

Information from Village Hall regarding the usage of the Village Hall, its needs and aspirations

Current situation

The current Village Hall is situated on Cheats Road and comprises of the main hall and one meeting room on the ground floor. It has a small kitchen with servery which restricts the size and types of events that could be held at the hall.

Currently the hall is situated in the flood plain and when Cheats Road floods, it makes the hall inaccessible to those who have booked the facilities.

The carpark is relatively small and does not hold enough vehicles for large events or if both the hall and meeting room are being used at the same time with those attending bringing vehicles. The result of this is that cars park along Cheats Road which causes a traffic hazard and congestion. For example, the week the pantomime is held, there are up to 30 or 40 cars parked along Cheats Road every evening and for the Saturday matinee.

Current usage

As can be seen from September's bookings which have been provided to demonstrate normal usage levels, the village hall and the meeting room are both well used. Some of the groups have 40-50 people attending on a regular basis. However, a very high proportion of the bookings are from groups either not related to the parish in any way, or only have one to two attendees who live in the parish. It can be difficult to book an event in the hall or meeting room due to the usage levels.

In addition to those listed on the attached sheets, a number of national businesses use the hall on an annual basis to host annual regional meetings ie Sky, AA, RAC, SCC etc. The reason for this is due to the hall being near junction 25 and in the centre of the southwest region.

Aspirations

If the opportunity were to arise in the future, the Village Hall would ideally be re-sited outside the flood plain making it accessible at all times of the year.

Ideally there would be better storage facilities and a bigger kitchen with space for a cooker, hob etc. This would mean that catered functions could be held such as wedding receptions or parties.

A larger hall would allow indoor sports to be held. At the moment, the ceiling is too low to allow sports such as badminton.

A bigger carpark would ensure that all those using the Village Hall could park off the road and, if it is again adjacent to a playing field, that those using the playing field would also have parking.