

Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall; update from the New Committee.

In December 2021, members of the Memorial Hall Committee carried out a general survey of the village's reaction to the two basic proposals for the future of the Memorial Hall, either A: repair to the old hall or B: build a new facility.

We delivered to every household a copy of the letter with the above options. This was sent out with the Parish Newsletter and distributed to every household verified by the delivery team. As many of you are aware the collection was carried out by members of the committee and some wonderful volunteers, along with Santa, on the 18th and 19th of December 2021. Also, by request, the post-box at the Old School was made available as a drop-off point.

The reason this survey was carried out is that a previous hand poll taken at the AGM, held in the old School September 2021 and attended by only 33 people was not so well received by some of the residents attending that meeting. It was felt that due to the notification of the meeting being predominantly electronic, this may have precluded some residents, and therefore not a true reflection of how the majority of the village felt. The newly elected Committee then decided in a formal meeting held immediately after the AGM, in order to address this shortfall, it would be more realistic to take a door-to-door approach.

The Committee made every effort to collect all the returns from the residents who felt that they wanted to have some involvement in responding to this important issue. The returns were collected, then counted and kindly verified by Tony Jarrow.

Out of the Letters sent out to some 830 households, we had a return of 274 letters (this represented 33% of those distributed). Out of these, some were incorrectly filled out and some returned without either option selected, these are termed as "other" for counting purposes only. There were also some added notes which will be saved and brought forward at later meetings, when appropriate.

The returns were as follows:

Option 1 to repair/refurbish 30 (11.8%)
Option 2 to demolish/rebuild 225 (88.2%)
The "other" returns 19 (6.9%)

Included in the poll returns was, by the wonderful generosity of some of the village residents, a sum of £370.25 collected by Santa's Sleigh, and we wish to thank those people immensely. Shortly after this, we received a generous cheque to the value of £1,269.69 from a local charity group called 'Fern Charity'.

This means we start off 2022 with donations totalling £1639.94 which is wonderful news. In the coming months, there will be plenty to report and this will be done hopefully through a newly constructed website enabling the community to access and follow the activities leading up to each milestone along the way to achieving our goal. Also, regular updates will be published on the Cropwell News website and the distributed Parish Newsletter.

We can confirm that everyone on the New Committee is fully on board with ensuring the greatest respect to the heritage of the old building and indeed we will endeavour to incorporate as many elements as practical, of the village resident's suggestions, within whatever design transpires. A key feature will be a dedicated space to the commemoration of Cropwell Bishop's heritage and history to be created for future residents to enjoy.

David Whisson
Chairman
Cropwell Bishop Memorial Hall Committee