

## **RESULTS OF THE SURVEY REGARDING THE CRAWLEY DOWN VILLAGE HALL**

### **ABOUT US**

The Crawley Down Residents Association (CDRA) is a non-political and non-sectarian unincorporated association operating in and around Crawley Down, West Sussex. It is run by a committee elected from our membership with the objectives to:

- i. Safeguard the interests of residents.
- ii. Assist residents in matters affecting the community.
- iii. Stimulate interest in local affairs.
- iv. Promote the quality of life in the Village by organising events and social occasions.
- v. Give financial assistance to local organisations subject to conditions to be determined by the executive committee from time to time.

Membership of the CDRA is per household and any household within / near Crawley Down can join the CDRA for a small fee of £5 per annum. We currently have 370 active memberships.

### **WHY DID WE DO A SURVEY?**

At the CDRA Committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019, it was decided that as planning application DM/19/2671 (for a new Village Hall with associated parking at The Havens Sportsfield Car Park) was attracting much attention within the local community the CDRA should, in accordance with our objectives (particularly i, ii and iii), submit a representation to the above planning application on behalf of the community.

Unfortunately, this coincided with the Crawley Down Village Fayre and volunteer time was diverted to delivering a great day for the village. As a result, the representation was never submitted to Mid Sussex District Council before the application was determined (approved).

### **WHAT DID WE DO?**

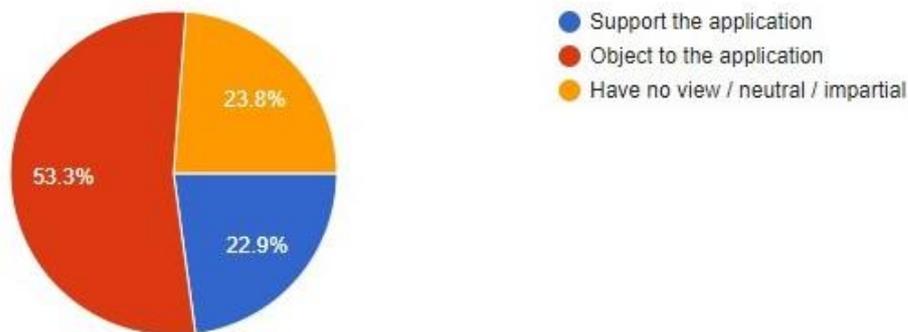
To ensure that the survey provided a fair reflection of local opinion the CDRA committee undertook an email survey of our membership (emails sent to 358 memberships – those we have email addresses for). 105 responses were received representing a response rate of 29.3%.

In the survey our members were asked whether they support the application, object to the application or have no view / neutral / impartial.

The results are set out on the following page.

## SURVEY RESULTS

	Number	Percentage
Support the application	24	22.9%
Object to the application	56	53.3%
Have no view / neutral / impartial	25	23.8%



It is therefore apparent that the majority (53.3%) of our membership who responded to our survey object to this application. Some provided comments and a summary of these are set out below:

- 23 separate comments mentioning that two other community halls exist (Glebe Centre & Haven Centre) and that the Haven Centre is in very close proximity to the proposed new site at only 225 metres away.
- 7 separate comments mentioning insufficient parking at proposed new site (both car parks at Haven Centre and the Sportsfield are full on football match days)
- 11 separate comments mentioning that Hophurst Lane cannot safely accommodate parked cars due to blind bends and many drivers exceeding the speed limit along that stretch of road.
- 5 separate comments about noise & disturbance to neighbouring residences and that the proposed plans will increase noise levels to those neighbouring properties causing disturbance and lack of enjoyment to their private property - something which every home owner is entitled to.
- 7 separate comments suggesting and questioning why the money from the land sale cannot be invested in improving the Haven Centre or combining the village hall into the Haven Centre.
- 8 separate comments mentioning the natural environment of the proposed site and mention of a number of very old & mature trees which are under immediate threat of being felled, which in turn will significantly impact on wildlife and questioning if there will be impact on neighbouring properties with issues such as “heave” from the removal of mature trees.
- 2 comments questioning what alternative locations have been considered that may also be more geographically central to the village (neither the existing village hall nor the proposed new site is central). Suggesting the site of the existing Royal Oak pub could be a sensible option, combining both a pub and village hall (and itself subject to a planning application DM/19/2719)
- Individual comments
  - objecting to the proposed new location but not to the overall concept of relocation
  - liking the existing village hall

- suggesting the proceeds of the land sale be spent on funding extra doctors at the village health centre
- Stating no economic justification or need for something so big and so close to Haven Centre. (No business plan supporting such a huge investment of money raised by selling an asset that 'belongs' to the village residents. No consideration given to neighbouring properties or consultation with them, so fails para 29 of District Plan amongst others. Not supported by Parish Council.
- Objecting to the potential of more housing being built in the existing location if bought by a developer adding stress on the already busy and over loaded community
- Pointing out that there is a lack of any pedestrian crossing for the village users who are said to be the main users.
- Questioning why the offer of additional land from the neighbour to the existing village hall not accepted
- Highlighting the lack of opening hours of the new village hall in the planning application which may require restrictions needing to be placed on closing times.
- Stating that the current Village Hall is an historic building and that it should be given a status worthy of preserving it, investing in its maintenance and addressing the issue of alternative parking nearby, including fully investigating the space taken by auxiliary buildings.

It is also noted that a minority (22.9%) of members support the application, some provided comments and a summary of these are set out below:

- 2 comments mentioning that the current use of the Village Hall has been constricted by absence of any nearby parking facility, coupled with the heavy Turners Hill Road traffic making it dangerous to attend events there, which is the sole reason why the evening Women's Institute moved to the Glebe Centre.
- 2 comments stating that the existing Village Hall is provided for villagers under a trust solely set up for that specific purpose, which is to provide an effective and viable Village Hall.
- Individual comments as follows
  - Our village needs a village hall
  - A new Village Hall will boast modern facilities that will benefit the whole of the village
  - I feel it should be built at the eastern side of the Haven
  - There is a continued need for the 3 venues for village activities [Village Hall, The Haven, Glebe Centre] this need can only increase with village expansion.
  - The existing Village Hall is in need of considerable maintenance.
  - Provisions have been made in the proposed new Village Hall for catering for larger groups and for indoor sports such as badminton.
  - The proposed new location would minimise the effects on neighbours compared with ""stand alone"" alternatives in a more built up area. The proposed site would, as a Village Hall, add little to already existing disturbances. Alternative use for residential purposes, such as flats, would also introduce comparable additional traffic
  - Eventually the existing Village Hall will fail and fall into disrepair and a replacement is necessary. Any funds realised from this failure could legally only be used for a replacement Village Hall.