



# East Worlington Parish Hall

East Worlington, Crediton, Devon EX17 4TS

Charity Number 267969

## **East Worlington Parish Hall Business and Improvement Plan 2020**

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## A. Location

- a. East Worlington Parish Hall is located in the Devonian parish of East Worlington which is within and on the southern boundary of North Devon. The parish is geographically isolated upland environment situated between Exmoor and Dartmoor National Parks. Isolated dwellings and settlements a recognisable and significant feature. the parish population.

## B. Some Population and Housing Statistics

- a. **The parish area** is 21.9 km<sup>2</sup> (2,187 hectares; 5412 acres)
- b. **The population estimate** for 2018 was 222 persons (source ONS).
- c. **The population density** by number of persons is 10.15/km<sup>2</sup> [2018] (per hectare 0.1 compared to 0.9 across North Devon; 2.2 across the South West; and 4.1 across England.) This represents a change of +0.12%/year between 2011 and 2018

According to Streetcheck UK <https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/postcode/ex174tq>  
(data based on Census 2011)

- a. **Breakdown on housing types:** Detached 87; Semi-Detached 12; Terraced 4, Flat (Converted) 2 – Total 105.
- b. **Occupancy rate:** One Person 20, Two People 41, Three People 14, Four People 10, Five People 6 Six People 1
- c. **Housing Tenure:** Owned Outright 50, Owned with Mortgage, Rented (Council) 1, Rented (Social inc. charities and housing associations 3, Rented (Private Landlord) 12, Rented (Other) 5, Rent Free 6

## C. Demographics

- a. According to ONS estimates (2017) the following table shows the breakdown of parish population by age and gender,

Age Range	Male	Female	Total
0 to 10	13	11	24
11 to 20	5	9	14
21 to 30	5	5	10
31 to 40	7	9	16
41 to 50	13	10	23
51 to 60	23	25	48
61 to 70	24	25	49
71 to 80	18	12	30
81 to 90	2	3	5
<b>Parish Totals (2017)</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>219</b>

- b. These figures show a predominantly older population. The following table offers a breakdown.

<b>Age band</b>	51 - 90	0 - 50
	<b>132</b>	<b>87</b>

<b>Age band</b>	41 - 90	0 - 40
	<b>155</b>	<b>64</b>

## **D. Deprivation**

- a. On the scale of multiple deprivation. The aspects of well above average deprivation are Barriers to Housing and Services (Decile2) and Living Environment (Decile 1). This reinforces the evidence supporting the challenges of isolation for the community.
- b. Other aspects of multiple deprivation, namely income, employment, education, and health and disability range within the average band (Decile 4) with crime being to crime being the least deprived (Decile 10) aspect.

## **E. Local Services**

- a. There are no other community buildings in the parish and therefore the Parish Hall is a multifunctional community hub. There is a small primary school that relies on the Parish Hall as a 'school hall' and to provide curriculum activities linked to PE and drama. There is a church in East Worlinton village, a church in West Worlinton village which rely on the Hall for church community and fundraising events. There is no shop, post office, bank, public house, social club or social venue, garage, public transport, other community meeting venue, doctors surgery and other health services, public library, cinema and theatre, and indoor leisure and activity facilities within the parish / neighbourhood. Broadband has improved in recent years but speed is variable within the area. Not all residents have access to the Internet. There is poor or no mobile phone signal in the area.

## **F. Parish Hall – The Building and Function**

- a. The building was constructed as a barn in the late C17th of stone plinth, cob wall and thatched roof, under the ownership of the church, it being in the curtilage of East Worlinton rectory. A small store of stone construction was added to the north elevation at some time in its evolution. It fulfilled its function as a barn for two centuries but by later Victorian times appeared to be of less use as a barn and the rector of the time started to use the building as a Parish Room. This clearly influenced the future use of the building and in 1920 it was sold to the parish under the ownership of the Parish Council to be used as a Parish Hall. That function still continues 100 years later. The Parish Hall is governed and managed by a group of volunteers Trustees from the community.

## **G. Building Condition**

- a. As a result of the significant conservation and improvement work between 2015 and 2019 the Hall is in good condition.

### **b. Main Hall (Internal)**

- i. Rethatched (June 2016)
- ii. New electrics (lighting and sockets) (June 2016)
- iii. Underfloor heating (June 2016)
- iv. Ceiling insulation added (June 2016)
- v. All timber treated (June 2016)

### **c. Main Hall (external)**

- i. All external walls fully re-rendered (2017)
- ii. Windows on front elevation repaired (2017)

#### **d. Storeroom (off stage)**

- i. Insulated and plastered
- ii. Oil boiler installed (June 2016)
- iii. New electrical supply and consumer unit installed (June 2016)
- iv. AV amplifier and controls installed (2017)
- v. Shelving installed (2017)
- vi. Ceiling insulation added and ceiling plastered

#### **e. Kitchen**

- i. Complete refurbishment (2018)
- ii. New electrics (2018)
- iii. New heating radiator (2018)
- iv. New plumbing (2018)

#### **f. Foyer**

- i. New foyer, toilets (including disabled toilet) and storeroom added (2019)
- ii. New electrics
- iii. Underfloor heating

#### **g. Car Park Tarmac Resurfaced (2019)**

#### **h. Hall Equipment**

- i. The Hall has:
- ii. 10 folding tables
- iii. 5 trestle tables
- iv. 80 plastic folding chairs
- v. 72 folding chairs (no arms)
- vi. 10 folding chairs (arms)
- vii. AV projector
- viii. Sound system
- ix. Kitchen equipment (cooker, fridge, microwave, dishwasher, water heater)
- x. Kitchen equipment (crockery, cutlery, cooking utensils)

### **H. Our Needs for Funding**

- a. Our recent investments have made significant improvements to the Hall so the building is in good condition.
- b. The main funding requirements are to:
  - i. Maintain the building
  - ii. Meet running costs (heating, licences, insurance, etc.)
  - iii. Support and improve our community programme
  - iv. Enhance and extend the services offered to better serve our community as a community hub
  - v. Secure our business to increase our ability to increase our business including marketing, caretaking, cleaning, etc.
  - vi. Build our capacity to develop a virtual hub function Including improving the use of modern technologies (e.g. internet connectivity, website, e-communication, social media, on-line activities, etc.)

## **I. From Parish Hall to Community Hub and Heritage Learning Centre**

- a. In 2011 the Trustees at the time started a programme of conservation and improvement. This involved a long-term plan, securing funding from a range of funders, including two grants from Heritage Lottery and developing the function of the Hall as a Community Hub and Heritage Learning Centre. The plan involved developing a programme, services and facility to benefit our community cohesion and well-being and creating an archive of historical documents and artefacts in support of our local heritage. This long-term plan was successfully concluded in 2019.

## **J. Use and Benefit to the Community**

- a. During the decade 2011 to 2020 the building underwent significant conservation and improvement work which provided a building in which the features of a Community Hub and Heritage Learning Centre evolved. A key feature of the Community Hub was a community programme of activities and events.
- b. The Parish Hall Committee manage the building as a venue for hire as a facility for benefit of use by community groups and organisations. Such organisations are East Worlington Primary School, East Worlington Parish Council, Worlington Parochial Church Council, East Worlington Parish Hall Trustees.
- c. Parish Hall fund-raising activities have been a feature of the major contribution made by trustees and organisers and well supported by the community. This has enabled improvements, maintenance and revenue costs to secure a fit for purpose facility for the benefit of the community it serves.
- d. Interest groups are important to our community. They offer community members to follow specific interests with the benefit of increasing social interaction and personal well-being.
- e. Special events remain an aspect of the Hall's use supporting celebrations and special community events.
- f. Community Social Programme As an integral element of the improvements at the Parish Hall a significant and valued community programme has been developed. This programme contributed to community social engagement, a reduction in social isolation and improvements in community cohesion including positive integration opportunities for new residents.

## **K. COVID-19 And Its Impact**

- a. The COVID-19 created a significant impact on our community and highlighted the importance of the Hall in supporting our community well-being. As a result of the pandemic the Hall closed and no activities were held there and no services provided since March 2020.
- b. A number of consequences have been identified
  - i. Reinforcing the environmental and locational isolation of the parish area
  - ii. Highlighting the social isolation of many residents especially the older population and more vulnerable.
  - iii. The health challenges of a number of residents

- iv. The dependency placed on the Parish Hall for the community's social programme of activities and the negative impact on lives
- v. The importance of the Parish Hall as an infrastructural venue for community groups and organisations and the inability to meet to fulfil their business
- vi. Awareness on the importance of the use of and access to technologies that support our community

## **L. Responding to the Challenges of COVID-19**

- a. With the Hall closed for community use we undertook a number of strategies to continue to offer support for our community. We considered these were all features of the Parish Hall as a community hub and delivered under the governance and management of the Parish Hall Committee.
  - i. improved our community and parish hall websites and ensured information was relevant and up to date
  - ii. extended our community email distribution service
  - iii. utilised social media including Facebook and Twitter
  - iv. established a community support team to help residents living in isolation and or social isolating to help with human contact, shopping, medication collection, etc.
  - v. providing information about home delivery services
- b. While these strategies were not related to the Hall as a building and venue they were possible as a result of volunteer community members associated with the Hall's governance and management.

## **M. Community Survey**

- a. We took the opportunity of the Hall closure to undertake a community survey to help understand better our community needs, ambitions and support and to inform future planning. This survey was conducted on-line (with a hard copy alternative) during October 2020.
- b. The survey provided valuable information from our community. Read the full summary report for details.
- c. The following is a summary of Key Findings
  - a. Most favoured regular events:
    - i. Sunday Brunch – Pub Nights – Quiz Nights
  - b. Annual Events are significantly well supported:
    - i. Listed in order of definitely attend: Annual Fete, Crocus and Cream Teas, Christmas Lunch, Riverside Music, Harvest Supper.
  - c. Suggestions for additional annual events include:
    - i. Music and cultural events - Remembrance Sunday Breakfast - Monthly midweek lunch - Easter egg hunt - Conservation or wildlife information talks - Barn dance - walk around Affeton / parish - Bonfire/ fireworks night - Astronomy star gazing course - Xmas wreath making event. Movie and/ or concert/ opera streaming night on large screen - A community run or cycle or bed push followed by refreshments in the hall
  - d. Suggestions for additional activities

- i. Examples suggested include: Bingo - Themed Food Nights - Virtual Office for remote workers - antique valuation - Cinema / Film Nights - Wine/Cheese tasting - Cookery demonstrations - theatre or small music performances
- e. Suggestions for different groups
  - i. Examples suggested include: Yoga – Tai chi – singing/rock choir - dog agility - art related activities - Bridge club - university of the third age - Reading group - IT skills development - Exercise for the elderly
- f. Facilities and equipment
  - i. Generally viewed as good or excellent except Car Parking and Wi-fi
- g. Website and e-communication
  - i. Valued as good or excellent
- h. Main issues for improvement:
  - i. Improve Car Parking
  - ii. Improve Internet / Wi-Fi connectivity
- i. Investment
  - i. A significant number of respondents support the view that investment should support future improvements and savings for future rethatching compared to only resourcing Hall maintenance

## **N. Needs and Ambitions of Our Community**

- a. We need to maintain our Hall in good condition but our main focus for our development and business plan is to improve and extend the service and activities offer to fulfil our role as a Community Hub.
- b. The Parish Hall Trustees express a range of ambitions
  - i. To respond to the needs of our community
  - ii. To promote and manage a venue of choice
  - iii. To provide a venue and facilities that support the community infrastructure
  - iv. To offer a programme of community activities and events that support community well-being and cohesion.

## **O. Supporting Our Community**

<b>Community Infrastructural Asset</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Venue for meetings and events by community organisations	Maintain the building and facilities and improve to respond to need.
Venue for community meetings and consultations	
Provision as an Emergency Refuge and Control Centre	
Provision for Primary School	

<b>Community Social and Well-being</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Reduce isolation and support community wellbeing, cohesion and integration.	Provide a community programme of different social activities and events

<b>Community Groups Support</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Facilities for community interest groups	Stimulate and support interest Review Pricing Policy Respond to need for specific hall facilities

<b>Internet connectivity</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Improve facilities to function more effectively as an Emergency Support and Control Centre	Instal access to the internet Enable Wi-Fi access
Improve internet provision for meetings	
Improve internet provision for presentations	
Streaming for events and activities	

<b>Car Parking</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Lack of designated car parking was identified as an issue through community responses and has an impact on the business potential and Hall viability.	Explore the potential for an improved car parking solution

<b>Business Needs</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Income to run the Hall, maintain it, and invest in improvements remains a challenge.	Market and promote the Hall as a venue of choice Continue to organise fund-Raising events.
Caretaking and cleaning	Explore funding potential and analyse business need and income to secure needs led caretaking and cleaning provision.
Marketing and Promotion	Create a new marketing and promotion strategy and implement
Communication	Maintain a communication strategy
Management and Administration	Support and maintain volunteer expertise to continue to achieve an



	effective, efficient and viable running of the Hall.
Committee Engagement, Recruitment and Retention	Actively support and value the contribution of volunteers Identify and encourage new membership as necessary based on opportunity and a skills mix.

<b>Virtual Community Hub Activity</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Community Website Provision	Maintain a website supporting the community, parish hall and our heritage.
Community Email Communication Network	Maintain an email distribution facility.
Community-focussed Social Media Facilitation	Maintain a social media presence
Welcome Pack for New Residents	Continue to support the production and distribution of a welcome pack of information for new residents.
On-line activities	Explore and support the potential of providing on-line activities from the Hall.

<b>Heritage Learning Centre</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<b>Actions</b>
Community Heritage Archive	Provide governance and encourage and support the Heritage Group who provide archiving and management for documents information and artefacts.

## **P. What We Aim to Do**

- a. Provide a community programme of events in support of community well-being and social engagement.
- b. Arrange fund-raising activities
- c. Improve marketing and promotions
- d. Explore and lead on offering internet connectivity at the Hall
- e. Explore and collaborate to improve designated car parking provision

### Q. Strategic Plan 2018 to 2021 (Review and Update during 2021)

To preserve the integrity of the building	To ensure the Parish Hall maintains financial viability	To promote the Parish Hall as an infrastructural asset for the community	To secure a customer-focused approach	To secure the sustainability of the Hall as a Community Facility	To promote and support the health and well-being of the community
Continue to raise funds to enable the periodic renewal of the thatch when required	Maintain effective and efficient financial structures and procedures	Install Broadband and provide ICT capability	Ensure information about using the Hall is accessible to all and the booking system is easy	Maintain an effective and committed group of Trustees and recruit as necessary	Encourage community interest groups including the establishment of new ones
Implement Phase 3 of the Conservation and Improvement Plan – The Foyer, Toilet and Storage Project	Secure the Hall as a venue of choice and maintain effective business planning.	Providing appropriate, quality facilities for meetings of the community and community organisation	Provide facilities that make the use of the Hall a comfortable, pleasurable and positive experience	Enable the Hall to function by securing postholders in key roles and recruit as necessary	Encourage, support and provide as appropriate a wide range of learning, social and recreational activities
Maintain and implement a Maintenance Plan and allocate an annual budget	Implement a Marketing and Promotions Strategy and review annually.	Promote and support community cohesion and organisational partnership.	Maintain policies that support customer safety and well-being	Ensure the maintenance of all activities and services that support the Hall as a Community Hub	Actively liaise with organisations and individuals who support the community well-being and encourage local provision of their services
Initiate and develop a plan for the replacement of all windows at the Hall	Secure funding by identifying grant opportunities and make applications and implementing an annual fund-raising programme	Secure the role of the Parish Hall within the Emergency Plan	Encourage the community to generate ideas and clarify improvement priorities.	Maintain and further develop the Hall as a Heritage Learning Centre	Encourage young people to actively influence activities and services offered through the Parish Hall
Schedule external and internal decoration of the Hall	Explore and access any opportunities for sponsorship, bequests and business support.	Explore the potential to support a community transport solution for better access for all to Parish Hall events	Encourage customer feedback and respond appropriately	Proactively develop an improved parking solution	