

# Report on Treffgarne Village Survey

## Conducted March to April 2007



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## 1. Introduction

As part of the work to establish the need and support for the redevelopment of the Treffgarne Church Hall to a Village Meeting Place, it was suggested that a more detailed analysis was conducted into the views of the local residents.

This entailed visiting every household in the village and community of Treffgarne with an open ended questionnaire (Appendix A). The surveyors asked the residents various questions attempting to obtain real views about whether or not to proceed with redeveloping the hall and identifying potential uses of such a venue.

This report is a summary of the responses received.

## 2. Validity of Responses

A total of 70 survey forms were prepared and distributed to members of the committee to visit each household in the village. Of the 70 forms, 54 responses were obtained, representing a return of 77%.

The surveyors tried not to 'lead' the interviewees but there was something of an inevitability about it when presenting the survey 'cold'. However, the variety of responses suggests that there was not a significant bias in this respect.

## 3. Age and Gender Distribution

The age groups analysed were:

5 to 10

11 to 18

19 to 59

60 and over

Figure 1 shows the age and sex distribution for the population of Treffgarne. It clearly shows a heavy bias towards the older end of the age range, with roughly equal females and males in each age group.

It is expected that further analysis would show that closer inspection of the 18 to 59 age group would show a skew to the higher end of that group as well.

This indicates that the population of Treffgarne is an ageing population, probably related to the high cost of housing in the area, which puts it out of the

reach of young families with children. This is in direct contrast to the situation 20 years ago, when the village had a high population of young families with higher numbers of children in the 5 to 18 age range.

It is difficult to see how this situation will change greatly in the near future and it is likely that any hall provision would be better suited to the ageing population rather than a younger element, always appreciating the requirement to support and encourage the development of youth activities and services.

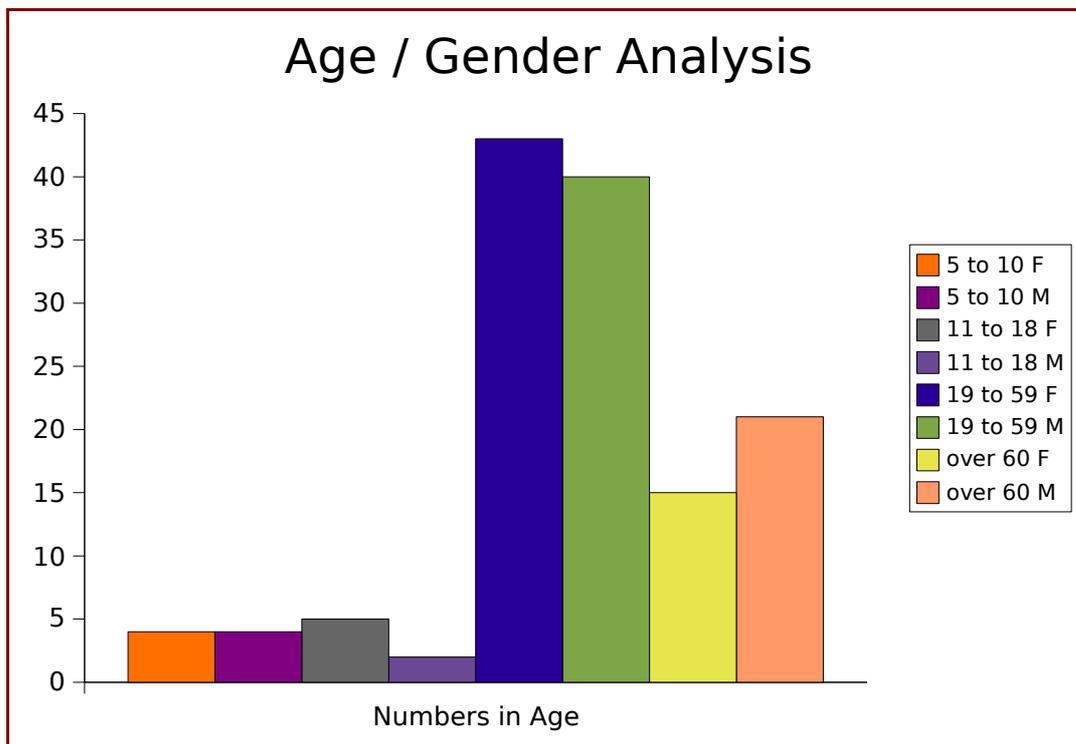


Figure 1

#### 4. Quality of Life

This and the following categories were much more difficult to analyse because of the subjective nature of the questions.

This question was based on whether having a hall would improve the person(s) quality of life in the village. Any positive response, even one based on improving the quality of other villagers' lives, was regarded as YES and any negative response as NO.

Figure 2 illustrates the breakdown of responses into positive and negative.

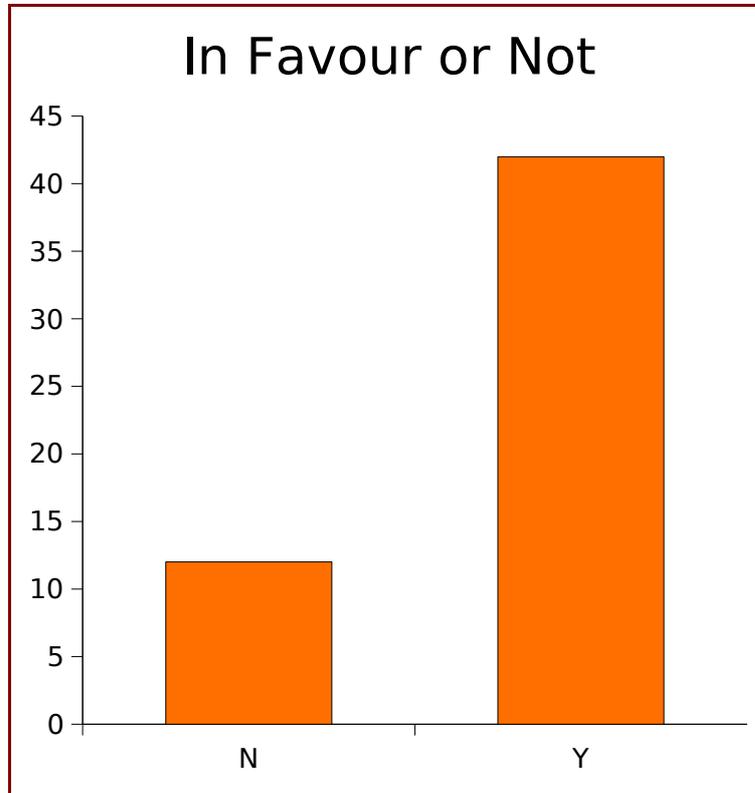


Figure 2

The majority of respondents were in favour of the concept of a village centre (42:12) and even some of those who were marked negative felt that the idea was good but that they would not personally use it.

The following is a representative (3.5:1) selection of the positive and negative comments received.

Positive	Negative
Can only enhance the quality of life	Wouldn't make any difference
Would improve life, nice to meet people	Not a lot because of jobs, location etc (out of village centre)
Good idea – meeting place and focal point	Would like to see an improvement in the existing hall but would not use it

Promote more of a community feel	
Enable to get to know one another and socialise	
Become more involved in social activities, both from health and social side	
Perhaps could walk to classes / functions instead of having to drive everywhere	
Has to be an advantage, socially, promoting community spirit and well-being	
Would provide the opportunity for the community to become closer and more aware of each other, in particular the more vulnerable.	
Widen social dimension / increase social interaction. Provide a venue for the local delivery of services and functions.	
We did have a meeting place in the form of the Church Hall. Some enjoyable gatherings were held. We also had a Post Office which provided a wonderful place for meeting and exchanging news.	

## 5. Knowledge of Events / People

There was a general concern that it was difficult to get to know other people in the village, with the only opportunity being through events organised primarily by the Church. The only other way for people to meet was by chance meetings while out walking or cycling or while gardening, washing the car etc.

Most people felt that the Notice Board was a useful feature (although few people are aware of how it came about) and other news seemed to get around by leaflet drops, mainly by the Church, or by word of mouth.

A general comment was that people seem to keep themselves to themselves, which is in contrast to the situation 15 to 20 years ago when it appears that there was a vibrant social life in the village, not related solely to the Hall but

also to the Post Office which was used as a meeting place during the day.

“There used to be many functions going on in the village, some based around the Church Hall but these seem to have dropped off over the last few years, possibly because of the loss of a focal point in the Post Office. A better name for the hall might be the Village Centre, forming a focal point for activities once again”

## 6. Participation

There was generally a lack of participation in local events but the impression was that this was because the opportunity for such participation is limited. There was a feeling that if events were organised then people would take part - “build it and they will come”.

“We have lived in Treffgarne for almost thirty years and did have some functions in the hall. I am sure a new hall would revive the village”

## 7. Other Services

This raised a large range of responses including things not related directly to the provision of a village hall but more to local amenities. A selection is listed:

- Orange bags for recycling, collection of 'green' refuse. This was a common comment.
- Recycling facilities
- Rubbish skip once a year
- Later buses from Haverfordwest and Fishguard
- Wheelie bins instead of black bags
- Street cleaning

More direct social uses suggested for the hall are listed below:

- Summer barbecues
- Christmas parties
- Nursery services
- Library services – expanded
- Gym / keep fit facilities
- FE courses
- Consultative meetings, eg with PCC officials on planning etc
- Visiting services
  - Post Office
  - Library
  - Travelling shop
- OAP meeting point
- Coffee mornings
- Bingo
- WI
- YFC
- Development of services for older residents
- Reading room for daily newspapers
- Lend and borrow library location
- Locally delivered health and well being services, eg GP, dentist, community nurse, chiropodist
- Discussion groups and talks
- Indoor sports, table tennis, pool, badminton
- Children and young persons' meeting area
- Line dancing
- Arts and Crafts

In other words, a wide range of activities and services could be delivered from a redeveloped hall.

## 8. Summary

- There seems to be general support for the redevelopment of the hall with a wide variety of uses suggested.
- *The population of the village is an ageing one and while there are young children in the locality, there is a desperate need for provision of services, both social and well-being for the less mobile.*
- The residents who had lived longest in the village remembered many events that used to take place in the hall and that those events helped to engender a community spirit in the village.
- There is currently little participation in events in the village, mainly because such events do not exist. The general feeling was that if functions and facilities were available, they would be used.
- The lack of a focal point in the village seems a common theme among residents and most felt that a Village Centre would improve the quality of life in the village.

## 9. Appendix A – the Survey

Address

Ages of Occupants

	F	M
5 to 10		
11 to 18		
18 to 59		
over 60		

How do you think having a meeting place in the village would improve your quality of life?

How do you currently get to know the other people who live in the village and also get to know what events are planned?

How do you currently participate in the delivery and development of local services?

Which other services would you like to see delivered and developed?