

OAKS MEADOW VILLAGE HALL SURVEY

OUR FINDINGS

Aims and methodology

The 2019 Combs Parish Council (CPC) survey highlighted concerns about the lack of a village hub / community meeting space suitable for a range of activities. The aims of this survey were:

- to build on the CPC findings by gathering information to assess the demand / reaction to the concept of building an environmentally friendly, energy efficient village hall on Oaks Meadow
- get a sense of how it might be used
- invite people to share thoughts and ideas.

At the outset, a paper version of the survey (in the form of a booklet) was delivered to 560 households in Combs, Moats Tye, Little London, Little Finborough (Combs Parish) and Battsford as an insert to the Barclif newsletter. We asked for the survey be completed as a household and that, if possible, it was completed online.

The survey was anonymous in that we didn't collect any information that would identify individuals or households.

The survey was open throughout November and December 2021 and January 2022. We sent reminders throughout the period via our email updates list and Facebook page.

Responses

We received responses from 81 households (73 online and 8 paper returns). The high number of online returns considerably reduced the admin load.

The 81 households collectively represent 202 adults, young people, children and babies.

We got feedback from households with a good representative range of age groups including the very young and senior inhabitants. Unsurprisingly most responses came from Combs Parish and Battsford. We also received 6 responses from Stowmarket and 1 each from Buxhall, Needham Market, Ringshall, Charles Tye and London.

The overall response rate was approximately 14 per cent¹, rising to 17 per cent of households in Combs Parish and Little Finborough². It is notable that a large majority of households did not express a view.

The responses received are mostly enthusiastic and encouraging with many interesting and thoughtful ideas as well as practical suggestions. As we would expect there are some negative comments and valid questions which the Trustees will give full consideration to. For perspective, most of the negative comments are from just five households, some of whom used free text fields to repeatedly make the same remarks. The ID numbers of these survey returns have been included next to the comments.

¹ Based on the 560 households that received the paper survey with the Barclif newsletter

² 314 households, Combs Parish plus Little Finborough (2019-2020 Electoral Registers)

Survey findings

Section 1: About your household

Q1 Where do you live?

81 answered, 0 skipped

Where do you live?	%	Households
Combs Parish (Combs, Little Finborough, Little London and Moats Tye)	66.7	54
Battisford	19.8	16
Combs Ford	0.0	0
Stowmarket	7.4	6
Other	6.2	5

Other (please specify):

Buxhall (1), Needham Market (1), Ringshall (1), Charles Tye (1), London (1)

Q2 How many people, in the following age groups, live in your household?

81 answered, 0 skipped

A As per survey age groups				B Combining age groups			
	%	No	Households		%	No	Households
Babies & children to 4 years	4.5	9	8	Babies & children to 9 years	12.4	25	21
Children aged 5-9	7.9	16	13	Children & young people aged 10 to 17	5.9	12	17
Children aged 10-14	4.0	8	10	Adults aged 18-40	17.8	36	28
Young people aged 15-17	2.0	4	7	Adults aged 41-65	41.6	84	57
Adults aged 18-24	4.5	9	8	Adults aged 66 and over	22.3	45	37
Adults aged 25-40	13.4	27	20	Total	100	202	
Adults aged 41-50	7.9	16	12				
Adults aged 51-65	33.7	68	45				
Adults aged 66-74	15.8	32	26				
Adults aged 75 and over	6.4	13	11				
Total	100	202					

Section 2 Activities, classes and entertainment

Which of the following activities would your household be interested in?

Most popular choices

The following table lists the most popular choices across all eight categories in this section. The list includes those selected by at least 30% of those who answered. There are also significant numbers of households interested in other activities and these are included in the details that follow.

Most popular activities, classes and entertainment	%	Households
Quiz nights	69.2	54
Yoga	64.1	50
Film nights	59	46
Cookery classes	56.4	44
Pilates	52.6	41
Outdoor exercise	52.6	41
Walking or jogging around the site or meeting to go further afield	51.3	40
Outdoor yoga	48.7	38
Flower arranging / wreath-making	47.4	37
Painting and drawing	43.6	34
Talks on special topics	42.3	33
Pottery	39.7	31
Book club	38.5	30
Learning to grow veg	38	30
Woodworking / rural skills	35.9	28
Outdoor painting and drawing	35.9	28
Photography	32.1	25
Weight loss and diet	32.1	25
Community choir	30.8	24
Badminton	30.8	24
Outdoor meditation	30.8	24

Q3 Arts, crafts and creative activities

78 answered 3 skipped

In order of popularity	%	Households
Flower arranging / wreath making	47.4	37
Painting and drawing	43.6	34
Pottery	39.7	31
Woodworking / rural skills	35.9	28
Photography	32.1	25
Knitting and crochet	28.2	22
None of the above	16.7	13
Creative writing	15.4	12
Other (please specify)	14.1	11
Print-making	12.8	10
Quilt-making	7.7	6

Other (please specify):

Cookery (2), Pottery (1), Needlework / sewing (2), Basic DIY (1), Macrame (1), Willow weaving (1), Clubs and hobby groups

- More as ad hoc for us rather than weekly because of our work we cannot attend weekly classes. So wreath making maybe for occasions e.g. Christmas”
- All of these, however building on farm land is not the way forward as there are buildings already in place for such activities. I therefore do not wish anything to be built here! ID63
- Interested in many of these, but feel STRONGLY that there are existing venues which can be used for them. I oppose building on what has been farmland for this purpose. ID62
- Very happy with these activities at the Barclif community centre. No other venue required. ID5

Q4 Exercise and physical fitness

78 answered, 3 skipped

In order of popularity		
Yoga	64.1	50
Pilates	52.6	41
Zumba	29.5	23
Tai Chi	28.2	22
None of the above	18.0	14
Other (please specify)	18.0	14
Martial arts	7.7	6

Other please (please specify)

Dance (3), Over 60s exercise/fitness (2), Circuit training (1), Walking (1), Gardening (1), Any fitness (1), Boot camp (1)

- These are included in my gym membership
- Very happy with these at Barclif no other venue required ID5
- There are multiple local gyms which everyone already pays for and attends if it is what they wish to do. Including a pool which you will not have! ID63

Q5 Diet and nutrition

78 answered 3 skipped

In order of popularity	%	House-holds
Cookery classes	56.4	44
None of the above	33.3	26
Weight loss and diet	32.1	25
Other (please specify)	5.1	4

Other (please specify)

- International cookery classes would be great. Use of the space to cook/prepare food for those reliant on the food bank etc - perhaps using excess produce from gardens/allotments
- Adapting to a diet that includes more plant-based foods and less meat / Vegetarian and Vegan cookery & diet . particularly information about changing to this type of eating.
- Adapting to a diet that includes more plant-based foods and less meat
- Same reply as above ID62

Q6 Music, drama and dance

78 answered, 3 skipped

In order of popularity	%	Households
None of the above	37.2	29
Community choir	30.8	24
Ballroom dancing	25.6	20
Music making	19.2	15
Drama	16.7	13
Line dancing	14.1	11
Hip hop/Jazz dancing	12.8	10
Ballet	11.5	9
Other (please specify)	9.0	7

Other (please specify)

Jive (1), Salsa (3), Ceroc (1), Latin dance (1), Local amateur dramatics

- The punch bowl already provides all of these entertainment, or the village barn dance. We don't need another building for this. Don't waste the farm land !! ID63

Q7 Lifelong learning, talks, discussion groups

78 answered, 3 skipped

In order of popularity	%	Households
Talks on special topics (please specify)	42.3	33
Book club	38.5	30
University of the Third Age	28.2	22
None of the above	25.6	20
Other (please specify)	19.2	15

Other (please specify)

Local history (7), History (2), Family history (1), Wildlife (2), Conservation (2), Nature (2), Environment / ecology (2), Climate change/What we can do as individuals (1), Gardening (1), Astronomy (1)

- All of the above but there is no need to build on farm land for this when there are other buildings already in place accommodating this ID63
- Same reply as above ID62

Q8 Indoor sports

Answered 78, skipped 3

In order of popularity	%	Households
None of the above	43.6	34
Badminton	30.8	24
Table tennis	29.5	23
Carpet bowls	16.7	13
Other (please specify)	5.1	4

Other (please specify)

Circuit training (1), Snooker (1) Darts (1)

- All of the above but there is no need to build on farm land for this when there are other buildings already in place accommodating this ID63

Q9 Entertainment

78 answered, 3 skipped

In order of popularity	%	
Quiz nights	69.2	54
Film nights	59.0	46
Cards - poker, bridge etc	24.4	19
Other (please specify)	19.2	15
None of the above	14.1	11

Other (please specify)

Music / live music (2), Canaster (1), Bingo (2), Board games (2), Silent disco (1), Disco & dance (1), Darts, dominoes & shove ha'penny

- Definitely film nights
- Especially bridge
- The punch bowl provides this. Don't waste Farm land! ID63
- Same reply as above ID62

Q10 Outdoor activities that would make the most of the Oaks Meadow green spaces (weather permitting)

78 answered, 3 skipped

In order of popularity	%	
Outdoor exercise	52.6	41
Walking jogging around site or meeting and going further afield	51.3	40
Outdoor yoga	48.7	38
Learning to grow vegetables	38.5	30
Outdoor painting / drawing	35.9	28
Outdoor meditation	30.8	24
Campfire singalong	26.9	21
None of the above	14.1	11
Other (please specify)	7.7	6

Other (please specify)

Learning about composting (2), Outdoor theatre / concerts (1), Community picnic so people can get together (1), Boot camp (1), Community compost area? (1), Growing using the No Dig Method by Charles Dowding (1)

- None as large garden and prefer walking local footpaths etc
- We already have places in place to provide this. It is not needed !! Do not build on farm land ID63

Q11 Please specify any other activities of interest not already covered in this section

12 answered, 69 skipped

Gardening, vegetable picking (1), Local produce for sale (1), Plant exchange (1), Table top sales (2), Karate lessons (1), Forest schools for kids in holidays (1), Any social activity (1) Outdoor marquee for live band/ entertainment (1), Health promotion talks from Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy and other health professionals to promote healthy living (1) Wine tasting nights to tie in with local vineyard

- I think whatever you do it would be good to link with punch bowl rather than compete. Use them for food, bars also any local business e.g. green barn. Make sure this is a full community project. With us working we would have to be weekend or more ad hoc users as we don't have much evening time at home.

Q12 Have you taken part in any of the activities listed in this section in the last 3 years?

78 answered, 3 skipped

63% of households answered yes.

3 If you answered yes to the question above please provide details (what, where, how well they suited your needs etc)

42 answered, 39 skipped

- Martial arts in Stowmarket. Works well for us as a family
- Zumba class in Stowupland & fitness classes in Stowmarket - which suited as were in the evenings in week or Saturday mornings. Walking/jogging/running in Combs area
- Choir in Framingham, loved it but the travel in winter isn't nice in the dark
- Outdoor yoga at Needham Lake, it was very good, lovely to be outside.
- Walking, cards, quiz
- Battsiford village hall. Very suitable and would continue to use as the nearest venue.
- Outside exercise class - it was held rain or shine and we used a small sheltered area if torrential rain. Very positive to exercise outside with others. There was a community cafe in the hall where we went afterwards for coffee and chat - this was in Somerset.
- Book club at home. exercise at MSLC & Stowupland Sports Centre. Walking around local Area
- Pilates, yoga. gardening. Enjoyed doing them
- Village fete, exercising at the local gym where everyone else goes !
- Yoga and other exercise classes at Mid Suffolk Leisure. Suited me well. Quizzes have already been run successfully at the punchbowl
- Life drawing - pub in Stowmarket - good venue but would prefer not to travel. Knitting, quilt making and other textile crafts, mainly at friends homes; restricted group size as in private Homes Wreath making - at friends homes and also at Battsiford Community Centre; all good! Cookery classes at Latitude! Quiz nights - at pubs and also via Zoom during lockdown Films at The Regal, Stowmarket; would be nice to walk to the venue! Walking & jogging - both regular activities for me in the local area Grow veg & fruit at home, but would be nice to do communally
- Quiz nights - various places. Walking (but not marching too quickly). Woodworking at home Ballroom dancing - Old Newton
- Cards - various with friends
- Yoga that I still attend in Battsiford. Dance classes but further afield so didn't keep them up
- Life long reader, exercise frequently, taking pictures, used to play badminton but not recently.
- Knitting at home but it would be nice to join others for encouragement and support. Joined a beginners crochet group which stopped at onset of Covid. Yoga regularly but inside, outdoors would be lovely. Book club is great, always happy to join another
- Yoga at home, not great motivation, would like to have a class in the evening with others
- Pilates and Zumba - Ringshall and Haughley - good classes but ceased
- At the Punch Bowl. It was good fun
- Various local clubs, groups and academies
- Zoom wreath-making class

- Day time classes
- Carpet bowls at Battsiford Hall. Needs OK but currently short of members.
- Art classes at Hillside. Can't find any art classes in Stowmarket at the moment and they used to be popular.
- Gym/exercise classes
- Pilates and yoga at Ringshall. Classes never restarted after lockdown. Would love a class more local plus exploring some of the above
- Table tennis club Ringshall Village Hall weekly event friendly table tennis social / exercise - excellent fostered good community spirit. Badminton hired court at Hintlesham Community Centre on a regular basis excellent venue was able to have a drink in bar area afterwards
- Pottery locally no longer running
- Outdoor yoga at Needham Lake, very good
- Local provision in Battsiford and Stowmarket
- Yoga, pilates - at home and at gym. Badminton - at local school facilities
- Outdoor yoga at Needham lake. Art/life drawing at Stowmarket. Rural skills at bradfield wood.
- Pottery workshops at a private studio this year (for kids & adults). Martial arts practised outside with a small group throughout lockdown. One hour circuit training attended at a house nearby owned by the personal trainer.
- Pilates – Stowmarket. Book Club – Combs. Gardening Club Battsiford Village Hall
- Yoga - Battsiford, Book club - individual homes, Suffolk Wildlife Trust - Stowupland, Quiz nights - Punchbowl, walking – everywhere
- Regular Pilates and Zumba classes at locations before we moved to Battsiford
- Mainly in stowmarket
- Wreathe making (Bury), yoga (London gym), crochet (home)
- Very happy with these activities at the Barclif community centre. No other venue required ID5
- Park run, exercise classes
- Attend many exercise class and outside sports

Section 3: Community services

Q14 Which of the following community services would be of interest to you and / or your household? Select all that apply

77 answered, 4 skipped

In order of popularity	%	Households
Pop up shop - crafts, garden produce, etc	72.7	56
Pop up café	61.0	47
Pop up shop for eco refills	53.3	41
Mindfulness, meditation	33.8	26
Computer / IT advice	18.2	14
Parents' and toddlers' group	14.3	11
Mental health/loneliness support group	13.0	10
Seniors' Club/Lunch club	10.4	8
Consumer advice sessions	10.4	8
None of the above	10.4	8
Youth club	9.1	7
Other (please specify)	3.9	3
Carers' support group	1.3	1

Other (please specify)

- Local produce including garden produce
- There's already plenty of all this we don't need more before we use the rest enough! ID63
- Pop up repairs shop like Woodbridge has to repair electrical items rather than disposal

Q15 Have you and / or members of your household used any similar community services in the last 3 years?

77 answered, 4 skipped

21 households (27%) answered yes

Q16 If you answered yes, please give details below of the community services used and how well they suited your needs etc

- Mobile refills
- Battsiford pop up shop
- IT Advice/Tuition at the Punchbowl - it worked well
- Pop up shop village hall, others through the Punchbowl.
- Where we lived (Somerset) there was a fantastic community cafe run by volunteers. It was popular in the village and well attended as it was open Mon-Sat. It was in the village hall and there were many groups / classes there too.
- Village Hall Shop
- Red Gables
- Thurston Community Centre
- The punch bowl for all of the above
- Local business set up in that visits the punch bowl for refills - brilliant
- Computer lessons - Punch Bowl - now closed
- Eco van from Battsiford, really like using it
- Coffee caravan
- Been to several pop up shops in nearby villages and they've been busy and popular
- We used the pop up shop in Battsiford village hall
- Hintlesham Community Centre hired for family celebrations
- Mindfulness
- Craft shops
- Eco refills
- Refills company at battsiford
- Toddler sessions at wattisham airbase. It was the closest group I could find in the area to meet other parents with small children.
- Eco Shop Alder Carr Farm. Range limited. Usually commercial
- Attend baby and mother groups

Section 4: Social activities and celebrations

Q17 Would any of your household be interested in hiring the hall or social / life events?

77 answered, 4 skipped

50 households (65%) answered yes to this question.

Q18 If you answered yes which of the following might be of interest? Select all that apply

In order of popularity	%	Households
Celebrations (special birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, christenings etc)	78.18	43
Funeral wakes	34.55	19
Children's parties	30.91	17
None of the above	7.27	4
Other (please specify)	10.91	6
<i>Total respondents 55</i>		

Other (please specify)

- Music events & teaching classes
- Music nights
- Possibly for an extended family gathering.
- Business event. Depends on what it is like
- Local place to have events
- Other venues already available . Please do not build on the oaks meadow site ID62

Q19 Are you or any members of your household involved with or do you know of any local associations, groups or charities that might be interested in using the new village hall? This might be to run classes or activities, as a meeting space or for fundraising / community events etc

76 answered, 5 skipped

9 households answered yes (12%)

Q20 If you answered yes to the question above please provide details if you can. This information will not be taken as any form of commitment

- Pottery classes
- Sewing/ craft clubs
- Little Finborough Church, for fund raising events etc
- Green Party may like to use for meetings
- Local charities as a meeting / fundraising venue. Also for anyone wanting a venue for creative activities as the environment around would be very appealing. Local schools and colleges particularly for nature related activities such as Forest School.
- Combs Parish Council meetings
- Local gardening groups
- Forest school. Parish council meetings
- The organisations I am involved with would not be interested in hiring a venue in this location ID60

Q21 Are you or members of your household involved with or do you know of local businesses that might be interested in using the hall for training events, conferences, meetings etc?

76 answered, 5 skipped

7 households (9%) answered yes.

Q22 If you answered yes to the question above please provide details if you can. This information will not be taken as any form of commitment

6 answered 75 skipped

- I manage a SEND Specialist Mediation practice and neutral meeting venues are essential. I also deliver a lot of CPD training and workshops for Parents, schools and the Local Authority so again, meeting venues that can accommodate from 10-60 people are required
- NHS - the Ipswich and East CCG were using various places for public meetings before Covid - would expect that to return. If WiFi is present and rates reasonable, the hall could be used as a business hub for people working remotely/at home - improving their mental wellbeing. I'm not aware of much being offered in this way locally as opposed to larger towns/cities
- Cookery classes
- Work
- Team meetings and team family event. Maybe client events but depends on building...maybe team training.
- Training courses and meetings

Q23 Our ideal would be to build an energy efficient, carbon neutral hall that respects the natural environment and helps to mitigate climate change. This would inevitably be more expensive than a 'conventional' build. Do you agree with this approach?

76 answered, 5 skipped

Agreed:	66 households (87%)
Disagreed:	2 households (2.5%)
Neither agreed nor disagreed:	8 households (10.5%)

Q24 If you would like to make any comments or suggestions relating to the physical structure / design of the new village hall ...

21 answered, 60 skipped

- Making it big enough & with suitable flooring to be able to hold fitness classes would be great. Kitchen facilities & solar panels would also be very beneficial and am sure are already on the list.
- Disabled changing facilities for adults
- I think it should be as sustainable as possible and be a beacon in the area. Maybe get people from Greener Suffolk to come and give talks about how to be 'greener'
- I agree to that approach for all new builds however there is point to this new build when we already have buildings in place for it. That could be improved in there environmental impact! ID63
- That is a good approach to new builds, but better not to build on farm land. Money could be spent making other communal buildings more energy efficient. Eg St Mary's Church Hall, or the Old school building in Battisford ID62
- The most environmentally sound approach is to not have a new building at all, but to use one of the existing facilities locally. ID60
- Ideally have at least 2 rooms/ halls - 1 large; 1 small
- Ground source heating would seem logical with the amount of land available, solar panels (are the water heating variety still available as well as PV?). Use of brown water. Living roof? Plants growing up the side of the building apparently keep it cooler in summer and warmer in winter as well as the ecological benefits
- I'd like to think we'd use local builders etc as long as they were cost effective
- Architecturally interesting and eco friendly build - would be great to have a strong design - preferably timber externally and maybe hempcrete used in construction for good thermal insulation and if using clay & hemp (rather than lime and hemp) would be carbon negative for that part. Built-in stage and associated storage facilities. If possible should try to include integrated lighting and sound system.
- Adequate change facilities for classes and/or productions.
- Commercial kitchen facilities.
- Thank you for the opportunity of providing our thoughts which are: We love the idea of Oaks Meadow providing a wildlife area for the village, especially where children with parents can observe flowers, butterflies, newts etc. We do not like the ideas of "wasting" some of the area with hall and car park. The bigger the wildlife area, the more successful it will be. May be a small car park for villagers who live in Park Road / Tannery Road. Also may we ask why we cannot walk around it now, it seems unfriendly to see 'no entry' signs right now.
- Car parking and toilets
- Make it feel less village hall and more barn like. And warm

- We feel a bar area would be great for all community to meet up. We feel a design with covid in mind that incorporates plenty of ventilation of windows and doors light and airy environment would be beneficial.
- Outdoor covered seated area with heating if possible. We agree a heat pump to heat the building would be a good idea
- I am totally in support of building a carbon neutral hall but I would politely take issue with the phrase "inevitably be more expensive" since you can ask for materials to be donated and you can use the vast bank of expertise that exists locally to help with the build – what can be better than the community coming together to build the hall - having a project manager and under professional guidance the members of the community can build the hall. In terms of size care should be taken to complement the sizes of other halls in the area - since there could well be a need for a hall either slightly smaller than Battsiford, or split into two rooms - since there might well be a greater need for smaller spaces than one large one?
- Why not build to PassivHaus standards - certainly a stand out design will attract more funding, especially after COP26. Can the rainwater on the roof be stored to flush the toilets? Can the solar panels on the roof power the whole hall? Can the structure be built without using any cement? Combs has an opportunity to design and build an exemplar building which will win prizes - and be a source of community pride for generations. I would urge you to seize the moment.
- To connect with Orchard Barn in Ringshall could be good. Perhaps they could help build it with volunteers. A straw bale building would be fantastic!
- Eco loos as seen at Thornham walks would be a great addition too.
- I am sure there are many but none that I can think of now
- Its impossible to answer the question without being given information as to the cost of a carbon neutral hall compared to the cost of a conventional build. In any case, the best way of helping the environment would be to plant trees in the space rather than build a new village hall which is not really needed. ID13
- Good natural light
- Solar power Heat pump Recycled water Rainwater harvesting

Q25 Finally, if you have any other thoughts you would like to share related to the building of a new village hall...

22 answered, 59 skipped

- It could be a focal point for young and old to meet, as Combs doesn't have one, except the church hall and cricket club.
- Access to local information - Recycling advice and bins for plastic / glass / plastic bags / light bulbs etc Point of sale for local produce - farm/garden - plus info on where to buy locally - A place for people to meet and participate in activities
- This is farm land and would be a waste to use it for such a thing. And having a car park for a local community building would be a shame as it should be environmental for everyone to walk or cycle. Otherwise you are not being environmental!! ID63
- Please, please, no carpark. Encourage people to walk or cycle and leave the land free for nature. Please, please do not build on Oaks Meadow. ID62
- It seems entirely unnecessary. How would maintenance for this hall be paid for. Would it eventually become a charge on Combs or Little Finborough's precept? ID60
- Very much looking forward to having a communal facility in the village. Thank you very much!!
- This is a fantastic project you are running really looking forward to seeing your progress
- Having an disabled adult in the family, I'd like to put forward that an "adult changing room" be provided, as too many places don't provide for the adult disabled user who needs to have personal care, it's a need that's never considered until you unfortunately need it. Thank you
- The land on which the hall sits should be owned by the charity and not in private ownership.
- More than once a village hall has been proposed and it never happens. Huge amounts of money needed. We feel it won't happen.
- Funding for maintenance? This is fantastic Desiree! Well done for all your hard work and generosity.
- We strongly support this project as Combs needs a centre for its community to come together. Would, of course, be necessary to ensure that it can be sustainable in the long term - i.e. that it can pay its own way and there are sufficient people with the time and skills to manage it.
- Good idea as we currently drive to stowmarket for local amenities, it would be nice to go somewhere local that is within walking distance.
- We are happy to donate a table tennis table. We would be happy to pay a membership fee to help with up keep of a village hall. Also maybe volunteers could work behind the bar. Maybe local food vans such as the travelling fryer, pizza van could visit regularly
- A (possibly incorrect) observation: people will probably indicate interest because of the "nice to have if ever I fancy it" factor which is not the same as "would definitely use this facility".
- I am very excited by the thought of a village hall for Combs and there are some great ideas in this survey for its use.
- If the car park can be neither concrete or tarmac, but one of the eco-friendly mesh reinforcements that the grass can still grow through then so much the better.
- This would be a great project, especially for the children in the village, but also for the adults, to get to know each other better, and to have a focal point to the village.
- Plenty of car parking and great access a must.

- 1) Its not obvious to me there is a business case for a new village hall. There is no shortage of venues if people want to form a group for a social activity. There is a village hall in Battisford, for example, and given the low number of groups that use it on a regular basis there is plenty of spare capacity there.
 - 2) You need to consider the costs of running a hall once built as well as the capital costs of construction. Many village halls do not cover their costs from the minimal fees charged to groups who use it.
 - 3) Although your survey identifies a great many potential uses for a hall, its more relevant to consider what actually happens in practice by considering actual usage of other village halls. Its very easy to tick boxes to say you are interested in Zumba or Tai Chi but will people actually pay to go to these classes? The evidence suggests not...
 - 4) You give no indication as to how the capital costs would be financed. Lottery funding requires match funding from other Sources or an element of private fundraising to demonstrate support for the project. Maybe the survey should have included a question as to how much people would pay towards the construction costs. I am sure people would be happy to have a village hall if it were free!
 - 5) Its not an ideal location for a village hall. Combs is a rather spread out village so most people would need a car to get to the hall. Plus, there is no footpath along the road to the site. ID13
- We would really benefit from a play area.
 - Don't see a good reason for another venue when there is the Barclif community centre and the combs parish hall ID5