FROM THE TRUSTEES OF HOLWELL VILLAGE HALL

www.holwellvillagedorset.org.uk

Dear Residents of Holwell

During the last year there have been public meetings and discussions concerning the future of our Village Hall. **The Trustees of the Village Hall now need your informed view on how we should proceed.**

Over five years ago the hall (erected in 1924) was given an estimated lifespan of up to another ten years and this was subsequently confirmed in a report by a chartered building surveyor. It was also reported that it was not viable to carry out structural repairs because of the type of construction, being a wooden frame with corrugated iron cladding and an asbestos roof. The Village Hall Trustees have a clear choice, do nothing and Holwell will lose its Village Hall, possibly sooner if we have severe weather, or plan now for a much better replacement. The Hall is cold and expensive to heat in winter. The kitchen is a rudimentary attachment to the main hall, without adequate foundations and not possible to upgrade for catering purposes. Even so, the Hall has provided many happy memories as the focal point for community activities and replacing it will provide a real challenge.

The Trustees commissioned a professional report on the prospects of receiving essential grant funding for a new hall sufficient to incorporate modern facilities and energy saving features. The report states that Holwell meets the criteria for substantial funding from various sources. A very recent local example Moreton, with a similar population and lack of amenities, secured £365,000 from the lottery and £145,000 from Viridor for their new hall. www.moretonvillagehall.btck.co.uk

Currently our Hall is used regularly by Bowls, Yoga, U3A group, WI, Music Nights, Parish Council, and Youth Club as well as Quiz nights, Harvest Supper and Christmas Cracker events. A Table Tennis group is about to start but unfortunately we lost our regular Bingo bookings because amongst other factors, the facilities were considered unsatisfactory. It has been shown elsewhere that a new hall brings in new bookings as societies and groups seek to use bright, warm and comfortable facilities.

Before the Village Hall Trustees can proceed further with consultation about any new hall, location and grant funding we need your confirmation or rejection that you want the community to continue to have a village hall. If the majority vote "No" then the Hall will be closed when it is deemed structurally unsound. As part of the consultation process we need as many opinions as possible. **Please record in the boxes below the number of "Yes" or "No" votes from all members of your household aged ten and over.** Please retain the form which will be collected from you by one of the Trustees before 31 October. Thank you for participating.

Should Holwell continue to have a village hall?

YES	No. of votes	NO	No. of votes

Your name and address would be helpful but it is not essential:	
Name:	Address:

Comments: continue overleaf if necessary:

Information from the Trustees of Holwell Village Hall

Oliver Letwin's **SUPERFAST BROADBAND** update on Saturday 6 December has been postponed and will now take place in the Hall on **Saturday 14 February (unforgettable) at 9 am.** Holwell is still not scheduled to receive superfast broadband, unlike our neighbours in Pulham, Kings Stag and Bishops Caundle. Attend the meeting and show him just how unacceptable this is.

REPORT OF RESULT OF HOLWELL SURVEY OCTOBER 2014

Yes – Holwell should continue to have a Hall somewhere
No - do nothing about getting a new Hall notwithstanding chartered surveyor's report of some 4 years ago.

	VOTES		HOUSEHOLDS	
YES	216	89.3%	100	87.7%
NO	26	10.7%	14	12.3%
TOTAL	242		114	

ANALYSIS OF COMMENTS ON YESES

	VOTES		% of 242	HOUSEHOLDS	
No comments	120	55.5%	49.6%	56	56.0%
Comments in overall support	74	34.3%	30.6%	34	34.0%
Comments – use old site mentioned	22	10.2%	9.1%	10	10.0%
	216			**100**	

ANALYSIS OF COMMENTS ON NOS

	VOTES	HOUSEHOLDS
No comments	11	6
Share with others	4	2
If a hall is wanted keep it where it is	2	1
If the majority want a hall rebuild on current site	2	1
The old hall could go on for years	1	1
Don't want hall relocated	2	1
Long replies against one site, concluding – 'investigate other sites'	4	2
	26	**14**

A number of these NO comments are not against Holwell having a Hall, which was the question asked, but against one potential site.
Hence these might be thought of as 'YES BUTS'.

Many non-respondent households were called on at least twice. Some did not answer the door on both occasions, and some were left an extra form which they said they would return.

Some households did not want to be included – 'want to sit on fence', 'live on edge and use another village'.

Some properties in the village were empty.