

The Impact of the Investment in Village Halls



South West
ACRE Network

A Research Report by Village Halls Advisers in the South West of England

2005 - 2006

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank all the village halls for completing and returning their questionnaires. We would also like to thank the South West ACRE Network (SWAN) Village Hall Advisers, who have been involved in the development, research and production of this report. This includes Beverley Crocker (Community Action), Andrea Leplae (Community Council of Devon), David Kinross (Community Council of Devon), Terry Black (Community Council of Devon), Eileen Zoers (Community Council for Somerset), Peter Burton (Cornwall Rural Community Council), Jon Teague (Cornwall Rural Community Council), Lois Rose (Dorset Community Action), Katie Griffin (Community First, Wiltshire) and Barbara Pond (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council).

"The whole ambience of the hall has improved 100%. People are now proud of their village hall."

Silton Village Hall, Dorset

"The use of the hall has increased considerably. Many of the organisations that had previously abandoned it have returned."

Whitstone Village Hall, Cornwall



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	-	Page 1
Aim of Project	-	Page 2
Methodology	-	Page 2
Key Findings of Research	-	Page 3 - 4
Results	-	Page 5 - 6
Case Study	-	Page 7
Conclusion and Recommendations	-	Page 8
Appendices	-	Page 9 - 18
Appendix 1: Village Hall Reference Codes	-	Page 10
Appendix 2: Table of Results	-	Page 11 - 13
Appendix 3: Questionnaire Comments	-	Page 14 - 17
Appendix 4: Sample of Questionnaire	-	Page 18 - 19

THE IMPACT OF THE INVESTMENT IN VILLAGE HALLS

INTRODUCTION

Village Halls, Community or Reading Rooms, Community Halls, Memorial Halls, Village Institutes and Community Centres: there are many different titles for these buildings, reflecting a variety of interesting backgrounds but all are vital local resources. Multi-use venues engage communities; provide a focus for community activity, as well as offering a wide range of services and events. They are run by volunteers forming management committees: these are dedicated people who donate thousands of hours annually to keep their hall or rooms open by managing lettings, fundraising, keeping up to date with the latest relevant legislation and developing their venues to adapt to the changes in society's needs.

Hundreds of activities are currently arranged in these venues across the South West but, whatever the individual name, the community facility is an important tool in tackling social exclusion and empowering communities to engage with the various opportunities that may exist. There are over 1700 such buildings serving their communities within the counties of the SWAN - Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, former Avon, Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.

The value of village halls has been recognised in the past and supported by funds from various bodies, such as the Countryside Agency and, more recently, the National Lottery's Community Fund, which have provided essential funding towards hall improvements. These were terminated in 1999 and 2004 respectively, leaving a void for many halls needing major refurbishments, extensions, or new halls to develop activities. Without a key funding source available village halls are left to try to co-ordinate complex funding packages between many smaller charitable trusts and foundations. Small pockets of funding are available through some local authorities but this is very inconsistent, ranging from around £2,000 to £80,000. On the 11th July 2006 the new Big Lottery Community Buildings programme commenced with £50m to spend over the next three years to meet the needs of the whole country. However, a major influx of applications is anticipated, as large capital projects have accrued during the two-year gap since the closure of the Community Fund.

The purpose of this survey is to analyse the impact on village halls, and the communities using them, arising from various levels of investment for capital improvement projects. It compares hall use prior to investment, with changes following development. It will be seen that the information gained illustrates the immense and long-lasting benefits that are brought to communities through capital investment in village halls and other community buildings, and can be used to assure new and potential funders that putting money into village hall projects is a long term investment in our rural communities.

AIM OF PROJECT

The SWAN Village Hall Advisers (VHAs) have long been aware that when a village/community hall committee received grants to improve or replace its hall, it has a considerable impact on the development and sustainability of, not only that hall, but the community as a whole. This can be from new activities taking place, new groups forming and existing ones increasing their membership post project completion. Funding from one source can lever funding from another source. However, there was little hard evidence to back this up.

SWAN VHAs agreed that from their experience, it can take from two to five years for halls to reach their full potential after completion of an improvement or new build project. It was decided that halls to be used in the research must have completed their project a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years from the date when the data was collected. It was decided that the sample of halls surveyed must also provide a good cross-section of project types.

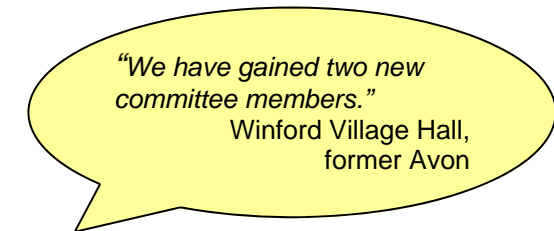
METHODOLOGY

Five halls from each county (*former Avon*, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire) that met the following agreed project types were sent a questionnaire:

- ⇒ One new build where there had previously been no legally established village hall or no hall at all
- ⇒ One hall where it was a replacement for an existing (ageing) village hall
- ⇒ Two improvement projects, one each of: a) to include an extension
b) a major refurbishment
- ⇒ One partial refurbishment

The same questions were asked for both before (pre) and after (post) project completion, in order to record the changes that had occurred as a result of the investment made by the hall committees and funders. The questionnaire collected information about the number and type of user groups, income, hire charges, and maintenance costs (see appendix 4, page 18).

Both qualitative and quantitative data is to be collected. The results of the quantitative data are to be statistically analysed to produce percentage accurate figures (see results, page 6) while the quantitative data will reflect the thoughts and opinions of village hall committees (see speech bubbles throughout the research report).



KEY FINDINGS

The following key findings were derived from the statistical and qualitative analysis of the data collected for this research.

The overall impact of the project investment is shown in the following figures:

Monthly bookings *increased by 268%*
Weekly bookings *increased by 176%*
Occasional bookings *increased by 70%*

These are total figures taken from the 30 halls surveyed. It is consistently shown that investment in a village hall results in significant increases in its usage. In the comments section of this report, one can also see the increase in diversity of use of the hall and new populations served.

Key finding

- **Capital investment in the vast majority of the halls surveyed shows new and more diverse usage of the hall. This is a consistent and true funding argument for village halls.**

Income to the village halls increased by 167% in total, once the project had been completed, whilst the expenditure only increased by 67% (see results page 6).

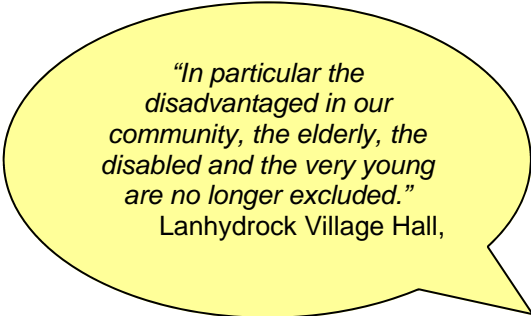
Key finding

- **Capital investment to village halls results in new surpluses being generated, which helps to sustain village halls in the future. Funders need to be informed that sustainability can be achieved through capital investment.**

From the time of investment (i.e. grants spent) into a community building, such as a village hall, it takes at least two consecutive years before impact should be evaluated. This allows adequate time for re-opening of the hall, re-launch of activities after a period of possible closure due to refurbishment and new activities to be developed, promoted and started.

Key findings

- **Any monitoring or evaluation takes place at two years post-completion of a capital project.**



"In particular the disadvantaged in our community, the elderly, the disabled and the very young are no longer excluded."
Lanhydrock Village Hall,

KEY FINDINGS Continued

- **As a matter of good practice, Village Hall Committees and Village Hall Advisers plan to monitor base-line level of activity prior to project commencement and then post-level activity after the project has been completed.**

There is a huge range of local investment into projects part-funded from government agencies. There is no 'norm' percentage of local financial input as some village halls have put in 100%, others 0%. The figures report south west communities inputting £1,217,568 into their village halls, which is a substantial amount of community fundraising.

Key finding

- **That significant financial input comes from the community itself but funders need to remain flexible and accept varying degrees of financial input from the community.**

The funding packages for the 30 projects studied, revealed that communities raised £1,217,568 of the funding needed for capital works, which is a substantial amount of community fundraising.

Key finding

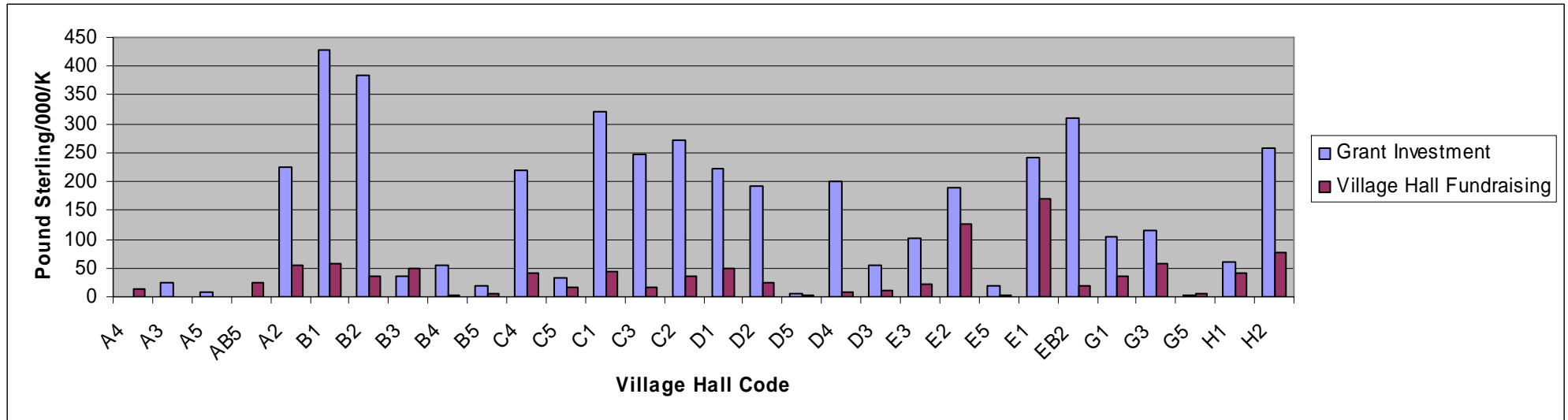
- **Funders' investment generally represents 80% of the investment needed to build, rebuild and refurbish village halls in the South West.**

Other interesting areas of research, that are beyond the scope of this paper:

- **The impact that other village facilities experience as a result of investment into the community building. For example, preliminary results show that local pub and shop trading is increased when the village hall is used more, following a major refurbishment.**
- **Community investment could be looked at according to population size, indicating how smaller/larger communities have been able to contribute smaller/greater proportion of the total funding package.**

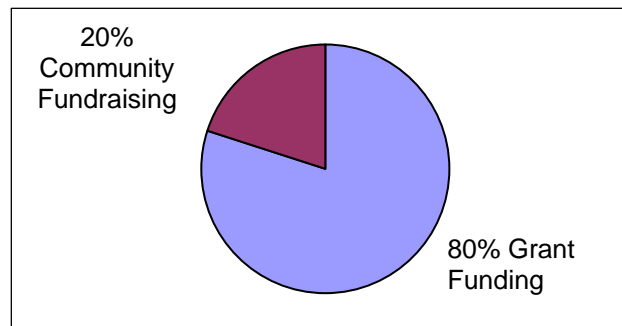
RESULTS

Figure 1: Capital Investment into Village Halls



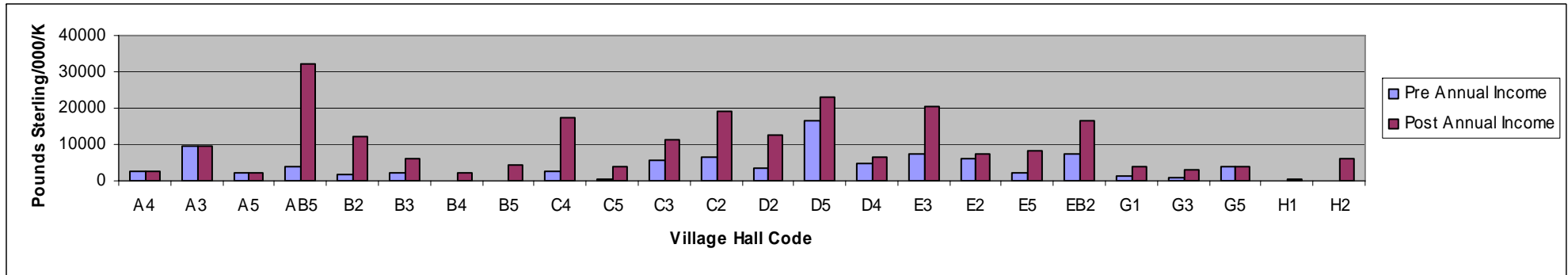
Graph 1 clearly shows that grant funding is of major importance for large capital works projects in village halls within the south west. The thirty village halls studied in this report had a total investment, worth £5,389,003. The difference in percentage contributions communities fundraised towards their village halls varied across the region although the larger projects had a tendency to require more grant input. Graph 2 shows that the communities themselves had fundraised a total of £1,217,568 towards works within their village halls, which is approximately 20% of the capital income needed.

Figure 2: Average Percentage Income Investment for Village Halls Comparing Grant Funding Against Community Fundraising



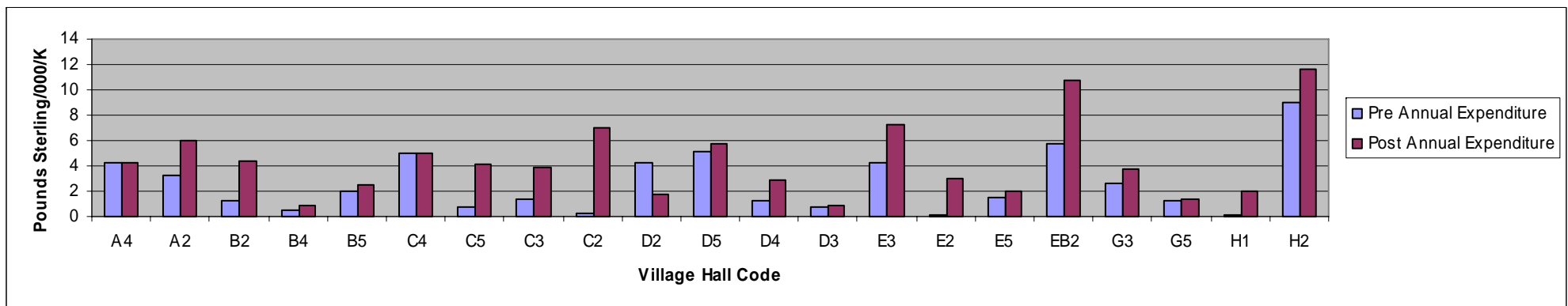
RESULTS Continued

Figure 3: Comparing Annual Income of Village Halls Pre/Post Capital Works Projects



Graph 3 shows the income of a village hall before (pre) and after (post) a capital works project is undertaken. Only the village halls, which could provide both sets of data have been used for statistical analysis. The graph shows (in the majority of cases) village halls income increases after a capital works project is undertaken. In the case of a number of village halls (e.g. AB5—South Stoke, former Avon and C4 Norton Fitzwarren, Somerset) where a refurbishment was undertaken the income generated substantially increased. By comparing the mean average total post annual income against pre annual income shows an increase in revenue of 167%. Graph 4 shows that after (post) a capital works project has been undertaken there is an increase in annual expenditure across the total number of village halls. The mean average expenditure increase of all the village halls is 67%. This is due partly to extra usage of the hall and the extra expenditure is offset by the increase in revenue (figure 3), which means overall village halls receive a significant financial benefit from capital works on average up to 100% net income gained.

Figure 4: Comparing Annual Expenditure of Village Halls Pre/Post Capital Works Projects



CASE STUDY

Davis Hall, West Camel, South Somerset

West Camel is a village of 380 adults plus children, situated just off the A303, six miles from Yeovil, Sherborne, and Castle Cary. For many years the only public meeting space was the very small church hall.

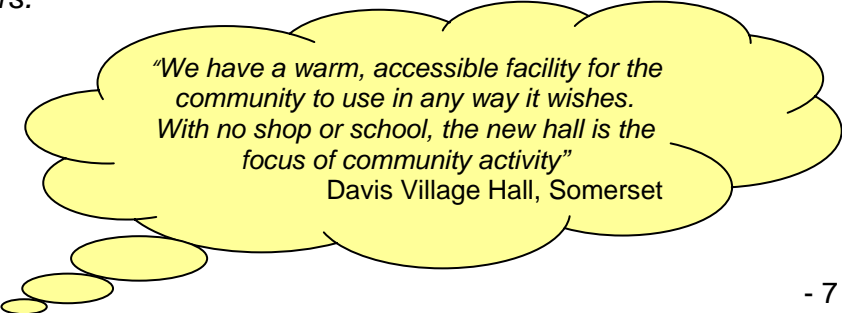
A Parish Appraisal in 1966 identified 50 activities that could not take place in the village in the limited space of the church hall or without the need to travel. For 20 years the community activities and social interaction had been restricted and frustrated due to the poor facilities available.

The Davis Village Hall had to fundraise £36,000 within the community by organising various events which included quiz evenings, Mid Summer fair, Christmas Bazaar, clay pigeon shoot, gift aid and many more. They also obtained grants from Somerset County Council, South Somerset District Council, the National Lottery Charities Board and others, totalling £271,740. They opened their new hall in 2001.

The two weekly activities that had previously taken place in the church hall had, in the new hall, risen to seven. By 2005 they had short mat bowls, a lunch club, drama club, farmers market, post office, dance groups, youth club, keep fit, adult classes all taking place in the hall. The two local Churches now come together once a month for joint worship at the hall.

Statistics

The community raised 11% of the total project costs. The number of people using the hall annually has risen from 6,668 to 19,312, an increase of 190%; the number of different activities has risen from 7 to 13, an increase of 54%. Average annual income has risen from £407 to £9,800, that's £9393 each year; the hall is more than solvent, its annual surplus has increased from £117 to £2,745. On these figures, the investment in this hall by the grant makers will be repaid in just 25 years. The minimum life expectancy for a building of this type is 100 years.

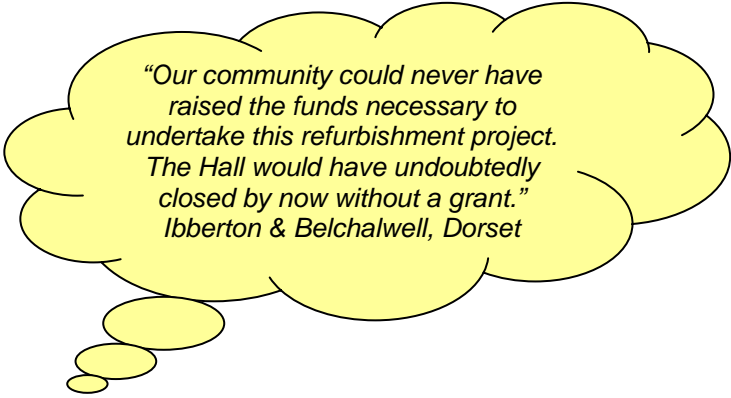


"We have a warm, accessible facility for the community to use in any way it wishes. With no shop or school, the new hall is the focus of community activity"
Davis Village Hall, Somerset

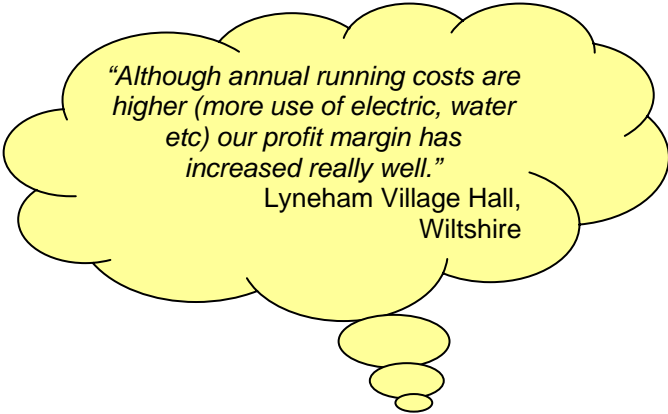


CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This survey has highlighted the longer term benefits of capital investments in village halls and community buildings. Although this survey has focused on investments in the South West Region, the key findings are likely to be reflected across the country. Hopefully as the Community Building Programme from the Big Lottery Fund gets underway, other funding bodies will recognise the financial and social returns of investing capital funding in community buildings. It is highlighted in the research that investment in village halls can have a positive impact on other village facilities and to verify these initial findings further research needs to be undertaken.



"Our community could never have raised the funds necessary to undertake this refurbishment project. The Hall would have undoubtedly closed by now without a grant."
Ibberton & Belchalwell, Dorset



"Although annual running costs are higher (more use of electric, water etc) our profit margin has increased really well."
Lyneham Village Hall,
Wiltshire

APPENDICES



Photograph Credits

Front Cover Left to Right

Photograph 1 Morden Village Hall Fun Day Prior to New Build (Dorset Community Action)

Photograph 2 Disability Access Training (Community Council of Devon)

Photograph 3 Stokeinteignhead Village Hall New Build (Community Council of Devon)

Photograph 4 Morden Village Hall New Build (Dorset Community Action)

Photograph 5 Line Dancing Event in Morden Village Hall After New Build (Dorset Community Action)

Page 7 - Case Study

Photograph 6 Davis Village Hall (Community Council for Somerset)

APPENDIX 1: VILLAGE HALL REFERENCE CODES

Hall Ref Code	Name	Project	County
A4	Blagdon	Refurbishment	Former Avon
A3	Winford	Refurbish & Extend	Former Avon
A5	Doynton	Partial Refurbishment	Former Avon
AB5	South Stoke	Partial Refurbishment	Former Avon
A2	Bishop Sutton	Replacement Hall	Former Avon
B1	Durweston	New Provision	Dorset
B2	Morden	Replacement Hall RH	Dorset
B3	Silton	Refurbish & Extend	Dorset
B4	Ibberton & Belchalwell	Refurbishment	Dorset
B5	Blackdown	Partial Refurbishment	Dorset
C4	Norton Fitzwarren	Refurbishment	Somerset
C5	Clapton Whyford	Refurbishment	Somerset
C1	Crowcombe	New Provision	Somerset
C3	Chilthorne Dormer	Refurbish & Extend	Somerset
C2	West Camel	Replacement Hall	Somerset
D1	Carleen	New Provision	Cornwall
D2	Ladock	Replacement Hall	Cornwall
D5	Landulph	Partial Refurbishment	Cornwall
D4	Lanhydrock	Refurbishment	Cornwall
D3	Whitstone	Refurbish & Extend	Cornwall
E3	Colerne	Refurbish & Extend	Wiltshire
E2	Oaksey	Replacement Hall	Wiltshire
E5	Lyneham	Partial Refurbishment	Wiltshire
E1	Biddlestone	New Provision	Wiltshire
EB2	Bratton	Replacement Hall	Wiltshire
G1	Wyck Rissington	Replacement Hall	Gloucestershire
G3	Broadwell	Refurbish & Extend	Gloucestershire
G5	Cold Aston	Partial Refurbishment	Gloucestershire
H1	Rattery	Replacement Hall	Devon
H2	South Brent	Refurbishment	Devon

APPENDIX 2: TABLE OF RESULTS

Key to Table:

Job = Project type:-	1 - NP	Brand new hall provision
	2 - RH	Replacement hall
	3 - RX	Refurbishment + extension
	4 - R	Total refurbishment
	5 - PR	Partial refurbishment - 1-2 areas
Profile:-	RV	Rural Village
	V	Village
	(R)/ VN	(Rural)/ Village NO Facilities
	(R)/ VF	(Rural)/ Village WITH Facilities
Population	1	up to 300
	2	301-500
	3	501-1000
	4	1001-3000
	5	over 3000
£ = Cost bands:-	1	under 25,000
	2	26-100,000
	3	101-250,000
	4	251-500,000
	5	over 500,000
Activity Frequency	NB	Figures shown on the chart are per person
M/PM		Pre project Monthly / Post Project
W/PW		Pre project Weekly / Post Project
O/PO		Pre project Occasional / Post Project
+		Additional activities or people post project completion
Ins / PIns		Pre project Annual Income / Post project annual income
Outs / POuts		Pre project Annual expenditure / Post project annual expenditure
Maint / Maint		Pre project Annual maintenance / Post project annual maintenance
Hiring LB / Hiring LA		Hiring rate to locals before project / after project
Hiring NLB / Hiring NLA		Hiring rate to non-locals before project / after project
+ / -		Overall Annual Increase/Decrease in people using hall (NB there were no negative figures from the sample)
Ex		Number of additional activities per annum

APPENDIX 2: TABLE OF RESULTS Continued

Hall	Pop	Location	Job	Cost	Grants in £k	£k Community %	M	W	O	Ann	PostM	Post W	Post O	Post annl
A4	4	RVF	R	1	0.000	all 100	82	30	80	2624	82	30	80	2624
A3	4	RVF	E	1	25.000	0.000 0	130	140	800	9640	130	140	800	9640
A5	2	RVN	PR	1	9.000	0.000 0	100	20	0	2240	100	20	0	2240
AB5	2	VN	PR	1	0.000	25.000 100	40	65	90	3950	2500	40	65	32145
A2	3	VF	RH	4	225.000	55.000 20		104		5408		184		9568
B1	2	RVF	NP	4	428.000	57.000 12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	300	215	70	14850
B2	1	RVN	RH	4	383.872	35.000 9		30	100	1660	124	200	390	12278
B3	1	RVN	RX	2	35.000	50.000 50	70	21	138	2070	110	85	180	5920
B4	2	RVN	R	2	56.000	4.000 7			185	185	80	20	40	2040
B5	1	RVN	PR	2	20.000	6.000 23			100	100	110	52	175	4199
C4	5	VF	R	4	220.000	40.000 18	100	25	4	2504	250	277	5	17409
C5	2	VNF	R	2	32.000	15.600 49	0	0	250	250	132	46	10	3986
C1	2	RVF	NP	4	322.000	43.600 14	N/A	N/A	N/A		24	84	460	5116
C3	2	VN	RX	4	247.795	16.442 7	12	100	200	5544	140	188	0	11456
C2	2	VN	RH	4	271.740	36.000 13	52	110	324	6668	86	340	600	19312
D1	2	RVN	NP	4	222.553	50.000 22	N/A	N/A	N/A		146	148	550	9998
D2	2	RVF	RH	3	191.641	25.811 13	130	34	72	3400	285	174	40	12508
D5	2	VN	PR	1	6.500	3.974 38	396	222	150	16446	245	370	707	22887
D4	1	RVN	R	3	198.999	8.000 4	17	77	546	4754	162	77	617	6565
D3	3	RVF	RX	2	55.250	10.067 18				0	57	104	237	6329
E3	Ukn	VF	RX	3	101.659	20.673 20		128	795	7451	300	305	775	20235
E2	1	VF	RH	4	188.000	127.000 40	32	108	70	6070	20	132	320	7424
E5	5	VF	PR	2	20.000	3.250 16	20	40	0	2320	115	132	100	8344
E1	2	RVN	NP	4	242.000	170.000 41	0	0	0	0	87	125	392	7936
EB2	4	RVF	RH	4	310.998	20.357 7	156	93	792	7500	170	255	1205	16505
G1	1	RVN	RH	3	105.000	35.000 33	22	15	85	1129	32	65	65	3829
G3	2	VN	RX	3	113.875	56.311 49		17		884	120	28		2896
G5	1	VN	PR	1	2.700	4.363 17	25	65	180	3860	25	65	275	3955
H1	2	VNF	RH	3	60.000	40.000 40	22	35	12	80	62	194	300	300
H2	4	VF	R	4	259.120	76.574 30	233	110		110	70	300		5880
Total					4354	1,035 39	1639	1589	4973	91439	6040	4395	8458	288374

APPENDIX 2: TABLE OF RESULTS Continued

Hall	Pop	Location	Job	Inc	Outs	Mnt	PMnt	+ / -	P/Inc	P/Outs	Hire LB	Hire NLB	Hire LA	Hire NLA
A4	4	RVF	R	4.000	4.300	2,400	3,000	600	4.400	4.300	£18.00	£18	£20	£20.00
A3	4	RVF	E	5.600	4.200			0	N/A	N/A				
A5	2	RVN	PR	N/A	N/A			0	N/A	N/A				
AB5	2	VN	PR	2.211	2.211			0	N/A	N/A				
A2	3	VF	RH	3.145	3.191	1,300	3,337	2,037	7.300	6.000	£17.50	£25.75	£17.50-£21	£42-£63
B1	2	RVF	NP	N/A	N/A	N/A			54.570*	51.900**	N/A	N/A	£7.5-£10	£15-£30
B2	1	RVN	RH	2.457	1.287	N/A			11.403	4.328#	£7.00	£10	£18-£50	£30-£100
B3	1	RVN	RX	1.147	0.959			0			£6-£10	£9-£20	£8-£10	£10-£20
B4	2	RVN	R	0.708	0.519		549	549	1.785	0.844	£8.00	£8	£12.25	£11.50-£14
B5	1	RVN	PR	1.750	2.000		600	600	4.000	2.500	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50	£10.50
C4	5	VF	R	3.500	5.045		1,500	1,500	7.500	5.000	£8-£20	£8-20	£8-£50	£8-£50
C5	2	VNF	R	0.406	0.791		1,432	1,432	5.959	4.103	N/A	N/A	£12	£24.00
C1	2	RVF	NP	N/A	N/A	261	139	-122	8.600	5.657	N/A	N/A	£12	£17.00
C3	2	VN	RX	1.916	1.355	220	144	-76	4.656	3.856	£21	£21	£24.5	£24.5
C2	2	VN	RH	0.407	0.290	125	100	-25	9.800	7.055	£7.00	£14	£17.5	£24.50
D1	2	RVN	NP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		1.181	5.260	N/A	N/A	£11	£25.00
D2	2	RVF	RH	5.789	4.232	418	120	-298	2.640	1.689	£10.50	£12.25	£14	£17.50
D5	2	VN	PR	5.519	5.097	315	2,222	1,907	7.827	5.714	£3.85	£5.50	£17.50	£25.50
D4	1	RVN	R	1.574	1.223	476	2,646	2,170	5.570	2.888	£17.50	£21	£17.50	£21.00
D3	3	RVF	RX	0.525	0.714	697	343	-354	1.600	0.895	£14.00	£21-£24.5	£21-£35	£15-20
E3	Ukn	VF	RX	5.978	4.236	3,333	1,385	-1,948	10.041	7.278	£17.00	£20.50	£18	£21.50
E2	1	VF	RH	0.400	0.100	400	500	100	5.000	3.000	£15.00	£20	£12-£32	£15-£45
E5	5	VF	PR	2.000	1.500	250	0	-250	5.000	2.060	£17.50	£17.50	£17.50-£21	£21.00
E1	2	RVN	NP			0	0	0	5.392	6.012	£0.00	£0.00	£24.50	£31.50
EB2	4	RVF	RH	5.407	5.707	216	2,664	2,448	6.404	10.738	£22.75	£22.75	£26.75	£35.00
G1	1	RVN	RH	7.249	2.650	259		-259					£10	£15.00
G3	2	VN	RX	5.564	2.568	11,106	941	-10,165	6.381	3.688	£14-£20	£16-£25	£14-£25	£18-£30
G5	1	VN	PR	0.865	1.191	294	1,088	794	0.835	1.365	£14.00	£17.50	£17.50	£21.00
H1	2	VNF	RH	.970	.150		100	100	5.800	2.000	£12.50	£24	£17.50-£21	£24.50-£28
H2	4	VF	R	11.942	8.956	2985	2780	-205	15,421	11,671	£11.40	£22.75	£14	£28
Totals				68.117	55.366		22,710	640	94.262	63.039				

Comments: * includes final grants **final fitting costs; #just 18 months after opening so not settled yet.

APPENDIX 3: QUESTIONNAIRE COMMENTS

The following is a list of comments extracted from the questionnaire survey and at the end of the statement is the village hall code number, which can be referenced in Appendix 1.

- Blood Donor Sessions - 4 per year booked well in advance. BANES is a regular user plus Primary Care Trust. All users from the village are encouraged to have a presence on the Management Committee - not always advisable. Work has increased dramatically over the last few years and the new hall is fast becoming a business covered by volunteers. **A2**
- Alcohol Licence. Good promotion using website for weddings and hiring and events. **B1**
- The hall is a focus for Clapton, Wayford, Hewish, and Woolminstone villages and is the sole public local amenity. **C5**
- The whole ambience of the hall has improved 100%. People are now proud of their village hall. We have several schemes in the pipeline for improved usage. It is significant that we are getting private bookings e.g. wedding reception. **B3**
- Provision of much needed community centre re: bingo has been temporarily suspended to a chorus of complaints. Village youth now has a focus. Noticeable increase in private bookings. Villagers look forward to annual new-year party and Halloween. **C4**
- More people attend events and support fundraising activities. There has been more interest in joining the committee and new blood on the committee has strengthened it. The village is very proud of the new hall and [it has] brought the community together more. **D2**
- More of the community has become involved with fundraising activities. **D5**
- More committee members have joined the management committee. Volunteers from the Committee plus community members decorated the Village Hall after refurbishment and continue to do so to help keep maintenance costs down. The Car Park next to the Village Hall has been resurfaced and is used to try and help alleviate the problem of parent's double-parking outside local school. User groups within Hall have donated items to be used by hirers of the Hall, for example the Luncheon Club donated a cooker and fridge. The local community has rediscovered their Hall and takes renewed pride in its existence. **E3**
- This has turned out to be a valuable community building, much appreciated by the village and increasing used for a wide variety of activities, for old and young (and in between). **E1**
- Plenty of people willing to be Trustees once the project finished. Afraid of becoming liable if shortfall arose during building as we built it ourselves for no payment! No shortfall no borrowing at completion or since. **H1**

APPENDIX 3: QUESTIONNAIRE COMMENTS Continued

- Original Committee 6 members, raised to 14 members. The Jubilee Hall now has better facilities of all kinds, e.g. kitchen, toilets – disabled access and toilets; stage and committee/changing room, with a floor area doubled in size. **EB2**
- The refurbished hall has created more interest in the community & we now have younger committee members taking an active role. There is also a greater awareness of the benefits of having an asset as opposed to a liability. Also, because of the increase in use, we have been able to keep our fees the same as before the project. **D4**
- Two new committee members. **A3**
- The great majority of activities and events carried out in the ... Recreation and Community hall were not possible prior to its construction, as the existing building, Church House, built C1500, is a scheduled ancient monument and cannot be adapted for modern use. **C1**
- Since the extension/refurbishment of the hall, the use has increased considerably. Many of the organisations that had abandoned it as a venue have returned. Many organisations from outside the parish are holding events in the building. The requirement of the new management arrangements have meant that organisations that use the hall have representation on the management committee. Indicative of the increased use of the hall (allowing for changes in charges), the rental income for 2002/3 was over £3k & so far for 2004/5 is over £2.5k. The hall is now regarded as a valuable asset & a building of which the community is proud. **D3**
- The village hall has once again re-established itself as the centre of social and recreationally activity in the village. New members have joined the committee. The mobile post office has been a major success from the point of building community involvement - £4000 raised from the sale of teas/cakes for church plus it is the place to meet people of all ages for a chat each week. SSDCE now hold their meetings in the hall each quarter, which gives members of the village the opportunity to see how the next level of local government actually works - as well as providing the hall with valuable income. **C3**
- One or two new committee members; computerisation of village hall records/papers; better-planned maintenance schedule. **G5**
- The kitchen upgrade necessary to comply with health regulations, did not increase activities. **A5**

APPENDIX 3: QUESTIONNAIRE COMMENTS Continued

•We have a safe house above the flood plain. We have a warm, accessible facility for the community to use in any way it wishes. With no shop or school, the new hall is the focus of community activity and saves us from driving to neighbouring towns for activity and entertainment. A survey in 1966 asked what people would do in a new hall and would they lead and run the activity. They said they would and they do. Our committee of 16 covers all adult age groups 20's to 80's and is fully subscribed. **C2**

•A small team of (mainly) women has been recruited to help with maintenance of the hall and from this grew a group which has fundraised for the Parish Council over the past year to provide new play equipment on the near by playing field. This will be installed in March 2005. The Management Committee is still mainly elderly but one or two younger members now represent the groups that use the hall. **E2**

• In Terms of Rural Regeneration, which the Defra grant of £36,000 was for, it benefits the village to have a hall that shows what can be done and provides a modern and optimistic environment for community activities and enterprises. **H2**

• Committee are still the same. Improvements still in progress, phase 2 is land around the halls (*fencing & facilities for children awarded £5000 from Awards for All 17/3/05*) Phase 3 will be the stage. New groups really like the lowered ceiling and central heating. We can also pay a cleaner, which makes a big difference to the hall appearance. Although annual running costs are higher (more electric, water etc) used our profit margin has increased really well. We also have a couple of promising leads from new clubs. **E5**

• The refurbishment has given a new life to this much loved facility, enabling it to acquire a Community Premises Licence. This has enabled the community to, not only continue existing use but to significantly expand its use and range of uses. In particular, the disadvantaged in our community, the elderly, disabled, and very young are no longer excluded. We now have disabled access, toilet and washing facilities, heating and a well-equipped modern kitchen. With a facility that can house exhibitions, art & entertainment events (4 stage lanterns and a portable stage where purchased within the refurbishment project), film shows. The project has broadened the cultural horizons and improved quality of life for residents who otherwise would not have access to these facilities and people of all social groups are mixing together. Our community could never have raised the funds necessary to undertake this refurbishment project. The Hall would have undoubtedly closed by now due to recent legislation. This year we are insulating and replacing the roof material, which requires a repaint 3 yearly. Due to increased usage and hire of chairs, tables and the portable stage, the Committee have raised most of the £5, 000 needed to cover the cost. **B4**

• Planning to run a craft club possibly weekly; games evening, scrabble whist quiz evenings; to organize a lunch club for the lonely and elderly; want to get something going for children and teenagers. The new hall is so attractive, warm, easy to clean and run. Everyone who has seen it is very impressed and full of praise and interested in hiring when they need it for family parties and social occasions. **G1**

APPENDIX 3: QUESTIONNAIRE COMMENTS Continued

- What tick box forms cannot take into account is the level of comfort, willingness to attend, ability to hear, to see the screen and be the pride of users and the community in their much upgraded and extended facilities. Those 'hard of hearing' occasional attendees are now seen at many more meetings; people look forward to an event in the hall knowing that they will be seated comfortable and that the facilities match their reasonable expectations. They also know that with the height of the drop down screens anything on a screen can be seen from all parts of the main hall (and in turn in the meeting room). We do not need to ask if any attendees are disabled because we now have the facilities for them. The storeroom is on the same level as the main hall, making setting up so much easier. We think that it is the general upgrading of all aspects of the hall that has encouraged people to hold family events there. I cannot over-emphasise what an enormous difference the funding and therefore the works have made to users of the hall and the community at large. The praise we have received for what has been achieved has occasionally been almost (not quite) embarrassing. Finally perhaps I should add that despite these massive changes, we continue to examine ways to improve our hall for the community we serve. **G3**

APPENDIX 4: SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

Village and Community Halls.

Establishing the impact of: improvements/replacement or building a new village hall on the use of the hall and services available to the community before and after project completion.

Name of village _____ County _____.

Short profile of village e.g. *Near small town, on a major road, no shops, school etc.*

Population: under 300 / 301 – 500 / 501 – 1,000 / 1001 – 3,000 / over 3,000 *Please circle as appropriate*

Outline of village/community hall project. When did you start actual building work. Date / /

Total project cost: under £25,000 / £26,000 - £100,000 / £101,000 - £250,000 / £251,000 - £500,000 / over £500,000. *Please circle as appropriate*

Total grants received towards the project £ _____

Total local input in the project e.g. *fundraising, gifts in kind, Parish Council, grants from small trusts, sale or gift of building/site, loans.* £ _____

Pre project details

Annual Income, expenditure and maintenance costs in the year prior to work taking place.

Annual income from hirings	£	Annual running costs/ outgoings incl. loan repayments	£	Annual Maintenance and repairs costs	£

Hourly /session hiring rate prior to project:

Beneficiaries (local community) £ _____

Non beneficiaries (outside the area) £ _____

Level of use prior to project taking place.

List of all user groups/events	Average no. people present per session	Frequency of regular activity e.g. daily, twice weekly, monthly etc.	Occasional Use. Please state. e.g. twice a year annually
Pre school activities 0-4years e.g. crèche, preschool, parent toddler etc.			
Children's activities 5-12 after school club, brownies, cubs, play-scheme etc.			
Young peoples activities 13-19 e.g. youth club			
Adult fitness, recreation, sport activities e.g. yoga, keep-fit, short mat bowls, gardening clubs etc.			
Adult cultural activities, photography, painting, drama clubs			
Older adult activities e.g. luncheon club, senior citizens etc.			
Private hirings e.g. weddings parties, social gatherings			
Enterprising activities that generate surplus funds for the hall e.g. Conferences, farmers markets, antique, craft fairs			
Education & training e.g. adult learning, return to work, IT, basic skills courses			
Other community activities e.g. polling station, Parish council meetings			
Health services e.g. Dr. surgery, chiropody			
Community shop/post office			
Other			

APPENDIX 4: SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE Continued

Post project completion.

Post project completion should (have completed by a maximum of 5years and a minimum of 18 months ago). Ideal is 2-3years.

1. Date of project completion 200__.

2. Level of use post project taking place.

List of all user groups/events	Average no. people present per session	Frequency of regular activity e.g. daily, twice weekly, monthly etc.	Occasional Use Please state e.g. twice yearly annually
Pre school activities 0-4years e.g. crèche, preschool, parent toddler etc.			
Children's activities 5-12 after school club, brownies, cubs, play scheme etc.			
Young peoples activities 13-19 e.g. youth club			
Adult fitness, recreation, sport activities e.g. yoga, keep fit, short mat bowls, gardening clubs etc.			
Adult cultural activities, photography, painting, drama clubs			
Older adult activities e.g. luncheon club, senior citizens etc.			
Private hiring e.g. weddings parties, social gatherings			
Enterprising activities that generate surplus funds for the hall e.g. Conferences, farmers markets, antique, craft fairs			
Education & training e.g. adult learning, return to work, IT, basic skills courses			
Other community activities e.g. polling station, Parish council meetings			
Health services e.g. Dr. Surgery, chiropody, clinic			
Community shop/post office			
Others			

12. Please tell us about any additional new services and activities that have started since completion of your project

13. Annual Income, expenditure and maintenance costs in the year after work completed

Annual income from hiring	£	Annual running costs/ outgoing	£	Annual Maintenance and repairs costs	£

14. Hourly /session hiring rate post project:

Beneficiaries (local community) £_____

Non beneficiaries (outside the area) £_____

15. Anything additional of note that has been beneficial to the hall/community since completion of the project *e.g. new committee members*

Please return by _____

To

Thank you very much for your time. The information provided will be very useful to help demonstrate the impact that investment in village halls can have in enabling not only a hall to more sustainable but also the positive impact for the community.



Community Action
Church House
74 Long Ashton Road
Long Ashton
North Somerset
BS41 9LE

Tel: 01275 393837
Fax: 01275394563

E-mail: mail@community-action.org.uk



**Community Council
of Devon**
County Hall
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QB

Tel: 01392 383443
Fax: 01392 382062
E-mail: info@devonrcc.org.uk



**Community Council
for Somerset**
Victoria House
Victoria Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 3JZ

Tel: 01823 331222
Fax: 01823 323657
E-mail: info@somersetccc.org.uk



**Cornwall Rural
Community Council**
9a River Street
Truro
Cornwall
TR1 2SQ

Tel: 01872 273952
Fax: 01872 241511

E-mail: info@cornwallrcc.co.uk



**Dorset Community
Action**
Community House
The Barracks
Bridport Road
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1YG

Tel: 01305 250921
Fax: 01305 216420
E-mail:

denise.paice@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk



Community First
Wyndhams
St. Josephs Place
Devises
Wiltshire
SN10 1DD

Tel: 01380 722475
Fax: 01380 728476
E-mail:
enquiries@communityfirst.org.uk



**Gloucestershire Rural
Community Council**
Community House
15 College Green
Gloucestershire
GL1 2LZ

Tel: 01452 258491
Fax: 01452 528493
E-mail: glosrcc@grcc.org.uk



**South West Acre
Network**
County Hall
Exeter
Devon
EX2 4QB

Tel: 01392 383342
Fax: 01392 382062
E-mail: swan@devonrcc.org.uk
www.swan-network.org.uk

