

## Community Spaces Consultation – The Jubilee Hall

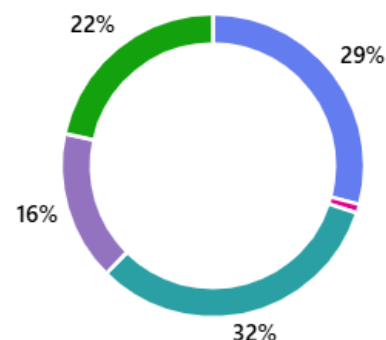
### Summary of responses (31 March 2025)

#### Jubilee Hall

##### 8. How often do you currently use the Jubilee Hall, if at all?

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● Never	62
● Daily	2
● Weekly	69
● Monthly	34
● Annually	46



##### 9. If the Jubilee Hall was no longer available, how would it affect you, your group, or your organisation?

The responses you've gathered reflect a strong sense of community attachment to the Jubilee Hall, with many concerns about its potential closure.

##### Loss of Social and Fitness Spaces:

- Many local groups, particularly for older adults, rely on the Jubilee Hall for exercise classes, such as keep fit, badminton, short tennis, and Zumba. These activities are seen as crucial for social engagement, mental health, and physical well-being, especially for the elderly.
- If the hall were to close, several groups expressed concern about the difficulty in finding suitable alternative venues in Loddon, noting that there are no other local spaces large enough or with the same facilities.

##### 2. Impact on Community and Family Activities:

- The hall is used by parents with young children, for example, for early years playgroups and other child-related activities. Losing the hall would significantly limit these opportunities, making it harder for parents to connect and for children to engage in educational or social events.
- Additionally, groups like the Horticultural Society, local sports clubs, and the NHS blood donation service would lose a vital venue for meetings, events, and medical donations.

##### 3. Concerns Over Accessibility and Location:

- Many users highlighted that the hall's central location, with easy parking, is essential, especially for those with mobility issues or who rely on driving. If the Jubilee Hall were unavailable, it would be difficult for many, particularly the elderly and those with disabilities, to access alternative venues.

##### 4. Potential Community Loss:

- There's a clear sense that the hall is a community hub, with many expressing that its closure would be a "catastrophic" loss. Not only would this impact specific groups, but it would also deprive Loddon of an important gathering space, affecting everything from fitness classes to social events, and even larger celebrations like weddings.

##### 5. Financial and Management Considerations:

- Some respondents suggested that if the hall were to be maintained or improved, it would need a more modern and sustainable approach to management, possibly with better facilities or a revised booking system. There were calls for better support from local authorities, as some felt Loddon had not received enough funding for its facilities compared to other areas.

This feedback demonstrates how vital the Jubilee Hall is for community health, connection, and access to essential services.

## **10. Do you have any comments on how the Jubilee Hall is currently used, or ideas for new activities or services that could be offered there?**

Here's a summary of the feedback provided about the Jubilee Hall

### **Current Use and Challenges:**

- The hall is used for a variety of community activities, including sports (tennis, badminton), blood donation, physiotherapy, craft fairs, jumble sales, and other events. However, many respondents feel that it is underused.
- There are complaints about difficulties in booking and managing the hall, especially for smaller groups or specific facilities like the tennis courts. Issues such as unclear availability and confusion over the booking system were mentioned frequently.
- The hall's layout is considered limiting due to its size and high ceiling, which makes it less adaptable for multiple activities at the same time.

### **Ideas for New Activities or Services:**

- **Sports and Fitness:**
  - Some respondents suggested creating a proper gym or fitness centre with more consistent opening hours, particularly for working individuals. There was also interest in expanding racket sports and offering a permanent sports floor to reduce injuries.
  - Other ideas include more children's activities, such as dance classes, youth clubs, or roller skating sessions at weekends.
  - There were requests for more exercise classes aimed at the elderly, such as seated exercises or circuit training.
- **Community Engagement:**
  - Many suggested that the hall could host more social events like music concerts, bingo nights, or even a café/pub that could serve as a social hub. Others proposed making it more family-friendly, with events like baby signing, music groups for young children, or holiday activity days.
  - There was also a call for more events aimed at older children and teenagers, offering them a safe space to meet and chat.
- **Facility Improvements:**
  - Some people highlighted the need for a stage, better kitchen and bar facilities, and partitions to make the space more versatile for different events.
  - Others suggested improving publicity to make the community more aware of the hall's events and services. Many felt that the hall's potential was not being fully realised due to poor marketing.
- **Social and Support Activities:**
  - Some respondents suggested setting up a social club or offering support groups for specific needs, such as young adults dealing with loneliness or a proper meeting place for local groups.

### **General Concerns:**

- There was frustration regarding the management of the hall, particularly around booking difficulties, lack of volunteer support, and unhelpful staff. A common sentiment was that the hall's original community spirit had been lost.

- Several people expressed a desire for the hall to be more integrated into the community, with suggestions like collaborating with local clubs (e.g., football clubs) for community events or offering more flexible and affordable booking options.
- A few respondents suggested investing in a new, modern facility to replace the current hall, or expanding the space to include more comprehensive amenities such as a gym or leisure centre.

The feedback reflects a strong desire for the Jubilee Hall to become a more dynamic, inclusive, and community-focused venue, offering a range of recreational and social activities for local residents.

## 11. How important is it to you that the Jubilee Hall is preserved as a community space?

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## 12. Would you consider becoming a Trustee to help run the charity responsible for the Jubilee Hall? If so, please provide your contact details.

Here's a summary of the feedback regarding whether respondents would consider becoming a Trustee for the Jubilee Hall:

### General Response:

- The majority of respondents expressed no interest in becoming a Trustee, primarily due to a lack of time, age, or other commitments.
- A few individuals mentioned that they had previously volunteered or been involved in similar activities, but no longer felt able to take on additional responsibilities.
- Some respondents stated that the role of Trustee seemed too demanding, especially considering their current age, health, or work commitments.

### Notable Exceptions:

- A few respondents expressed potential interest, either as a possibility in the future or if certain conditions changed (e.g., having more time available or fewer commitments).

### Key Reasons for Not Considering the Role:

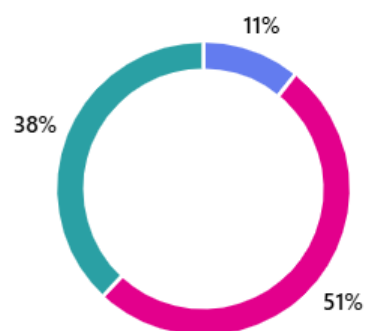
- Age and health, particularly among older respondents (some in their 70s or 80s).
- Existing volunteer commitments or other personal priorities.
- Frustration with the current management or organisation of the hall, which deterred involvement.

This feedback suggests that attracting new Trustees may be difficult, especially without clearer community support or changes to the hall's management structure.

## 13. The Jubilee Hall is likely to need improvements in the near future, would you be interested in helping to organise fundraising activities?

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● Yes	23
● No	109
● Maybe	81



#### 14. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions about the Jubilee Hall?

Here is a summary of the general comments and suggestions:

##### 1. Maintenance & Condition:

- Several respondents noted that the hall is in poor condition, both inside and out, with complaints about dirty windows, cobwebs, and neglected spaces.
- The heating system was described as erratic, and there were suggestions for upgrading the system.
- There were also concerns about disabled access, particularly regarding the need for a fully accessible toilet in the main hall.
- Car parking was highlighted as a challenge, with suggestions to extend the car park or improve parking management, especially during busy events.

##### 2. Usage & Community Involvement:

- Many expressed a desire for the hall to be used more actively by the community for events, classes, and sports. Some suggested expanding its role as a community hub to meet the needs of all age groups.
- The lack of regular events and poor communication about opening times and bookings were also mentioned, with calls to make the hall more welcoming and accessible.
- There were references to the hall's importance in the community and the need to preserve it for local use, with several reminding that it was built by the people for the people.

##### 3. Suggestions for Improvement:

- Marketing: The hall should be actively marketed to raise awareness and attract more users.
- Some respondents suggested that the hall could be redeveloped into smaller, more flexible spaces or even a fitness centre, similar to other local facilities.
- Ideas like signage improvements, such as a larger sign or a mural on the building's exterior, were proposed to make it more visible to passers-by.
- The booking system was mentioned as needing improvement, with issues such as double bookings and difficulty accessing the system.
- Suggestions for additional facilities included offering activities for teens, such as table tennis and darts, and hosting more community events.

##### 4. Future of the Hall:

- Some respondents felt the hall had outlived its usefulness and should be sold off to avoid costly maintenance. Others suggested it could be re-purposed for sports or community activities, but the local council might need to step in and provide more support.
- A few suggested raising funds or pursuing grants to modernise the hall, including improvements to the building's infrastructure and facilities.

## 5. Sentiments about Closure:

- There were strong feelings against the hall's closure, with several emphasising its importance for local sports and as a social space for all ages. Losing the hall would be seen as detrimental to the community, especially as other venues are becoming scarcer.

## Contact Details & Suggestions for Action:

- Some respondents suggested involving local organisations (e.g., Tesco Beccles blue token funding or the District Council) to help raise funds or improve the hall's visibility.
- Several mentioned that the Jubilee Hall is needed more than ever, given the growing population in Loddon, and could become a valuable community asset with the right attention and investment.

This feedback indicates that the Jubilee Hall has strong community support but is in urgent need of revitalisation and more active management.

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## Jubilee Hall Summary

### Usage and Importance of the Hall

- The Jubilee Hall is a key community space in Loddon, used for a wide range of activities such as fitness classes, sports, blood donations, and social events. Many groups, especially for older adults and young children, rely on it for regular activities.
- The hall's central location with easy parking is crucial for accessibility, particularly for those with mobility issues.
- If the hall were to close, it would have a significant impact on local groups and individuals, limiting access to social and fitness spaces, family activities, and community events.

### Key Concerns and Suggestions

- Condition and Maintenance: The hall is in need of maintenance, with complaints about dirty windows, a faulty heating system, and limited disabled access. Several people suggested that fundraising or local council support could help address these issues.
- Booking and Accessibility Issues: Many respondents expressed frustration with the hall's booking system, which is seen as confusing and prone to double bookings. There were also suggestions to improve the hall's layout for greater flexibility in hosting multiple activities.

### Ideas for Improvement

- Facilities and Activities: Suggestions include a gym, more sports facilities, and expanded children's activities such as dance classes and youth clubs. Some also proposed adding a café/pub as a social hub and hosting more events for teenagers and families.
- Community Engagement: There is a desire for more social events and greater marketing to raise awareness of the hall's offerings. Improving publicity and signage was suggested to make the hall more visible and accessible.

### Volunteer Engagement

- Trustee Interest: The majority of respondents expressed no interest in becoming a Trustee due to time constraints, age, or health issues. However, a few people offered to consider the role in the future, contingent on changes to the hall's management and structure.
- Fundraising: While many expressed a willingness to fundraise, some highlighted the need for better management and clear direction before committing to such efforts.

### Future of the Hall

- Some respondents believe the hall has outlived its usefulness and suggested it might be time to sell or repurpose it. Others felt that with the right investment and management, the hall could be revitalised as an important community asset.

## Conclusion

The Jubilee Hall is seen as a vital community space, but it faces significant challenges in terms of maintenance, management, and use. There is a clear desire to preserve the hall, but many feel it requires modernisation and more active management to fully meet the community's needs. The hall's future depends on addressing these concerns and engaging local support for its improvement.