of pavements/footpaths | 7 |
| Weather | 4 |
| Lack of amenities | 4 |
| Other | 10 |

2. Using the Hall

Commentary

Of the 51 responses, 46 used the hall regularly (90%). Only 5 did not use the hall. 30% of these used the hall weekly at least, 9% fortnightly, 19% monthly, 30% between 6 and 10 times a year and 11 % less than every 2 months. The hall is a valuable, much used resource for the village. There were, however, a few comments re the lack of information about activities, and this theme recurred frequently, albeit at a low level of response, throughout the survey. Overall 84% of respondents liked the hall very much. 92% liked the location, 90% valued its atmosphere, 65% thought that the activities on offer were relevant to them, and only 70% were happy with its overall condition. Only 50% thought that the information on what was happening met their expectations.

The findings show that the hall fulfils a need for villagers, and in general they are extremely happy with it and what's on offer. However, there are issues re its present condition, and the publicity put out.

The popularity of the hall is demonstrated when people are asked what would happen if it closed. 88% of respondents said that the loss of the hall would be a big miss to them, with a significant effect on Harburn. Their comments reflect this.

- *We would fall apart, face to face interaction is important to maintain a healthy village*
- *Significant impact. My family has only lived in Harburn for 4 years – the hall has been key to enabling my family to fit into the community*
- *I think the whole community spirit would die if the hall did not exist – it’s the heart and soul*
- *Other than the golf club, it is the only public building in Harburn*
- *It is a hub for the community, bringing people together. Would lose community feel if not available*
- *a sad loss – many people use it regularly – we would like to and will make more effort. Hub of the community*
- *It is a meeting place for a lot of people who would end up not seeing anyone*
- *It provides a focal point for the community and promotes a feeling of belonging for the people of the community which is very rare these days*

The loss of a meeting place and the loss of community spirit was an issue for nearly 90% of respondents

Results

Using the Village Hall

Do you use the Hall

Yes 46

How often have you used the village hall in the past 12 months

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Weekly | 14 |
| Fortnightly | 4 |
| Monthly | 9 |
| 6 to 10 times | 12 |
| 5 or less | 5 |
| Rarely | 2 |

No 5

- *Not always aware of what’s going on*
- *Events/activities not particularly well advertised*
- *I don’t know when there is anything happening at the hall, no notification of any events at the hall*

How good is the Hall for the following

Accessibility/location

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Excellent | 19 |
| Good | 27 |
| OK | 4 |
| Don’t Know/NA | 1 |

A Good atmosphere

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Excellent | 29 |
| Good | 16 |
| OK | 3 |
| Don't Know/NA | 3 |

Letting you know what's happening

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Excellent | 8 |
| Good | 17 |
| OK | 18 |
| Unsatisfactory | 3 |
| Don't Know/NA | 4 |

Organising suitable activities for me and my family

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Excellent | 9 |
| Good | 23 |
| OK | 10 |
| Don't Know/NA | 7 |

Overall condition and facilities

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Excellent | 6 |
| Good | 29 |
| OK | 9 |
| Unsatisfactory | 3 |
| Don't Know/NA | 3 |

Overall, how much do you like your hall and what it offers

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Excellent | 19 |
| Good | 22 |
| OK | 5 |
| Don't Know/NA | 3 |

What would it mean to you if the hall wasn't there (1= miss it a lot, 5= wouldn't miss it at all)

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Miss it very much | 38 |
| Significant impact on my life | 8 |
| Would not miss it | 3 |
| Unsure | 4 |

What do you think it would mean to the Community if the Hall was not available

All 53 people commented

Loss of community spirit 26

Community would lose a vital meeting space – heart of the community 14

A big loss 9

Other 4

- *We would fall apart, face to face interaction is important to maintain a healthy village*
- *Significant impact. My family has only lived in Harburn for 4 years – the hall has been key to enabling my family to fit into the community*
- *I think the whole community spirit would die if the hall did not exist – it's the heart and soul*
- *Other than the golf club, it is the only public building in Harburn*
- *It is a hub for the community, bringing people together. Would lose community feel if not available*
- *I think it would be missed to begin with and probably forgotten about as community spirit disappears. Eventually some community minded individual will come along and try to resurrect*
- *May break up the community*

Commentary

People visit the hall for a wide variety of reasons. Nearly all responses link to being social, being part of the community and taking part in community events. 89% of respondents have a very good experience when they visit. 31% of responses were about meeting friends, 22% mentioned the good atmosphere. When asked about not so good things, 91% of people were unhappy about the building, lack of space, lack of comfort, in need of an upgrade.

Residents of Harburn enjoy their hall very much, both in terms of its atmosphere and in terms of activities they can enjoy. However, the negative comments are overwhelmingly related to its unfitness for purpose, people complaining about its size and general condition

Results

Why do you visit the Hall

There were 73 reasons given

Social events 29

Meetings/Groups 28

Meeting people/part of the community 9

Entertainment 4

Haven't visited 3

- *Many people visit the hall because of its long history and uniqueness in this modern world. This should be preserved*
- *To socialise with other Harburn residents*
- *To attend functions, meet friends, exchange gossip, slander enemies, generally keep up with things, it's a physical Facebook. Eat, drink and be merry*
- *The hall brings people together – ideal hub for social occasions*

Generally how do you rate the experience when visiting the Hall?

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Excellent | 24 |
| Good | 16 |
| OK | 2 |
| Don't Know/NA | 3 |

What were the good things about your visits?

There were 68 comments

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Meeting people/friends | 21 |
| Atmosphere/ambience | 15 |
| Location/facility | 11 |
| Doing things I enjoy/having fun | 7 |
| Events | 4 |
| Catching up with local news | 3 |
| Other (one each) | 7 |

What were the not so good things about your visits, if any?

There were 35 comments

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Lack of space | 13 |
| Facilities need upgraded/cleaned | 10 |
| Difficult parking | 6 |
| Lack of comfort | 4 |
| Other | 2 |

- *For certain activities and events, the hall can be a bit cramped, Burns night, ceilidh, quiz night*
- *Uncomfortable chairs*
- *Limited cloakroom space*

Is there anything specifically which you were not happy about?

There were 19 comments

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---|
| Poor facilities | 6 |
| Poor cleanliness/ lack of planned maintenance | 5 |
| Lack of space | 3 |
| Not enough people help | 2 |
| Other | 3 |

Poor toilet facilities

Lack of storage space. Seating could be better. Needs cleanout more often Staging awkward

3. The hall – what should happen

Commentary

In general people wanted more of the same, a wider range of groups, more social events and activities, for example. The highest rated activities were sports and fitness and arts and crafts. Same sex activities were least mentioned. When asked about improvements, respondents mentioned the lack of space for events, for storage and the inadequate kitchen. 67% thought that an improved hall would make Harburn a better place to live. The majority of comments related to making the community stronger, helping people keep active, reducing isolation,

and retaining the cohesiveness of the community. People were concerned though at the lack of maintenance. Finally, 50% of respondents were willing to volunteer to help at the hall.

There are a range of ideas for future activity in the hall, and what needs done to ensure that this happens. There is a great love of the hall among the respondents, but a feeling that a significant upgrade is needed to make it fit for purpose again

Results

As you'll see from the letter there's already a lot happening in the hall. What additional activities, services or facilities based in the Hall would make Harburn a better place to live

There were 38 ideas

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Events/get togethers | 14 |
| Better facilities | 10 |
| More classes | 7 |
| Youth/kids club | 4 |
| More groups | 3 |
| Pop up bar/café | 2 |

Ideas included a toddler group, a village history evening, keep fit classes, a movie club, afternoon teas, free wifi in the hall, more social events – music, meals, games nights.

What activities would you like to see there

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|
| Arts and Crafts Classes | 24 |
| Sports and fitness activities | 23 |
| Activities for children and young people | 21 |
| Adult Education Classes | 21 |
| Activities for older people | 20 |
| Activities for both parents and pre school children | 6 |
| Women only activities | 5 |
| Men only activities | 5 |
| A Crèche to enable you to attend activities | 2 |

Other ideas included a car boot, sales, food and wine events, films and concerts, and a range of classes, such as computing and first aid

Do you have any specific suggestions for improvement or development to the Hall (e.g more storage, improved stage facility etc)

There were 29 suggestions

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|----|
| More space for sports, dancing, general | 12 |
| More storage, including a shed | 9 |
| Improved cooking facilities/ kitchen | 3 |

Eight other ideas included better acoustics, a better stage, a screen for films and presentations

- *More storage/meeting room, higher and better staging*
- *Safe/lit walk round from back door*
- *Larger size/more storage*
- *A Cloakroom*
- *Bigger entrance space*

If we do improve the Hall do you believe this will make Harburn a better place to live

| | |
|------------|----|
| Yes | 19 |
| No | 6 |
| Don't know | 5 |

If yes, where do you see the greatest benefits

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Help people get more active | 16 |
| Bring Community together | 15 |
| Help community work better together | 14 |
| Make people less isolated | 13 |
| Help local people learn new skills | 11 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Facebook page rather than website for events</i>• <i>Encourage use for bigger weddings, parties</i>• <i>Care should be taken not to interrupt existing lets or tenants if redevelopment closes the hall</i>• <i>Would enable more of the community to participate. The demand for more activities well attended – can't be met currently</i>• <i>Improve and increase number of community events</i> | |

Please tell us anything else you think is relevant

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Needs regular maintenance/facelift | 5 |
| Car parking/access | 4 |
| Need a better Facebook page/website | 4 |
| Good atmosphere | 3 |
| Other | 5 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The hall is unique</i>• <i>it could do with a facelift</i>• <i>The current village hall has a certain charm and character which is in keeping with Harburn. This could be potentially lost in a redevelopment</i>• <i>The hall is showing its age and has significant limitations which impact on events undertaken</i>• <i>Harburn Times should be revived online</i>• <i>It can be difficult to find out what is on at the hall. E mails are good for main events but don't think there's anywhere that lists everything</i> | |

Would you be interested in volunteering at the Village Hall

| | |
|-------|----|
| Yes | 24 |
| No | 8 |
| Maybe | 17 |