

2019 Reading Room Consultation Survey Results

Thank you very much for responding to our recent Reading Room consultation.

We have now collated the responses and the majority, by a clear margin, expressed the view that we should abandon the new build option and focus on the renovation and extension plan for which we already have planning permission.

That is *'The trustees should continue to try to get to a point where they have secured a fixed price (1) quote from builders for the Renovation and Extension of the existing hall for which planning permission has already been granted.'*

There were 134 valid responses: (288 on the electoral register)

95 - Renovation and Extension of Existing Hall (71%)

24 - Demolish and New build (18%)

15 - Neither option (11%)

This represented 72 properties: (out of approx. 155 properties)

50 - Renovation and Extension of Existing Hall (69.5%)

13 - Demolish and New build (18%)

9 - Neither option (12.5%)

There were a small number of very valid issues raised in the survey responses all of which are addressed [here](#).

The next step is for the trustees to focus on getting the Renovate and Extend option to the next stage - i.e. a fully specified, fully costed and risk-analysed project plan.

With this clear direction we can also put in some key grant applications which are nearly ready to go.

As a number of villagers have queried the costs of a renovation only option, we will also cost the work required to support the recommendations of the structural survey which would constitute a 'renovation only' option.

When we have these figures we will be in a position to consult with the village regarding the support for a Public Works Loan. At this time we will have a better indication of the cost per household of this method of finance.

In the meantime we have just been advised that we were successful in our first round application to the **Village Hall Improvement Grant** fund, referred to in the consultation packs, which is extremely positive news. If we are successful at the second and final stage of this process then the 20% VAT portion of the project will be covered.

We will continue to keep you updated with our progress on the project.

(1). Fixed price means that we will manage the identified risks by asking the builder to quote for both the risk not materialising and also for if the risk should materialise. We will only pay the higher price should the risk materialise but we will know in advance what the 'worst-case' price would be.