

## **Public Consultation on the future of the Slyne-with-Hest Memorial Hall**



*The opening of the Memorial Hall in 1922.*

### **We LOVE the Memorial Hall**

The hall was built in the 1920s as a Memorial to the young men of the village who died in WW1 and was given to the community. Thomas Mawson, the renowned architect who lived in the village, designed the hall and can be seen in the photograph of the hall opening. The Parish Council now own the hall on behalf the village and it is rented out to the charitable trust who now administer and look after the hall.

The hall was assigned a 'Non-designated Heritage Asset' by Lancaster City Council in 2023 and may restrict anything that we do to the appearance, not that we would want to do anything to harm the integrity of the heritage.

However, the hall has had some material changes over the years since it was designed by Thomas Mawson.

If you look closely at the photograph of the opening, you will see there was no first floor. The stairs, small office and the Mawson Room were added in the 1930s and the

windows and doors reconfigured to incorporate the toilets at the north end. Around this time, electric lighting was installed.

The kitchen extension was also added in the 1930s.

According to the parish newsletters the windows have been replaced twice, the last time in the early 1980s. You can see in the photograph that the original windows were metal framed, of the type made popular by Crittall and were not wooden.

### **Always working to improve and maintain**

The hall has now stood for over 100 years and yet it remains at the heart of village life.

Over the years many alterations have been made and the trustees continue to make decisions regarding its upkeep. You may not notice, but every year painting is undertaken, the hall floor is polished, all the checks for safety are completed and repairs are made.

There are always going to be challenges with a building that is over 100 years old. The current heating costs for the hall are in excess of £5,500 annually and this is likely to rise. With the room hire fees being the only income, it is becoming more difficult to keep the room hire fees at a level that people can afford.

The current single glazed windows were installed in the early 1980s and are beginning to need repair. Should they be repaired, or do we try to obtain grants to install modern thermally efficient double or triple glazed units?

These are the types of issues that the trustees (ordinary people like you and me) make decisions on. If you have a little spare time and would like to contribute to the memorial hall, why not volunteer to join the committee?

### **Climate Change and why we should reduce our Carbon footprint**

#### **What are the benefits of going green?**

Making improvements to a village hall with the aim of going green is not an insignificant undertaking but it can yield several benefits, namely:

- Reducing the building's environmental footprint through a reduction in carbon emissions associated with its operation
- Bills can be reduced by using less energy, and even more so with renewable energy generation
- Comfort of the hall will be improved so it is more popular and can be hired out to groups for more events

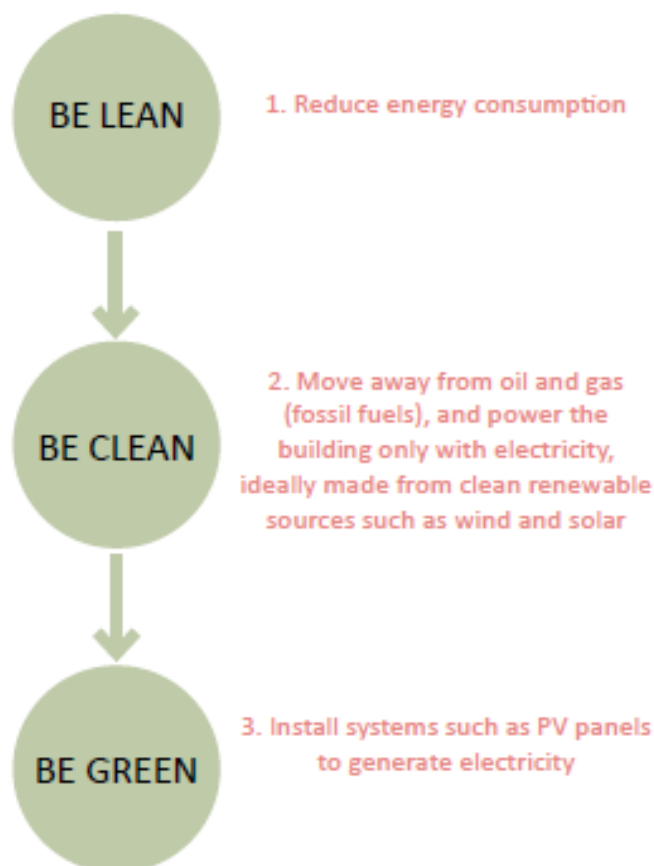
There are many spin-off benefits too. For example, projects stand to increase community cohesion by bringing people together and create opportunities to make the building more inclusive and accessible, both of which can have positive impacts on mental health and wellbeing.

### **What does ‘going green’ actually mean?**

There is a lot of information and data about the effects of climate change and the impact that people are having on the planet, and we will all be familiar with this. Going green, in the simplest terms, is about reducing this impact to a point where we are no longer causing harm. There are many aspects to this, such as reducing pollution, looking after nature, and protecting resources, but the focus here is primarily about reducing the amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other harmful greenhouse gases (GHGs) released into the atmosphere

### **What is zero carbon?**

Phrases like Net Zero and low carbon are now commonplace, and global, national and local government policy is increasingly focussed on achieving these targets, albeit at a sometimes fluctuating pace. In essence this means reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, or ‘carbon’, into the atmosphere to reduce global warming. In simple terms this can be achieved through effective building design based on the following principles:



Achieving absolute net zero is currently difficult and causes much discussion, partly because of the use of controversial carbon offsets which are often used by companies to make this claim. Instead of pursuing this however, we would like to achieve the best 'low carbon' solution that is realistic, through employing simple and effective measures which generate big wins. In our view this will achieve the greatest genuine positive impact.

This information has been taken from **Village & Community Halls**

A Net Zero Design Guide produced by ACRE and stagg architects

March 2024

ACRE – Action for Communities in Rural England <https://acre.org.uk/>

### **Options we are considering**

Here at the hall, the trustees are looking at ways to reduce our carbon footprint and improve the energy efficiency.

The guide produced by ACRE suggests that the first thing to do is to reduce energy consumption.

We have been in touch with Chamber Low Carbon to investigate how we can reduce our energy use.



This global award-winning programme, developed by East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, and delivered in partnership with the Chambers across Lancashire offers a range of funded, subsidised and commercial sustainability services for Lancashire businesses.

The aim of Chamber Low Carbon is to improve the efficiency and productivity Lancashire businesses, enable them to become more competitive and reduce their carbon footprint.

As a consequence, we had a visit from Dr Zoe Detko of Ardea Eco-innovation, who came and assessed the hall's carbon footprint.

Her findings included that **Gas consumption in 2023 was 69,394 kwh & accounted for 91.62% of the hall's carbon emissions, 14.79 tonnes CO2e.**

Several small changes were recommended, including lowering the thermostat by 1C, look at replacing radiators for more efficient aluminium ones and a few other minor steps.

The big suggestions were:

1. Replacing or repairing the windows

The choice being, to repair the 1980s single glazed windows and then consider secondary glazing or,

apply for grants to replace the units with double/triple glazing in a style sympathetic to the building. The doors may also need to be replaced with thermally efficient ones.

We could as a temporary measure, apply film to the windows.

2. Insulate the floor of the main hall and block the vents at either side.

We would need to be sure that blocking the vents did not result in more damp issues and it would be a lot of upheaval if we were required to lift the floor to install insulation. The dance floor would need to come up and then the floorboards. However, there may be a possibility to tackle it from underneath as there is a crawl space. The current damp issue could be dealt with at the same time.

Other improvements for the future could include:

A stair lift to make the Mawson Room accessible.

A covered porch to the front door to provide some cover from inclement weather when waiting to come in and possibly create an air lock to stop heat escaping.

Solar panels to help mitigate the heating bills.

All these improvements would require applying for grants and fundraising.

## **Ways you could help us**

You could help us by:

- Volunteer to help if you have skills in applying for grants, or can advise on saving energy, or would like to help run fundraising events – email the hall administrator [shmh\\_admin@btinternet.com](mailto:shmh_admin@btinternet.com)
- Sign up to Easyfundraising and raise money for the hall without costing yourself a penny when shopping online

Donating online:

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) – visit the website to find out more.

Easyfundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you extra. The cost is covered by the

brand. Brands pay easyfundraising a commission because when you start your shop from the easyfundraising website or app, they can see that you have been sent by them. If you make a purchase, a commission is generated and that is turned into a small donation.

Slyne-with-Hest Memorial Hall is registered with easyfundraising.

Volunteering:

- Join the committee of trustees.  
The trustees meet about every 6 weeks or so on a Monday evening at the hall, to discuss issues affecting the hall. We are all volunteers who live locally and want to give back to our community and to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to use our lovely hall.  
If you think this could be you, please email [shmh\\_admin@btinternet.com](mailto:shmh_admin@btinternet.com)
- Become a Friend of the Hall and make a small annual donation. The Friends of the Memorial Hall was originally set up in 2009 and we have been fortunate to receive some annual donations which have gone towards the support of the hall. You can decide on the size of the donation and whether you wish for us to claim back gift aid. If you would like to support us in this way, please email [shmh\\_admin@btinternet.com](mailto:shmh_admin@btinternet.com) and we will send you a form.
- Give us a Google review – a nice review goes a long way!

### **Please tell us what you think**

Please email the committee on [shmh\\_admin@btinternet.com](mailto:shmh_admin@btinternet.com) to and try to answer some of these questions:

What do you think our main aim/s should be and why?

How would it improve the hall? What difference would it make to you and other users?

Would you use the hall more?

Finally, if you would like to be kept up to date with our progress, please give us your email address or other contact details if you don't have email.