

*It's the heart of Lighthorne ... and the beat goes on! Have your say on the future of*

## **Lighthorne Village Hall**

*Consultation Questionnaire - January 2025*



**Lighthorne Village Hall** is run by a management committee. The committee are all trustees of the charity that owns the Village Hall and have a legal obligation to operate and maintain the hall on behalf of the Lighthorne community.

The North Wing of the hall (to the right-hand side as you look at the hall from the car park) is in a poor state of repair and has structural problems. The committee have prepared this questionnaire as part of a consultation exercise to gather and assess the views of current and potential users of the hall, on how you would like the hall managed and developed for the future, particularly in regard to resolving the North Wing concerns.

The consultation will run from **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025**. There will be an opportunity for any interested parties to visit and inspect the whole hall on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025, between 2pm and 4 pm**, when members of the management committee will be on hand to discuss opportunities and concerns. Free tea & cakes will be served! The committee do ask that any views you wish to express are also submitted formally by completing one of these questionnaires, even if you have informal discussions with a committee member.

Paper copies of this questionnaire are being delivered to all homes in the parish. Additional paper copies are available from committee members or from the Village Hall. The form can also be downloaded via links on Lighthorne Facebook pages, or from Lighthorne Village Hall website ([www.lighthornevillagehall.org](http://www.lighthornevillagehall.org)). The website and Facebook pages also have links to complete the form digitally ... it doesn't matter how you complete the form ... only that you do! We want to gather as much feedback as possible and welcome the views of all adult parishioners, as well as current or potential users of the hall – responses are **not** limited to one per household!

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

Name of person completing this questionnaire ( <i>anonymous returns will not be considered</i> ).	
If your response is representing the views of a particular Lighthorne organisation, then please give its name here – please leave blank if not.	
Are you a regular user of Lighthorne Village Hall?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
How many times have you visited the Village Hall in the past year?	Less than 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 <input type="checkbox"/>
How would you rate the Village Hall buildings and facilities overall?  Please give a score between 1 and 10, with 1 being poor and 10 being excellent?	
Could you summarise why you would give it that score?	
What do you like about Lighthorne Village Hall?	
What do you dislike about Lighthorne Village Hall?	
Clearly there are always things that can be done to improve the Village Hall, whether that be relatively minor items like replacing the tables, or more major items, like refurbishing the toilets.  What do you think should be the priorities for improving the Village Hall?	
Are there any facilities missing at the Village Hall that you would like to see provided?	

## THE NORTH WING

The North Wing was built as an extension to the main hall in the early 1970's. Its foundations have failed and there is significant internal and external cracking. The flat roof is old (probably 50 years or more) and worn out, although not yet leaking. The committee have been monitoring this part of the hall; there appears to be little current movement and the building is safe for the time being. However, to continue to use this part of the hall in the longer term, the structure needs to be made properly secure.

The committee have been reviewing options to improve the hall, and particularly the North Wing. An option to demolish the whole Village Hall and move it elsewhere in the village was considered by the committee, but dismissed on grounds of practicality, cost, and out of respect for the success of the David Wright Room, built as the South Wing in 2019, on receipt of a generous legacy from David Wright.

The committee consider there are three options for the North Wing and will pursue one (or more) of these in 2025. Below we have summarised these with very broad estimates of cost and timeframe.

- **Option A** - Underpin the building, repair the internal and external cracks, and redecorate. We estimate that this could be achieved from existing reserves and would cost **in the region of £20,000**. It would fix the existing problems but bring no significant improvements. There would be limited disruption to use of the hall whilst these works were carried out and it could be completed in 2025.
- **Option B** – Carry out structural repairs as per Option A above, replace the flat roof, and reorganise the interior area to bring layout and aesthetic improvements. We estimate that this could be achieved at a cost of **in the region of £40,000** and it would therefore require a material amount of fundraising. This would be more disruptive than Option A, but not significantly, and could be completed in the next 12 to 18 months subject to fundraising.
- **Option C** – The most ambitious option is to develop a plan to knock the existing extension down and build a brand new, slightly larger, North Wing. This would offer the opportunity to create a bigger space to the rear of the stage with new additional toilet facilities, increased storage upstairs within a new pitched roof and create a much larger flexible ground floor room, which could have multiple uses including as a meeting room, a rehearsal room or organised as multiple changing rooms for drama productions. However, the size of the ambition would need to be matched by a much bigger budget, certainly **in excess of £100,000** and the project would take up to a year to construct, after at least one to two years of developing plans and fundraising. This option would require planning permission, and then significant fundraising through charitable, commercial, government and community sources. It would be more disruptive to the use of the hall and a very big task, but the committee are prepared to accept the challenge, if there is sufficient appetite in the village to attempt this.

## NORTH WING QUESTIONS

Please only answer the questions below having read “**THE NORTH WING**” notes above

Have you ever had reason to use the North Wing of the Village Hall (the storage and backstage rooms behind the stage)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Would you say you are a regular user of the North Wing (whether that be frequent or non-frequent)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Whilst there are many points to consider that will make each of the scenarios set out above possible or not possible, please indicate your order of preference for the above options (score your favoured option with a “1”, your second favoured option with a “2” and your least favoured option with a “3”).	Option A <input type="checkbox"/> Option B <input type="checkbox"/> Option C <input type="checkbox"/>
If you have a strong preference for the committee to pursue a particular option, then please indicate it with a single tick in the box next to that option.	Option A <input type="checkbox"/> Option B <input type="checkbox"/> Option C <input type="checkbox"/>

## FINAL QUESTION

Is there anything else you would like to add regarding your thoughts on the future operation, maintenance or development of Lighthorne Village Hall?  Feel free to continue on a separate sheet of paper, or by email, if you need more space.	
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**N.B.** The descriptions of options A, B & C for the North Wing are of course flexible, and the cost indicators are currently very loose estimates to allow the committee to summarise the position, obtain views from stakeholders, and better inform the decision making. The final outcome will undoubtedly vary in terms of both definition and cost.

All members of Lighthorne Village Hall Management Committee (listed below) would be delighted to discuss the Village Hall with anyone who wishes to do so. Please contact them directly or using the email address [lighthornevillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:lighthornevillagehall@gmail.com) if you wish to chat.

**Please return this questionnaire by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025 by**

- email to [lighthornevillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:lighthornevillagehall@gmail.com) or
- posting it into the Village Hall post box (to the right of the main double doors) or
- delivering it to Josette Tait at Smithy Cottage, The Green, Lighthorne, CV35 0AN or
- handing it to any of the other committee members listed below.

**Mary-Lorraine Hughes**  
**John Hyde**  
**Fiona Driver**  
**Sandra Shaw**  
**Mike Langhorn**

**Anthony McGrath**  
**Josette Tait**  
**Rob Sherrington**  
**Piers Banfield**  
**Amanda Bond**