

# Collyweston Village Hall

## Community Questionnaire Feedback Report

Date: June 2025

### Executive Summary

This report presents the findings from the 2025 Collyweston Village Hall community consultation. Responses indicated broad agreement on the need for modernisation of facilities, improved event offerings, and enhanced accessibility.

*Key Statistics: 7% response rate and 35% of respondents reported being regular users (weekly or monthly)*

### 1. Facilities – Community Feedback Summary

Topic	Key Issues & Suggestions
Hall Condition	Needs redecoration and refurbishment. Described as “dismal” and “grim.” Smell of damp noted.
Lighting & Heating	Harsh lighting; heating needs improvement.
Kitchen	Cramped and outdated. Not fit for modern functions.

Topic	Key Issues & Suggestions
Toilets & Accessibility	Call for upgraded toilet facilities, especially disabled access.
Internet connectivity	Requests for installation of Wi-Fi.
Atmosphere & Décor	Suggestions include changing the lighting, murals, pictures and redecoration.
Stage & Space Use	Stage seen as underutilised; proposal to repurpose space for daily community use with option for portable or modular system, or find ways to make better use of the stage
Furnishing & Equipment	Requests for tools like a lectern and more suitable furniture for varied events, such a comfortable seating.

## 2. Suggested Activities & Events

Responses expressed enthusiasm for a broader programme covering all age ranges and interests.

### A. Adult Social & Educational Events

- Film, casino, quiz nights
- Live music with dancing, ceilidhs/folk dances,
- Themed talks (wildlife, arts, gardening, sport), local issues forums
- Citizens Advice-style sessions, form-filling help, joint events with charities
- Consider licensing to host events with bar service

### B. Creative, Craft & Asset-Sharing Ideas

- Knit and Natter, jumble sales, DIY/crafting workshops
- Toy/garden/tool libraries

### C. Youth-Oriented Programme

- Film club with snacks
- Silent discos, table tennis, gaming nights ("Mario Kart rallies")
- Dance, craft workshops, pool table, "Future Focus" career planning
- Badminton, Girl Guides, Scouts
- Forum for local odd jobs (gardening, car wash etc.)

## D. Family and Community Events

- Halloween nights, treasure hunts, monthly youth club
- Choirs, community games nights, nearly new clothing sales

## E. Health & Fitness

- Yoga (frequently suggested), indoor exercise space
- Badminton and open sport club ideas
- More cross-community collaboration with neighbouring villages or major charities

## 3. Top Community Priorities

Participants repeatedly mentioned the following as top improvement goals:

1. A spacious, flexible, and attractive hall
2. Modern, functional kitchen/catering area
3. Dedicated indoor space for sports and exercise
4. Improved lighting, heating, and ventilation
5. Wi-Fi


## 4. General Comments & Suggestions

Theme	Summary
Visibility & Wayfinding	Hall is hard to locate; signage improvement needed.
First Impressions & Attractiveness	Needs brightening, murals, more “heart.” Compared to a “grim” school hall.
Facilities Promotion & Pricing	Better advertising. Suggestions for locals’ or block booking discount rates and higher prices for external hirers.
Community Role	Described as vital to village life. Seen as both physical space and social anchor.
Income Generation Concepts	Offer bar service via committee licensees; hold antiques fair; organise regular social events.
Major Redevelopment Idea	Outlier suggestion: develop part of the playing fields and reinvest funds in a brand-new hall nearby.

## 5. Communication Channels

Respondents reported finding out about Village Hall news through:

Channel	Effectiveness (self-reported)
Village noticeboards	High
Parish newsletter	High
Word of mouth	Moderate
Pub or shop	Informal but helpful
Facebook / Social media	Growing but underutilised

 Consider expanding digital communication to reach newer residents and younger age groups.

## 6. Recommendations Moving Forward

### Short-Term Improvements

- Improve heating – new boiler installed Mar 2025
- Address damp smell
- Install good Wi-Fi
- Launch a monthly themed event (film night, quiz or crafts)
- Promote hall availability via new signage and online

### Medium-Term Opportunities

- Refresh hall décor and lighting
- Invest in new equipment: e.g. table tennis
- Run trial health & fitness sessions (yoga, badminton)
- Promote underused spaces (e.g., small meeting room)
- Explore grants for large scale refurbishment including modernised toilet and kitchen facilities

### Long-Term Considerations

- Coordinate a cross-village calendar with nearby communities