

Whimble Victory Hall
The future of the Victory Hall

The Parish Councillors discussed in depth the request for feedback on 'The Future of the Victory Hall'

All Councillors expressed disappointment that after 10 years of a strategy group being formed there appeared to be:-

- No clear strategy in place
- No detailed costings or a schedule for carrying out the essential and other required work to maintain the present hall
- No draft plans and detailed costings for a new hall
- A perceived lack of engagement with the wider community to fundraise with most of the current 'war chest' funds appearing to be raised from hall users

The comments captured below are from the Councillors and are a mix of views brought about by the concerns above where, without a proper financial appraisal, a lack of a short and long term strategy, it is hard to say what is/what is not feasible. All would aspire to see a new hall and school in the village but with economic challenges Councillors were unanimous in agreeing that the Victory Hall should remain in its present site, in the centre of the village, working closely with the school and supporting each other for the benefit of the wider community

- Given the likely cost of a new hall may push a £ million (?) - (A figure widely banded around but where has this come from?) – It is unlikely to be raised in the short to medium term therefore a new hall is some way off. As we understand it the hall is in a very poor state of repair. We accept that the 100K that is held by the hall trustees could be used for a major refurb.
- The views of the wide community should be sought at the earliest opportunity and not just the opinions of the current hall users; we need to know what the wider populous want or if they are willing to support.
- The majority of the current Hall Committee have been in post for many years and have allowed the hall to fall into the current state of disrepair without still having any viable plan to replace it. We question whether they are the right people to drive a redevelopment forward or in fact have the ability to engage with the community.
- The school we would imagine is the major user of the hall we understand that the chair of the hall management group also represents the school within the same committee we feel that there may be a conflict of interest and question whether both parties are being fairly represented
- We would suggest a community meeting to discuss the future of the hall as someone may have connections / ideas that may be useful. Maybe crowd funding is an option as there are some wealthy folk in the area