



# Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey

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Findings from the public survey

7<sup>th</sup> November – 28<sup>th</sup> December 2022

This report was prepared by Community First for  
Melksham Town Council.

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**COMMUNITY  
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# Summary of Findings

## Response Rate

- 1,133 people visited the Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey between survey launch (7<sup>th</sup> November) and survey closure (28<sup>th</sup> December).
- A total of 647 individuals or organisations submitted a response to the survey, which represents an overall response rate of 57%.
- There were 187 partial responses (including abandoned surveys) and 460 full responses.
- 93% of responses were from members of the public (individuals) and the remaining 3% of responses were from organisations.
- 72% of organisations who responded to the survey are based in Melksham and 86% of individual respondents are residents of Melksham. This suggests that promotion of the survey was highly effective at reaching local people and organisations.

## Postcode Data and Demographics

- The majority of responses for the survey were from the SN12, SN15 and BA14 postcode areas. This was the case for both individuals and organisations.
- 71% of all responses from individuals were submitted by women, with 28% from men and 1% from 'Other' (including couples and non-binary/gender fluid people).
- The majority of individual survey respondents were aged between 46-75 years, with fewer responses from younger adults.

## Feedback from Organisations

- 66% of responding organisations said they had made use of Melksham Assembly Hall. With the remaining 34% having never used the hall.
- Amongst those who had not used the hall, reasons included having use of their own facilities, the size of the hall being too large for their needs, the cost of hiring the hall and limited parking at the venue.
- Amongst respondents who had made use of the hall, 36% said they had used the hall in the last 12 months and 32% are regular hall users.
- Amongst recent and regular hirers, 41% said they book the hall yearly, with 24% who make use of the hall on a monthly basis.
- Amongst organisations who have used the hall, 92% said they like and value the size and shape of the hall. With 76% who like/value the seating availability, flexibility of layout and staff assistance.
- When asked whether there was any way the hall was not meeting their needs as an organisation, more than half (52%) suggested the hall met their needs perfectly. Suggestions for improvement included revised opening hours, modernisation of facilities and improved seating (to include tiered seating).
- Organisations were asked to rate the facilities, accessibility and location of the hall on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being 'poor' and 10 being 'excellent'. Facilities received an

average score of 8.61 (good), accessibility received an average score of 8.56 (good) and location received an average score of 8.96 (good).

- 72% of organisations feel the hire charges at Melksham Assembly Hall are reasonable.
- 28% of responding organisations do not feel the hire charges are reasonable, stating that current hire charges are too high or complicated.
- Responding organisations were asked about their ideal future vision for the hall. Key themes included modernisation, updates to the layout/ facilities and parking.

### Feedback from Members of the Public

- 97% of responding members of the public said they had previously visited Melksham Assembly Hall.
- Amongst those who had not visited the hall, reasons given included recently moving to the area, not having had a chance to visit and not knowing about the hall.
- Amongst those who had visited the venue, 82% said they had seen a live act or band and 65% had attended a fair or festival at the hall.
- 60% of members of the public suggested the hall was currently meeting the needs of the community, with a further 28% who indicated this was partly the case. A variety of themes are explored in relation to this topic.
- Members of the public like the size and location of Melksham Assembly Hall, in particular its proximity to the town and local amenities. There was also a lot of crossover with this topic and the subject of events, indeed some respondents felt that the Assembly Hall was the only venue in Melksham which is suitable for larger events.
- Popular facilities and features at the hall include the bar, stage and staff team.
- When asked how the hall could be improved, many members of the public mentioned the keyword 'more' which was suggestive of a general theme that the venue was not meeting its potential for the community.
- Many residents feel the venue is in need of modernisation throughout, with specific mention of the toilets, bar, foyer and stage. The bar and foyer is felt to be too small and cramped during busier times.
- Members of the public were asked to rate the facilities, accessibility and location of the hall on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being 'poor' and 10 being 'excellent'. Facilities received an average score of 7.83 (good), accessibility received an average score of 8.54 and location received an average score of 9.08.
- 83% of individual respondents said there are a good selection of events and activities at the hall. 30% of respondents would like to see more live bands and music, 17% would like to see more film/cinema and 14% would like more live comedy.
- In their future vision for the hall, some members of the public would like to see the hall become a social/community hub as well as an entertainment venue.
- Members of the public would like to see a variety of events and activities at the hall to suit different age groups and tastes, as well as better promotion of what is on offer.
- In open-ended responses, 37% of individuals suggested the hall should be refurbished, 26% suggested no improvement was needed and 3% suggested relocating or rebuilding the hall.

# Introduction

This report has been prepared for Melksham Town Council. The report presents the qualitative and quantitative findings from the 'Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey' a public survey which gathered response from members of the public e.g. Melksham residents and local businesses, groups and organisations between 7<sup>th</sup> November – 28<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

## Survey Design & Distribution

The purpose of the survey was to gather initial feedback and evidence for a needs analysis as it relates to the future of Melksham Assembly Hall. The survey questions were created by Community First and Melksham Town Council. The final version of the survey can be found in [Appendix 1](#) of this report.

The Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey was designed to gather feedback from two different audiences: members of the public and organisations. In order to capture relevant information from these audiences, the survey was divided into two sections with relevant questions for members of the public and organisations. Upon visiting the survey, each respondent was asked whether they were submitting a response as an individual or on behalf of an organisation. Survey respondents were directed to Section 2 (Survey Questions for Organisations) or Section 3 (Survey Questions for Individuals), depending on the type of response they wanted to submit.

In addition, conditional logic was applied to survey questions for both individuals and organisations. This meant that, whilst feedback was welcome from those who had not used the Assembly Hall, only those who had visited or used the hall were able to feedback on specific questions which required prior experience of using the hall in order to answer objectively. This also meant that respondents who had not used the hall but wanted to take part in the survey, were not presented with a long list of questions which they were unable to answer or which were not relevant for them.

The survey was designed and built using cloud-based online survey software Zoho and co-branded with Community First and Melksham Town Council logos. The Council was keen to emphasise that the survey was being carried out by an independent organisation to reassure the community that findings from the survey (including analysis of comments) would be presented in an impartial and neutral way.

As part of the survey introduction, the Council was also keen to emphasise that the survey was the initial stage of a wider public consultation as it relates to the future of Melksham Assembly Hall. As such, the survey introduction clearly stated that the Council was concerned with improving the facilities for the future rather than removing the Assembly Hall entirely as a valued community space.

There were 39 questions in the Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey. As previously mentioned, the questions were divided into sections which are included below:

- [Section 1](#): Introduction
- [Section 2](#): Survey Questions for Organisations
- [Section 3](#): Survey Questions for Individuals
- [Section 4](#): About You

PDF copies of the survey were available to print and complete using a pen and paper for those who did not wish to complete the survey online or were unable to do so. Responses from paper surveys were manually inputted into the online survey by a member of staff at Melksham Town Council so that the dataset was in once place for analysis purposes.

The Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey was closed for responses at midday on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The initial survey deadline was 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022, however the Council wanted to extend the closing date until after Christmas to capture as many responses as possible for the survey during the festive period.

## Response Rate

Survey Visits	Full Responses	Partial Responses	Total Responses
1,133	460 (71%)	187 (29%)	<b>647</b>

A total of 1,133 people accessed the Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey between 7<sup>th</sup> November – 28<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Responses received through paper copies of the survey were manually entered into the online survey by a member of Melksham Town Council staff.

- There were 1,133 (full or partial) survey responses in total.
- This represents an overall response rate of 57% for the survey.
- 65% of respondents submitted a complete response\*
- 29% submitted a partial response (including abandoned surveys)

\*Please note: a 'complete response' for this survey is a response which answers all available questions presented to the survey respondent. It was not possible for a respondent to answer all 39 available questions due to conditional logic which presented Section 2 or Sections 3 and 4, depending on whether the respondent was answering for themselves (Sections 3 and 4) or on behalf of an organisation (Section 2.)

Actual response figures and (rounded) percentage breakdowns are provided for each survey question in this report. This represents the number of responses received as a proportion of all respondents answering each individual question. Not all of the

respondents provided answers to all of the questions available, therefore the figures presented for each question may not necessarily match the totals listed above.

There were a number of open-ended questions in the survey which are summarised in the report, along with a selection of verbatim quotes. A complete list of anonymised, open-ended responses for each question is included in [Appendix 2](#) of this report. Open-ended comments have been reproduced verbatim from submitted survey responses and thus, may contain spelling, grammatical and other errors.

## Survey Respondents & Demographic Data

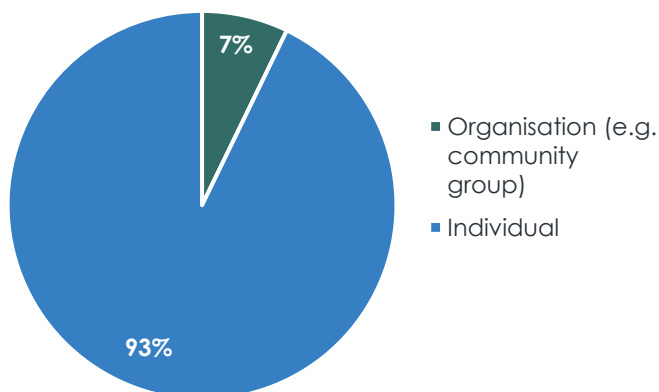
The survey contained introductory questions which were designed to identify respondent type (individual or organisation). The introductory questions also asked whether the responding individual or organisation was a resident of Melksham (for individuals) or based in Melksham (for organisations). Finally, each respondent was asked to provide their postcode. Individuals responding on their own behalf, were also asked to provide demographic information about gender and age group. The demographic information provided by respondents is summarised in this section, along with a summary of postcode information. Where a full postcode or partial was provided by responding individuals and organisations, this data has been plotted on a map. Individual maps are shown for organisation and individual respondent types.

### Respondent Type

As part of the introductory questions, respondents were asked ‘Are you an organisation or an individual?’ This was a mandatory question.

#### Question 1: Are you an organisation or an individual? (598 responses)

	Count	Percentage
Organisation (e.g. community group)	43	7%
Individual	555	93%

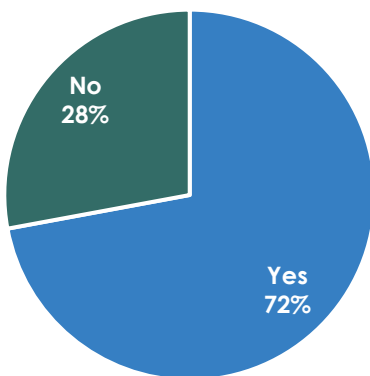


The vast majority of responses to the Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey were from individuals e.g. Melksham residents. Individual responses made up 93% of all responses received through the online survey. The remaining 7% of responses (43 in total) were from organisations such as community groups.

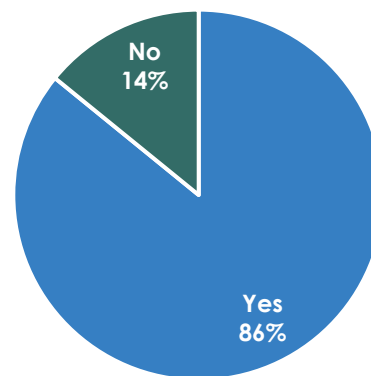
## Respondent Location

Conditional logic was applied to Question 1 (see above). Responses to this question presented two different options for Questions 2 and 3. Respondents who selected 'Organisation (e.g. community group)' were asked whether they were based in Melksham and the postcode for their organisation. Respondents who answered 'Individual' were asked whether they were a resident of Melksham and for their postcode. Responses for organisations and individuals are summarised below.

**Question 2: Is your organisation based in Melksham? (43 responses)**



**Question 2: Are you a resident of Melksham? (552 responses)**



The majority of organisations who responded to the survey (72%) said they were based in Melksham, with 28% of responding organisations based outside Melksham. As with responding organisations, the majority of individual responses to the survey (86%) were from Melksham residents. The remaining 14% of responses were from non-residents.

On average, 79% of responses received through the Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey were from organisations who are based in Melksham or from members of the public who are residents of Melksham. This suggests that local promotion of the survey from Melksham Town Council was highly effective at targeting local residents, businesses and community groups.

## Postcode Data

Both organisation and individual survey respondents were asked to provide their postcode to establish whether the survey had reached all parts of the Melksham community. Individual postcode data is not included in this report for reasons of privacy, but a full list of postcodes is available in a separate file provided to the Council.

Postcode data has been summarised below as a table showing the first part of the postcode, all of the postcodes were plotted on a map to show the broad distribution of responses from the community. A copy of the postcode map is also included.



**Question 3: What is the postcode for your organisation? (40 responses)**

**Question 3: What is your postcode? (543 responses)**

Postcode Area	Count
BA14	4 (10%)
BA15	2 (5%)
SN10	2 (5%)
SN11	1 (2%)
SN12	31 (78%)

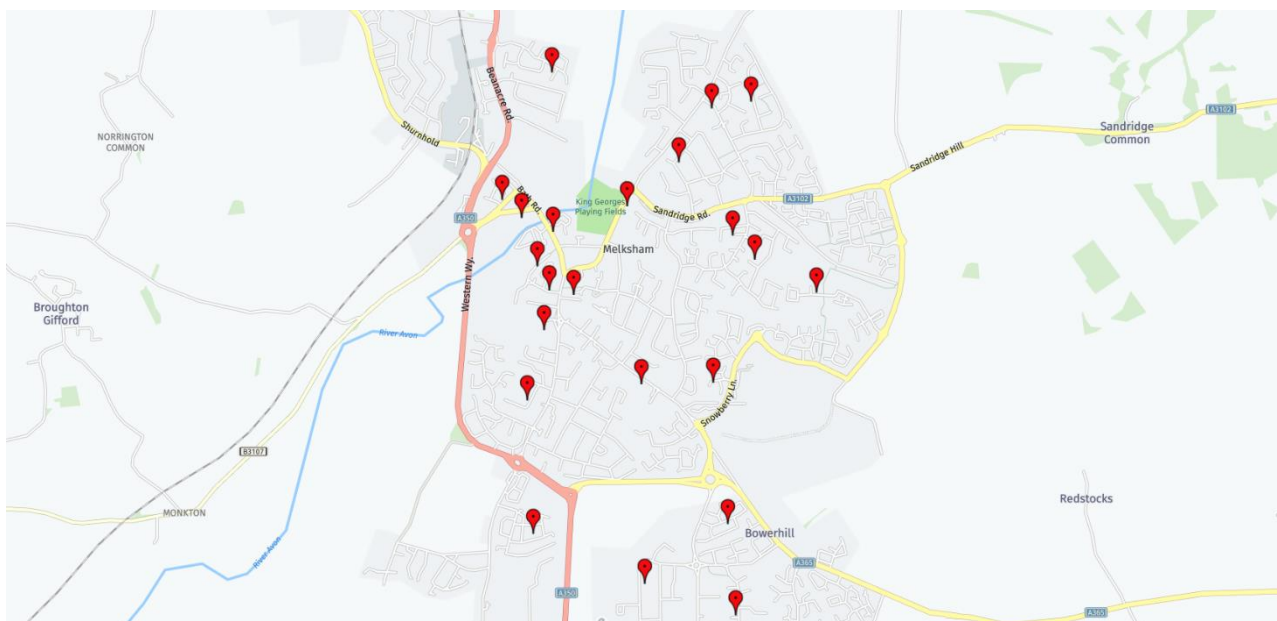
78% of organisations who responded to the survey were based in the SN12 postcode, covering Melksham, Bowerhill, Seend and Broughton Gifford. With a further 10% based in the BA14 postcode and 5% in the BA15 postcode area.

88% of individuals who responded to the survey were also based in the SN12 postcode area, with 12 responses (2%) from members of the public who are based in the BA14 postcode area.

Postcode Area	Count
BA1	1 (0%)
BA12	2 (0%)
BA13	5 (1%)
BA14	12 (2%)
BA15	1 (0%)
BA21	2 (0%)
BS34	1(0%)
SN1	1(0%)
SN10	8 (1%)
SN11	1 (0%)
SN12	476 (88%)
SN13	13 (2%)
SN14	5 (1%)
SN15	11 (2%)
SN5	1(0%)
SP11	1(0%)
SP47	1(0%)
TA10	1(0%)

**Postcode Map (Organisations)**

Postcodes (including postcode areas) for organisation respondents were plotted onto a map which is included below.



Melksham area map (organisation respondent postcode data)

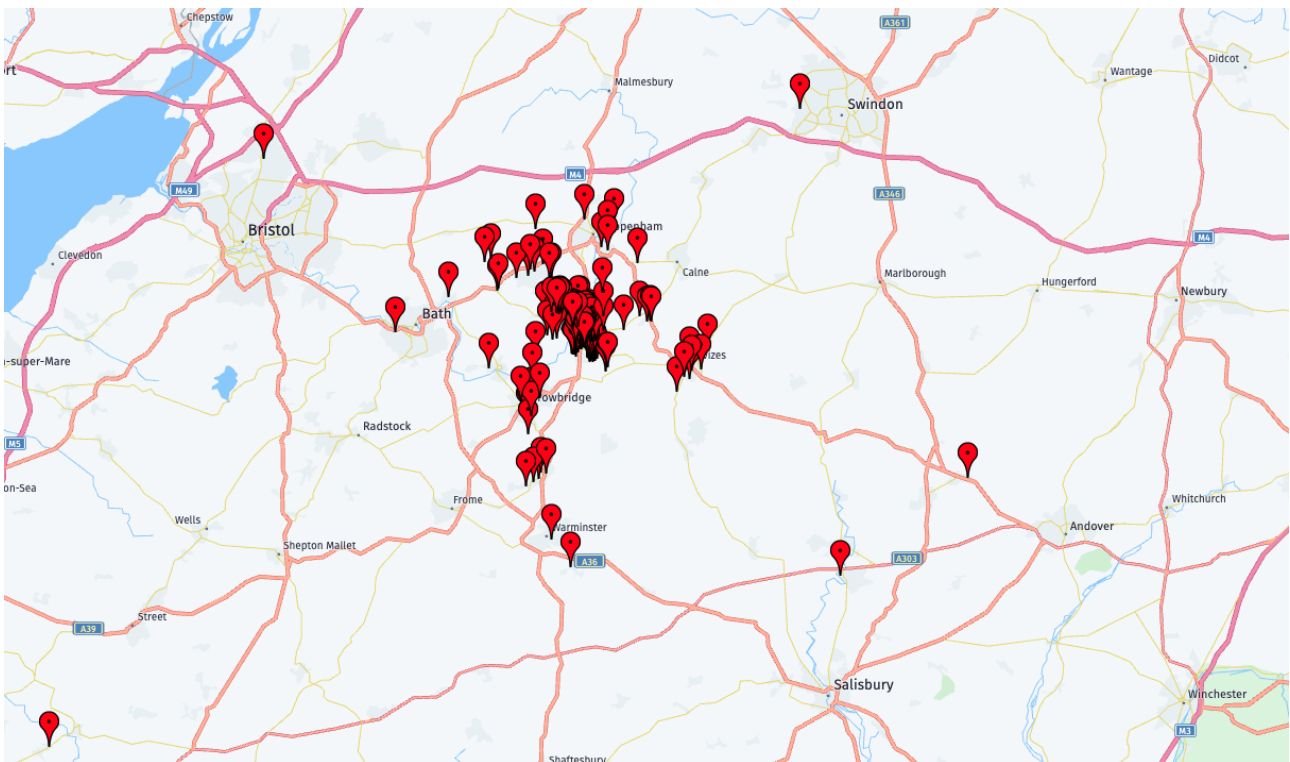
A link to view the organisation postcode map can be found at:

<https://www.doogal.co.uk/KmlViewer?url=https://www.doogal.co.uk/GeocodedKml/2a114afd-45ca-4997-b3ec-1a19403446f7.kml>

Although there were fewer organisation respondents when compared with members of the public, organisation respondent postcode data covers a range of locations within the Melksham area.

### Postcode Map (Individuals)

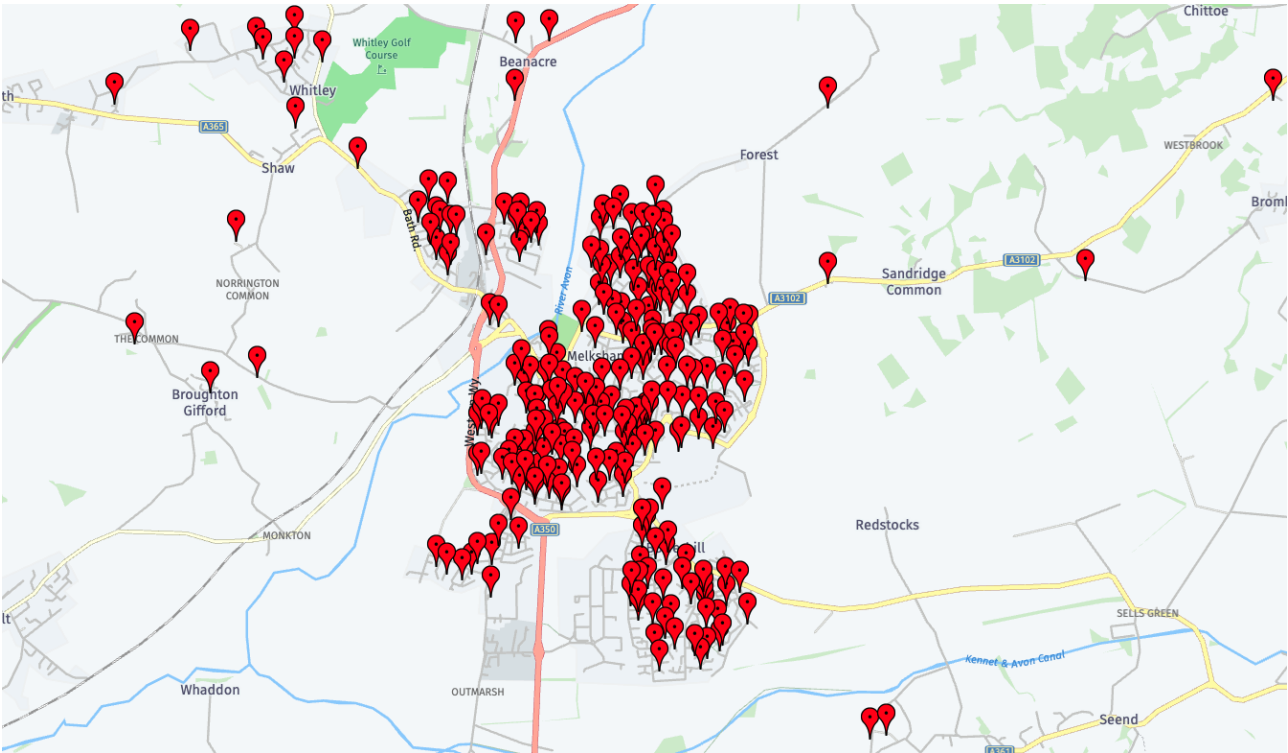
As with responses from organisations, postcodes provided by individual respondents were plotted onto a map which is included below. Two versions of the map are presented, the first view is of the South West region and the second view is of the Melksham area.



*South West regional map (individual respondent postcode data)*

Postcode data for individual survey respondents was spread across a wider area when compared with organisation respondent postcode data. Many of the postcodes for individual respondents were within the Wiltshire area (concentrated around Melksham) and distributed into Trowbridge, Chippenham, Corsham and Bradford on Avon. A small number of responses were also received from the Devizes, Westbury and Warminster postcode areas.

At the furthest edges of the postcode map for individuals were responses from the Taunton, Bristol, Salisbury and Swindon postcode areas.



Melksham area map (individual respondent postcode data)

The map above shows individual respondent postcode data for Melksham and the surrounding area. This is an approximate distribution of the responses received from the SN12 postcode area covering Melksham, Bowerhill, Seend and Broughton Gifford. As demonstrated on the map, responses were received from individuals across the whole of Melksham, with additional responses from settlements outside of the town but within the SN12 postcode area. As a result, we can be reasonably confident that the responses shared in the survey findings broadly represent the views of the community.

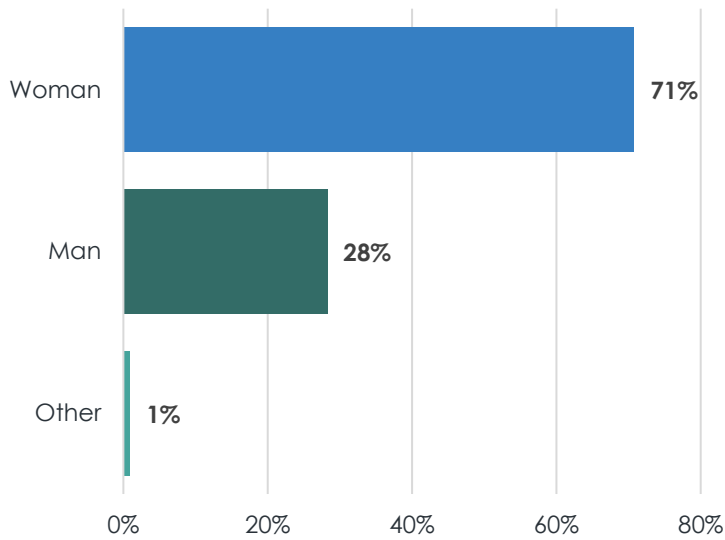
A link to view the individual postcode map can be found at:  
<https://www.doogal.co.uk/KmlViewer?url=https://www.doogal.co.uk/GeocodedKml/39588959-8289-4bbc-bacb-7349aeba83d5.kml>

**Demographic Information (Individual Respondents)**

Individual survey respondents were asked for basic demographic information to establish whether the survey reached a wide range of different people within the community.

**Question 35: What is your gender? (421 responses)**

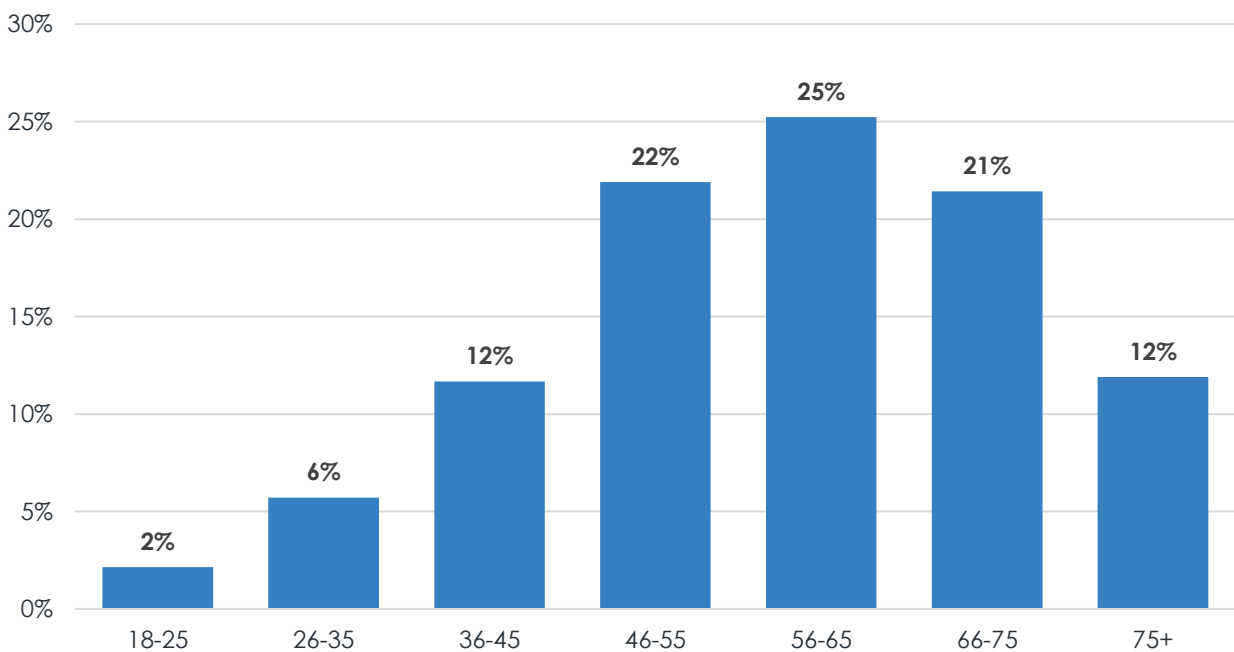
	Count	Percentage
Man	119	28%
Woman	298	71%
Other (Please Specify)	4	1%



The gender breakdown in responses from members of the public was strongly skewed towards women, making up over 71% of all survey responses. A further 28% of responses were from men. The remaining 1% of respondents selected 'Other', with 2 responses from couples (male and female) and a further 2 responses from non-binary or gender-fluid people.

**Question 36: What is your age group? (420 responses)**

	Count	Percentage
18-25 years	9	2%
26-35 years	24	6%
36-45 years	49	12%
46-55 years	92	22%
56-65 years	106	25%
66-75 years	90	21%
75+ years	50	12%



Responses were received from people across a broad range of age groups from aged 18-75+ years. Please note, that due to the need for a parent or guardian to give permission for persons aged under 18 years to take part in the survey, only persons aged 18 or over are represented in the dataset. In order to capture feedback from young people about the facilities at Melksham Assembly Hall, it may be worth considering outreach activity for youth clubs and other groups for young people\* as part of the wider consultation process.

A quarter of all survey responses from the members of the public were from individuals in the 56-65 age group, with 22% of responses from people aged 46-55 and a further 21% of respondents in the 66-75 years age bracket. Overall, 69% of responses were from people aged between 46-75 years.

Overall there were fewer responses from younger adults. People aged under 45 years including those aged 18-25, 26-35 and 36-45 years made up just 20% of responses overall. This suggests that further consultation may be required to capture feedback from younger adults as it relates to the future of the Assembly Hall.

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*\*Community First has a team of young listeners who are experienced in youth-led and peer-to-peer community engagement projects with children and young people. Please contact Harry Tipple: [htipple@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:htipple@communityfirst.org.uk) for more information.*

# Survey Findings

The below analysis is based on all of the submitted responses to the Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey between the 7<sup>th</sup> November – 28<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Open ended questions have been summarised headings and all of the anonymised, verbatim responses for each question are available in Appendix 2 of this report.

## Feedback from Organisations

This section presents the findings from 43 organisations who submitted a response to the survey on behalf of their organisation e.g. a community group or local business. Overall there were fewer responses to the survey from organisations when compared to members of the public. As such, survey findings from organisations in the dataset may not be representative of all organisations who use (or have previously used) the hall. Additional feedback from local businesses, community groups and other organisations may be required as part of further consultation about the future of Melksham Assembly Hall.

## Use of the Hall

### Question 6: Has your organisation ever made use of Melksham Assembly Hall? (38 responses)

	Count	Percentage
Yes	25	66%
No	13	34%

66% of responding organisations who completed the survey said they had made use of Melksham Assembly Hall. The remaining 34% said they had never used the hall. As previously mentioned, conditional logic was applied to this question so that only those organisations who have used Melksham Assembly Hall were able to provide specific feedback on the facilities and pricing at the venue.

Organisations who had not used the hall were invited to feedback on why they had not made use of the facilities, their ideal vision for the future of the hall and whether or not they would like to be involved in future consultation about the future of the hall. Those who had prior experience of using Melksham Assembly Hall, either as a current hall user or previous hall user, were invited to offer more specific feedback about their use of the hall and the facilities on offer. This was in addition to their future vision for the hall and whether they would like to take part in future consultation.

### Question 7: Is there a particular reason you have not made use of Melksham Assembly Hall (13 responses)

This question was an open-ended question which invited feedback from organisations who had never made use of Melksham Assembly Hall. There were 13 responses from organisations who offered feedback on why they had not used the facilities at the hall. Responses were analysed and are summarised below along with a selection of verbatim quotes. A complete list of anonymised responses to this question can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

Several responding organisations who had not made use of the hall, said they had their own facilities e.g. a village hall and thus did not need to make use of an additional venue. Other responding organisations suggested the hall was too large to meet their needs, was cost prohibitive or that parking at the hall was insufficient to meet their needs. Some of the respondents also suggested they had not yet had an opportunity to use the hall because they were recently formed or did not hold face-to-face group meetings. Some additional respondents also said they did not currently hold events or meetings in Melksham as they are based in a different location.

*“We haven't run events in Melksham and parking at the venue is not great.”*

*“Have own space for weekly meetings. Have heard cost prohibitive if wanted to hire when holding a larger event.”*

*“We have a very small studio in Chippenham and do not need to use any other venue, particularly a large one like the Assembly Hall.”*

*“Probably too large for what we need and other more suitable spaces in the town. Also, more expensive than our budget allows.”*

*“We meet in Bowerhill Village Hall and have no reason to use the Assembly Hall.”*

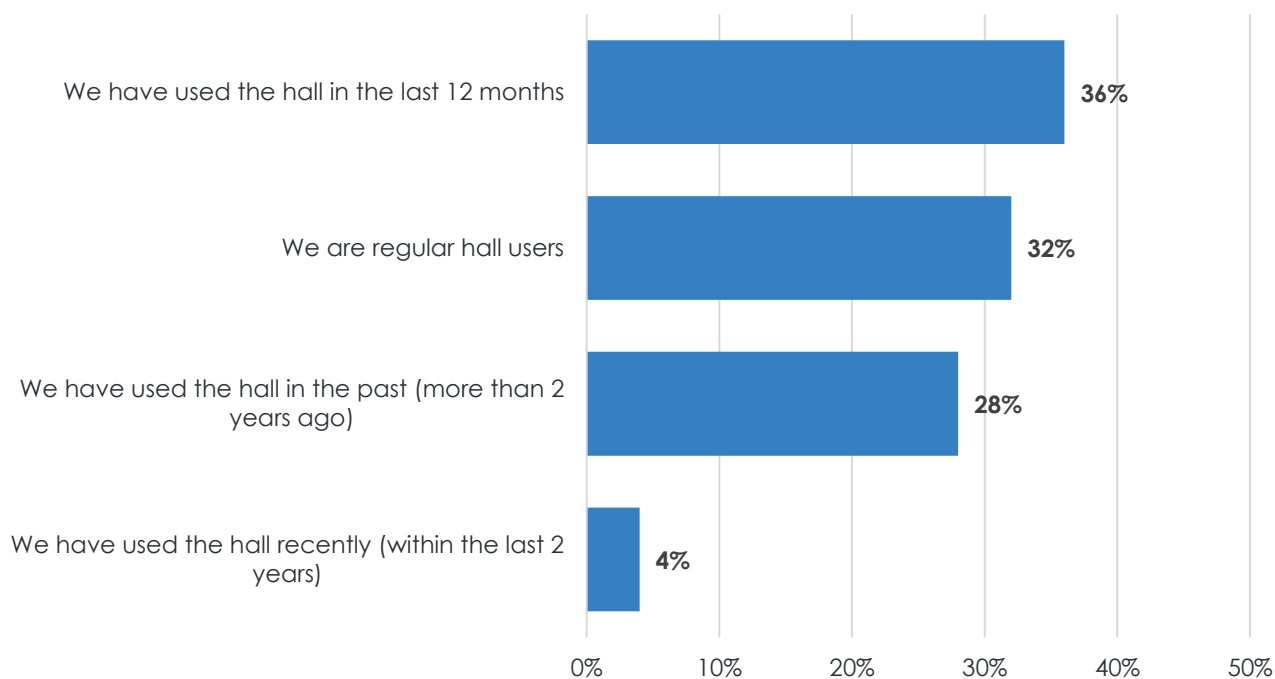
Comments from organisations shared through the survey suggest that a smaller space e.g. a meeting room, at a lower rate and with more parking may be appealing to smaller organisations as part of any future plans for the hall.

### **Question 8: Which statement best describes your use of Melksham Assembly Hall? (25 responses)**

This question was presented to organisations that said they had made use of the Assembly Hall either as a current hall user or in the past.

	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
We have used the hall in the last 12 months	9	36%
We are regular hall users	8	32%
We have used the hall in the past (more than 2 years ago)	7	28%
We have used the hall recently (within the last 2 years)	1	4%





When combined, 68% of responses from organisations who had used the hall were from regular hall users (32%) or organisations who had used the hall within the last 12 months (36%). 28% of responding organisations said they had used the hall more than 2 years ago, with the remaining 4% who have used the hall within the last 2 years. The higher response rate from current and recent hall users may be because these organisations are currently making use of the facilities or may intend to do so in the future. Thus these organisations may be more invested in the future of the hall.

Organisations who selected 'We have used the hall recently (within the last 2 years)' or 'We have used the hall in the past (more than 2 years ago)' were invited to comment on why they have not made a more recent booking.

**Question 9: If your organisation used Melksham Assembly Hall more than 2 years ago or within the last 2 years, is there a particular reason you have not booked the hall again? (7 responses)**

This question was an open-ended question. There were 7 responses from organisations who offered feedback on why they had not rebooked the hall. Responses were analysed and are summarised below along with a selection of verbatim quotes. A complete list of anonymised responses to this question can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

Some of the halls who responded to this question said that Melksham Assembly Hall was too expensive, with one hall stating the facility had 'become too expensive' which suggests that a change in pricing had prevented them from rebooking the hall. Some organisations also said that they had issues with booking the hall, either because there was no availability for the date/time they wanted to book or because they found it difficult to make a booking.



Some halls mentioned Covid-19 as the primary reason for not rebooking, with a further hall who said they would like to rebook but tiered seating was not available so had chosen a different venue which offered tiered seating.

*“Too expensive and booking was not easy. It would be nice to see what's on at the assembly hall at a glance or calendar. Even if it's a private booking - put private booking then the public can see what's on and booking people can see availability.”*

*“We used to use the Melksham town hall for our dance shows but we would prefer a tiered seating option therefore have gone elsewhere. But we loved using the hall and would again if the seating changed.”*

*“Tried to book the venue, however no availability for the time that we wanted.”*

*“It became too expensive.”*

Comments from organisations who had previously used the hall but had not rebooked suggested an improved booking system (with the option to see booking availability online), reduced hire rates and tiered seating would encourage them to rebook the hall.

#### **Question 10: How often does your organisation make use of Melksham Assembly Hall? (17 responses)**

Organisations who are regular hall users or who had made a booking within the last 12 months, were asked how often they use the hall.

	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yearly	7	41%
Monthly	4	24%
Other (Please Specify)	3	18%
Twice a year	3	18%
3-4 times a year	0	0%
Weekly	0	0%

The majority 41% of responding organisations who used the hall on a regular or semi-regular basis said they booked the hall yearly, with a further 24% who had a monthly booking. 'Other' comments (see below) were also from hall users who made use of the facilities twice a months. 18% of organisations made a booking twice a year.

None of the responding organisations said they used the hall on a quarterly or weekly basis.

Amongst those who selected 'Other' the 3 responses were:

Bi-monthly

Yearly but may expand use

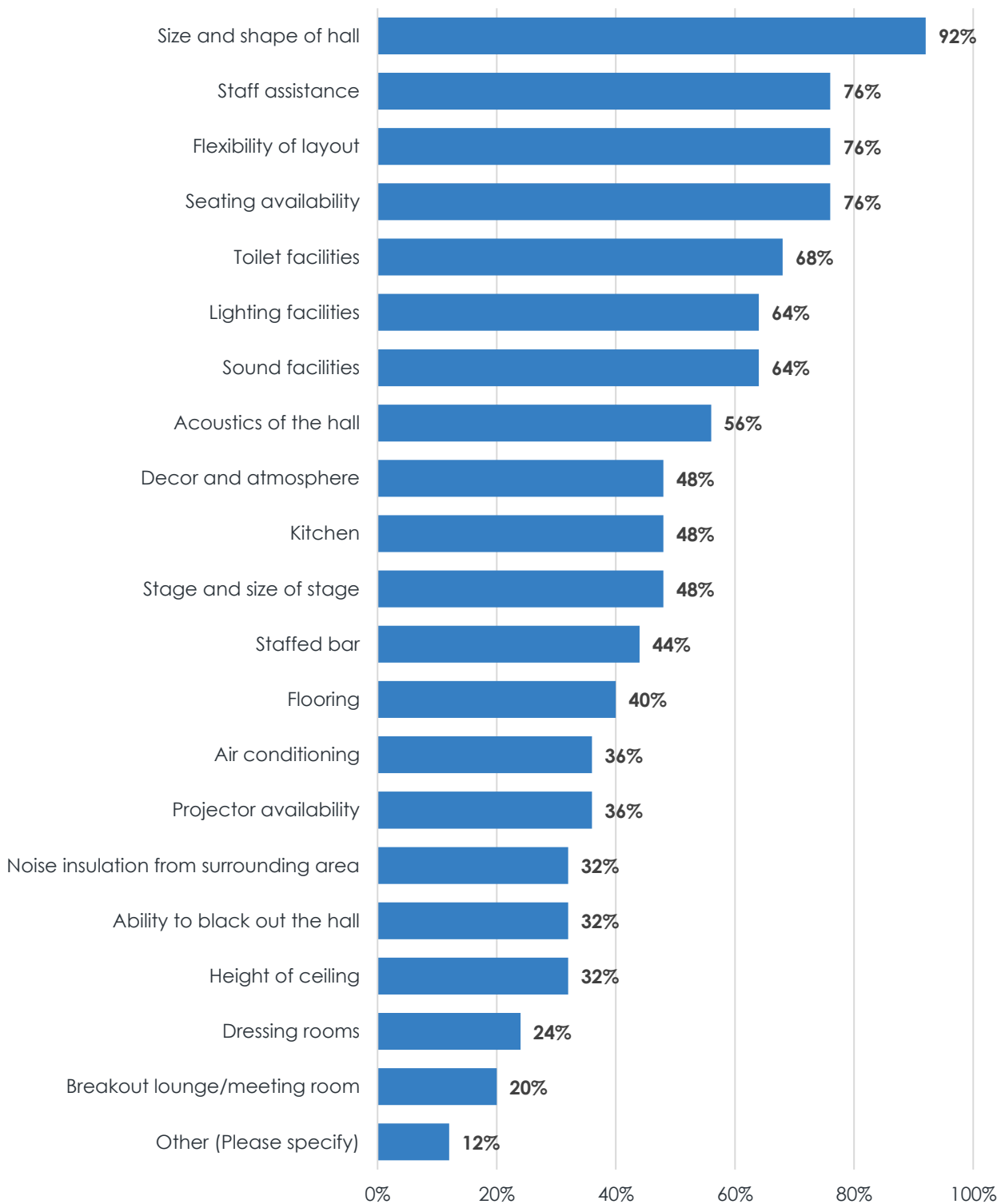
Twice a month for a community film

## Feedback on Hall Facilities, Location and Accessibility

### Question 11: What do you like and value about Melksham Assembly Hall? Please select all that apply. (25 responses)

Organisations who had previously booked the hall, either recently, within in the last 2 years or more than 2 years ago were asked to select hall features that they liked and valued. This was a multiple-choice question and organisations were able to select multiple facilities and features. The responses are summarised in the table below in order of most to least selected hall feature.

	Count	Percentage
Size and shape of hall	23	92%
Seating availability	19	76%
Flexibility of layout	19	76%
Staff assistance	19	76%
Toilet facilities	17	68%
Sound facilities	16	64%
Lighting facilities	16	64%
Acoustics of the hall	14	56%
Stage and size of stage	12	48%
Kitchen	12	48%
Decor and atmosphere	12	48%
Staffed bar	11	44%
Flooring	10	40%
Projector availability	9	36%
Air conditioning	9	36%
Height of ceiling	8	32%
Ability to black out the hall	8	32%
Noise insulation from surrounding area	8	32%
Dressing rooms	6	24%
Breakout lounge/meeting room	5	20%
Other (Please specify)	3	12%



92% of responding organisations said they liked/valued the size and shape of Melksham Assembly Hall. Over 75% of organisations said they valued the staff assistance at the hall (76%), the flexibility of the layout (76%) and the availability of seating at the hall (76%). Over 60% of organisations who responded said they valued the toilet (68%), lighting (64%) and sound (64%) facilities at Melksham Assembly Hall. A further 56% selected 'acoustics of the hall' as a featured they liked/valued.

Just under half (48%) of organisations like the stage and the size of the stage at the hall, 44% said they liked/valued the staffed bar and a further 40% cited the flooring as a feature they like and value.

Whilst the number of responding organisations was on the lower side when compared with members of the public, the facilities or features which were selected by less than 40% of responding organisations, can offer an outline on what could be improved. Just 20% of organisations who responded to this question said they liked the breakout room or meeting room facilities at the hall, 24% liked the dressing rooms and 32% said they liked/valued the height of the ceilings.

### **Question 12: Is there any way Melksham Assembly Hall is not meeting your needs as an organisation? For example, are there any features you think are missing from the hall? (17 responses)**

This question was an open-ended question for organisations who currently use the hall or who have previously used the hall. There were 17 responses from organisations who offered feedback on how Melksham Assembly Hall is not currently meeting their needs and any additional features they feel are missing from the hall. Responses were analysed and are summarised below along with a selection of verbatim quotes. A complete list of anonymised responses to this question can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

Of the organisations who responded to this question, 52% (9 organisations) suggested that the hall was currently meeting their needs and that no additional features were needed. The remaining responses included a suggestion that the hall should be open during daytime hours, a modernised kitchen and toilets, improved chairs/seating (including tiered seating) and an outside play area.

*"The venue is fantastic, speaking from the owner of a children's organisation - having an area alongside the hall for big family events would be brilliant. An area where children can let off steam, run around etc. perhaps an outdoor area? This would also open up an opportunity to host weddings etc."*

*"The hall meets our needs perfectly."*

*"Not being open during the day can be a problem."*

*"The kitchen needs modernisation! The chairs are uncomfortable and need changing!"*

*We would love if the seating was tiered!*

As part of the survey, organisations who had previously used the hall were invited to rate the facilities, accessibility and location of Melksham Assembly Hall on a scale of 1-10.

Average ratings, along with additional comments are presented below. For the purpose of analysis, a score of 1 is considered 'poor' (in need of significant improvement), a score of 2-4 is considered 'unsatisfactory' (in need of improvement), a score of 5-6 is considered 'average' (satisfactory), a score of 7-9 is considered 'good' (some minor improvements may be needed) and a score of 10 is excellent (no improvements required).

**Question 14: On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the facilities at Melksham Assembly Hall? (25 responses)**

Organisations were asked to rate the facilities at the hall on a scale of 1-10. The average score for the facilities at the hall was **8.61** which suggests that current/previous hall users rate the current facilities at the hall as good. 39% of organisations rated the facilities as 'excellent' overall, with one organisation who rated the facilities as '3' (unsatisfactory).

Poor	Unsatisfactory			Average		Good			Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	2 (9%)	5 (22%)	5 (22%)	9 (39%)

**Additional comments:**

As part of their rating for the facilities at the hall, organisations were also invited to leave an additional comment to help explain their rating. 19 organisations left an additional comment about the facilities at Melksham Assembly Hall. Responses were analysed and are summarised below along with a selection of verbatim quotes. A complete list of anonymised comments can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

There were several comments from organisations who suggested that the hall fully met their needs and felt the facilities were excellent. Additional comments made suggestions for how the facilities could be improved, these suggestions included improved seating/tables and modernisation of the hall e.g. overall building, décor and kitchen.

*"It would be a 10, but the building is in rather a poor state of repair."*

*"The hall is easy to access from town and from public transport. The bar is an excellent facility. The kitchen allows us to provide drinks for visitors, though it does need modernising. The projector allows us to show modern films and the hall can be darkened. These facilities are not available elsewhere."*

*"The kitchen could do with some updating."*

*"The seating we feel could be improved in order to see the stage better."*

*"Suitable but it is very dated."*

**Question 14: On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the accessibility of Melksham Assembly Hall? (25 responses)**

Organisations were asked to rate the accessibility of the hall on a scale of 1-10. The average score for the facilities at the hall was **8.56** which suggests that current/previous hall users rate the accessibility of the hall as good. 40% of organisations rated the accessibility as 'excellent' overall. All rating scores for accessibility at the hall were between 'Average' (5) and 'Excellent' (10).

Poor	Unsatisfactory			Average		Good			Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	2 (8%)	2 (8%)	7 (28%)	3 (12%)	10 (40%)

**Additional comments:**

As part of their rating for accessibility of the hall, organisations were also invited to leave an additional comment to help explain their rating. 19 organisations left an additional comment about hall accessibility. Responses were analysed and are summarised below along with a selection of verbatim quotes. A complete list of anonymised comments can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

There were several comments from organisations which suggested accessibility of the hall had not been an issue for them. Parking is felt to be the main accessibility issue for organisations using the hall. There were several comments which suggested that parking was limited at the hall, including disabled parking and unloading. There were several queries around the accessibility of toilets at the hall and a requirement that access to the hall be step-free for the elderly.

Several comments suggested that parking had improved since Melksham Community Campus opened, however an additional comment expressed concern that parking at the Campus was not permitted for users of Melksham Assembly Hall. This suggests that hall users may need some clarity around parking at the Campus.

*"Parking is now a problem since the Market Place was updated, especially for disabled members. If we were allowed to park at the Campus that would help."*

*"Not sure if the toilets are very accessible."*

*"Accessibility is a problem for our members for loading and unloading their plants for our show i.e. parking."*

*"Parking is good and indeed better now the campus is open. It's entrance and internal facilities are all on one level."*

*“Never had a problem with accessibility.”*

### Question 15: On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is ‘poor’ and 10 is ‘excellent’, how would you rate the location of Melksham Assembly Hall? (25 responses)

Organisations were asked to rate the location of the hall on a scale of 1-10. The average score for the facilities at the hall was **8.96** which suggests that current/previous hall users broadly consider the location of the hall to be good. All rating scores for the hall location were between ‘Good’ (7) and ‘Excellent’ (10). Overall, the location of the hall received the highest average rating when compared to ratings for facilities and accessibility.

Poor	Unsatisfactory			Average		Good			Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (16%)	5 (20%)	4 (16%)	12 (48%)

As part of their rating for the hall location, organisations were also invited to leave an additional comment to help explain their rating. 18 organisations left an additional comment about the location of the hall. Responses were analysed and are summarised below along with a selection of verbatim quotes. A complete list of anonymised comments can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

Many of the comments left by organisations who had rated the location of Melksham Assembly Hall cited the hall's central location as a factor in their rating choice. Organisations like the location and said it is within easy access of the town centre and accessible by public transport, on foot and by car e.g. taxi or links to local car parks. As with accessibility (above) were a couple of comments which suggested that parking at the venue was unsatisfactory.

One comment suggested putting up a notice board in the centre of town with information about events and activities at the hall.

*“Great to have the venue in the middle of town.”*

*“Central location with links to car parking, bus and taxi services.”*

*“In the middle of Town - some notice boards at the Market Place would help to let people know what is going on.”*

*“Parking is a problem.”*

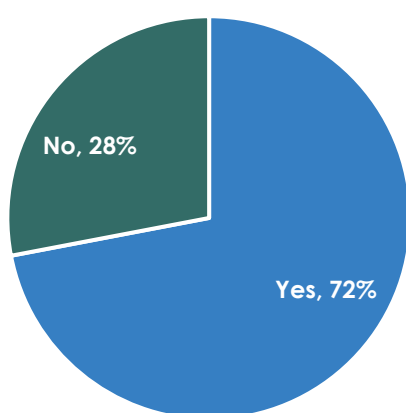
*“Central to town, great footfall and close to other amenities.”*

## Hire Charges

Organisations who had previous experience of using Melksham Assembly Hall were invited to comment on hire charges for the hall.

### Question 16: Do you feel Melksham Assembly Hall hire charges are reasonable? (25 responses)

	Count	Percentage
Yes	18	72%
No	7	28%



The majority of responding organisations (72%) said that hire charges at Melksham Assembly Hall are reasonable. The remaining 28% felt that the current hire charges were unreasonable.

Organisations were also invited to leave a comment on hire charges at the hall. 14 organisations left a comment in relation to hire charges. Analysis of the comments is included below with a selection of quotes. A full list of verbatim responses can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

### Question 17: Do you have any comments to make about hire charges at Melksham Assembly Hall? (14 responses)

When asked to provide additional feedback on hire charges at Melksham Assembly Hall, some previous/current hall users who responded to this question felt the charges were too expensive. Two respondent organisations also suggested they felt hire charges were too high, even though they received a grant to cover the cost of hall hire.

Additional suggestions relating to hire charges included a discount or subsidy for local hall users e.g. local groups which could be paid for through Council Tax, a flat fee rather than a price per hour and less complicated hire rates/hiring conditions with a clear indication of current hire fees on the website.

*"They've always been too complicated and too expensive. Venues around Melksham offer their space for free and make the revenue from the bar."*

*"I do not know what the current charges are. Having looked on the website I couldn't find an indication of the present charges."*



"We are lucky as we get a grant for the hire, but from other people I think they are quite high."

"Everyone wants something for nothing, but generally I think a discount/subsidy for local users (much like Trowbridge museum or Parade Gardens in Bath) would be preferable with the Town paying a subsidy through Council Tax to guarantee its future existence and viability. Not all assets can be costed tangibly."

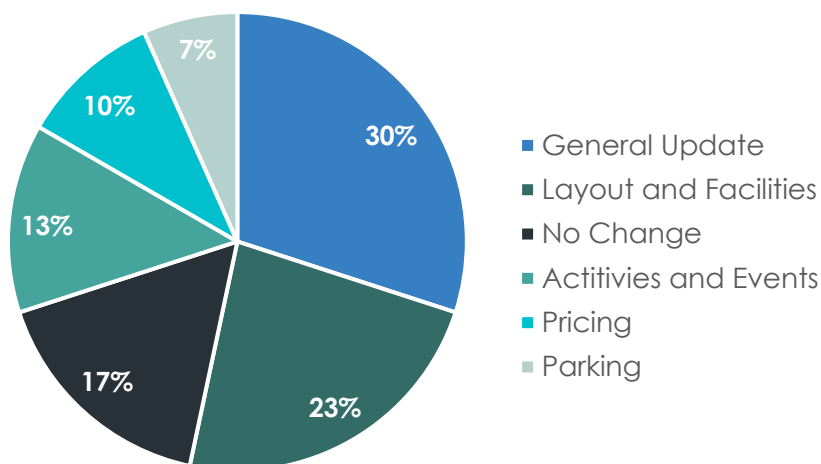
"Would be good to have a flat fee rather than a price per hour."

"Really expensive the last time we hired the venue."

## Future Vision for the Hall

### Question 18: What would be your ideal vision for Melksham Assembly Hall in the future? (30 responses)

This was an open-ended question which was open to all organisation respondents including those who had never used Melksham Assembly Hall. 30 responding organisations left a comment about their future vision for Melksham Assembly Hall. Analysis of the comments is included below with a selection of quotes. A full list of verbatim responses can be found in Appendix 2.



As there were a higher number of responses to this question, all comments were analysed and summarised by theme. A breakdown of themes is included in the chart (left), along with a summary of comments for each theme.

### General Update (30%)

30% of responding organisations suggested a general update or refresh would be part of their future vision for Melksham Assembly Hall. Suggestions included general updates to the appearance of the hall e.g. redecoration/modernisation and investment in the building, without making substantial changes to the facilities or layout of the hall. Some respondents also said they would like to see the hall remain in exactly the same location without being moved, replaced or closed down.

*"Keep it. Don't move or replace it. Update and refresh inside."*

*"The Hall needs decorating, modernising and some improvements. My vision is of a great, well used local resource that has many different functions to attract all ages."*

*"An injection of cash, to spruce up the building, but no changes to the feel of the place and the internal options on offer."*

*"A face lift would be an advantage."*

### **Layout and Facilities (23%)**

Amongst responding organisations, 23% of responses suggested more comprehensive changes to the layout and facilities would feature as part of their future vision for the hall. Several respondents suggested tiered seating and a change to the overall layout of the hall to accommodate meeting spaces (large and small), as well as retaining a large area for bigger gatherings. There was a general feeling that the space should be adaptable to different sized groups and events. Two respondents suggested screens or dividers to make the hall area more flexible for different needs. Other suggested changes included improved toilets and a more flexible bar area.

*"A modern adaptable hall with tiered seating. Better toilet facilities."*

*"A more flexible space in the bar area - so you could book classes or parties in the day. The hall could have a room divider and split in to two areas."*

*"Could there be dividers to make smaller spaces for use in the day for community groups?"*

*"Tiered seating to combine a theatre as well as dance hall."*

### **No Change (17%)**

17% of responding organisations suggested that the hall should stay as it is, with no changes needed or did not make any suggestions for their future vision.

*"It suits my needs as a dance hall with a superb floor."*

*"To stay as a venue."*

*"To stay as it is for local clubs to hire the venue."*

*"We feel that the Assembly Hall should continue to be a community hub and resource for use by any and all groups at a minimum rental/entry fee. It should be administered and maintained by the Town Council with County subsidies."*

A further respondent said they would need time to consult about the future vision.

### **Activities and Events (13%)**

Amongst organisations who responded to this question, 13% suggested improvements to activities and events as part of their future vision for the hall. Suggestions included community events organised with local charities, training sessions and meetings, community fairs or shows and music events for a younger audience.

*"As per Neild Hall in Chippenham, regular community events organised with local charities, Council services etc involved."*

*"Hold training sessions or meetings."*

*"I believe it should be a facility that serves the community. Perhaps there could be more fayres of various descriptions on a regular basis so that, for example, once a month folk know there is an activity / show on that they could go to."*

*"More music events promoted, perhaps aimed at a younger audience."*

### **Pricing (10%)**

3 organisations (10%) suggested improvements or changes to pricing for the hall as part of their future vision. Comments included subsidised pricing for the benefit of Melksham residents and organisations, an increase in hall users to reduce rates for all hirers and a general suggestion that pricing should be affordable for local people and groups.

*"As above a subsidised venue for the benefit of the town. Outside user paying a premium."*

*"More users bringing price down."*

*"Somewhere that the people of Melksham (Wiltshire as a whole) and groups can use and come together. It shouldn't be restrictive in price as often these places are. Trowbridge town hall and the civic centre are too expensive for small groups."*

### **Parking (7%)**

2 organisations (7%) suggested improved parking as part of their future vision for the hall.

"For our needs we need easy access for the public to park close by or the hall to be central to the commercial centre."

"Not sure - better free parking?"

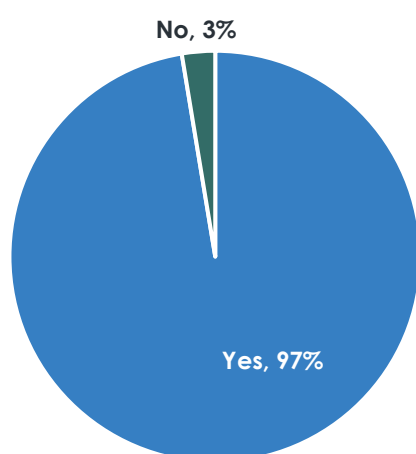
## Feedback from Members of the Public

This section presents the findings from 555 individuals (members of the public) who submitted a response to the Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey.

### Use of the Hall

#### Question 22: Have you ever visited Melksham Assembly Hall? (421 responses)

	Count	Percentage
Yes	410	97%
No	11	3%



The vast majority (97%) of responding individuals who completed the survey said they had previous experience of using Melksham Assembly Hall. A small percentage (3%) said they had no previous experience of using the hall. Due to the high number of responses from members of the public who had prior experience of using the hall, responses from members of the public are likely to be more representative when compared with responses from organisations.

#### Question 23: Is there any particular reason you have not visited Melksham Assembly Hall? (10 responses)

This question was an open-ended question which invited feedback from members of the public who had never made use of Melksham Assembly Hall. There were 10 responses from individuals who offered feedback on why they had not used the facilities at the hall. Responses were analysed and are summarised below along with a selection of verbatim quotes. A complete list of anonymised responses to this question can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

Some of the responses were from people who were new to the area, hadn't had a chance to use the hall yet or who did not know about the hall. Some additional responses

were from people who suggested they had no particular reason for not using the hall and just said 'no' or did not give a specific answer. Two respondents also suggested they had not used the hall because the events and activities on offer did not appeal to them.

*"No interesting events."*

*"I only just moved to town last month, but from what I've heard it's a valuable resource for the town and one which encourages community spirit and coming together, as well as patronage of the Arts."*

*"There hasn't been a need for me too. I also don't really understand what it's for or who runs it. I see things advertising events at the hall in The Melksham Independent Newspaper every now and then."*

*"The events don't appeal to me."*

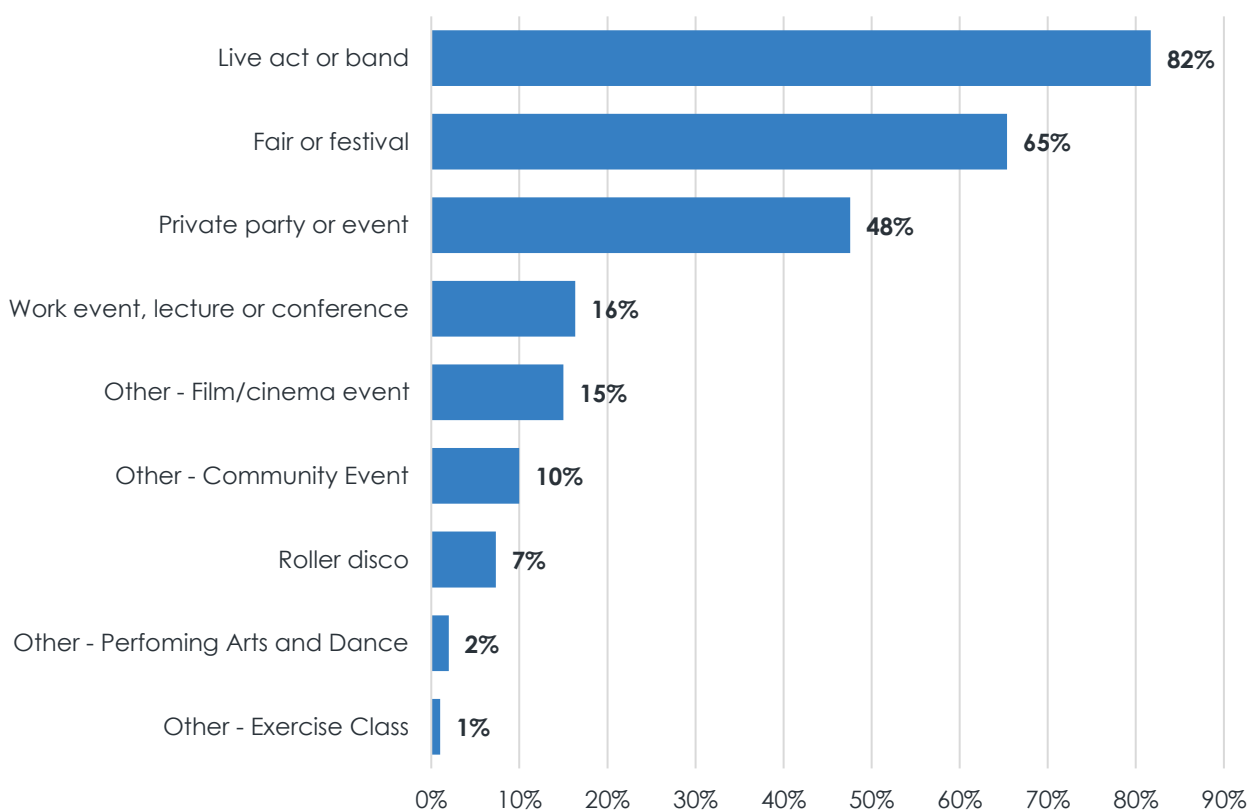
*"Not a member of any of the community groups that use it and many events there appear aimed at those who like music from the 60s and 70s. Building is unprepossessing."*

**Question 24: For what reasons have you used Melksham Assembly Hall? Please tick all that apply (410 responses)**

This question was for members of the public who said they had previous experience of using the Assembly Hall. This was a multiple-choice question and many respondents selected more than one type of hall use. In addition to the multiple-choice question, there was an 'Other' open-ended response type. All 'Other' responses were analysed and have been grouped under themed headings and added to the table and chart below. A complete list of anonymised responses to this question can be found in Appendix 2.

	Count	Percentage
Live act or band	335	82%
Fair or festival	268	65%
Private party or event	195	48%
Work event, lecture or conference	67	16%
Other – Film/cinema event	60	15%
Other – Community event	39	10%
Roller disco	30	7%
Other – Performing arts and dance	10	2%
Other – Exercise class	5	1%

Please note: There may be some overlap between 'Other' categories and suggested activities and events which featured in the multiple-choice options. Many of the respondents who answered 'Other' appeared to do so in order to offer more detail about the type of event or activity they had participated in at the Assembly Hall. For example there was some crossover between 'Fair or festival' and 'Other – Community event' e.g. a raffle or charity event. Similarly there may be some overlap between 'Other – Performing arts and dance' and 'Live act or band.' This could suggest that some survey respondents felt the category 'Live act or band' applied only to musical performances and not theatrical or dance performances. Please note also that 'Other – Performing arts and dance' includes those who said they had attended a dancing event at the hall.

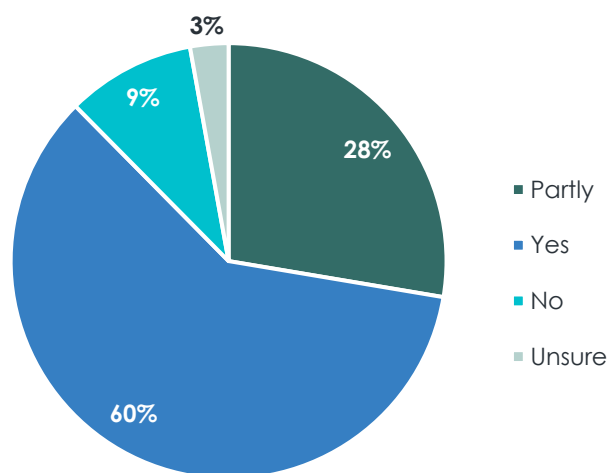


Over 80% of responding individuals said they had attended an event with a live act or band at the hall, with a further 65% who had attended a fair or festival. Just under half (48%) had also attended a private party or event at the hall.

Overall, there were a high number of 'Other' responses which made up 28% of all responses from members of the public. Amongst this group, 15% had attended a film or cinema night at the hall (including senior film night), 10% had attended a community event, 2% had visited the hall for a dance or performing arts event either as an attendee or a performing artist and 1% attended an exercise class.

**Question 25: Do you think Melksham Assembly Hall is currently meeting the needs of the community? (387 responses)**

This was an open-ended question for members of the public who said they had previously used or visited Melksham Assembly Hall. There were 387 responses to this question. Responses were analysed and summarised by theme. Responses were also analysed for sentiment and were categorised as either 'Yes' (meeting the needs of the community), 'No' (not meeting the needs of the community), 'Partly' (mostly meeting the needs of the community with some room for improvement) or 'Unsure' for those who did not give an indication or said they were unsure. A breakdown of themes is included in the chart below, along with a summary of comments for each theme grouped by expressed sentiment. All verbatim responses can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.



When responses are broken down by sentiment, 60% of respondents indicated they thought the hall was currently meeting the needs of the community and 28% of respondents suggested the hall was partly meeting the needs of the community (with suggestions for how to improve). The remaining 9% indicated the hall was not meeting the needs of the community and 3% were unsure.

A count of responses by theme and expressed sentiment can be found in the table below. Unsure responses (11) have been omitted from the table to avoid clutter. Please note, some respondents mentioned more than one theme in their comment.

Theme	Yes (60%)	No (9%)	Partly (28%)
General comment	176	18	17
Events and activities	31	10	44
Management	2	8	28
Space and facilities	10	2	14
Location	13	1	0
Publicity	3	1	16

### Themes (Yes – The hall is meeting the needs of the community)

Amongst members of the public who felt the hall was currently meeting the needs of the community (60%), there were a large number of general comments about the hall which did not mention a specific theme. For example, the individual wrote 'fantastic venue' or just 'yes' without providing any additional detail. Overall, the highest number of responses

(176) from those who suggested the hall was currently meeting the needs of the community were general comments in favour of the hall.

Events and activities at the hall were also mentioned by 31 respondents as a reason the hall is currently meeting the needs of the community. These individuals feel there are a diverse range of events or activities at the hall which cater for all ages and tastes. Some people cited events they had attended which they enjoyed or commented that they had seen a range of different events advertised at the hall. Examples of events cited by individual respondents included bands, live acts or shows, markets or fairs and dances. Examples of comments included:

*"Yes, it offers a range of different events and seem to have something to offer everyone."*

*"I believe that any live entertainment is a good thing to bring to local communities, and you do have a diverse selection."*

*"It provides a wide range of events to cater for the different interests of the community."*

Space and facilities (10) and location (13) were also cited by survey respondents as reason why the hall is currently meeting the needs of the community. Amongst those who mentioned the location of the hall, respondents felt that the hall was ideally located to for the town and local amenities and transport links.

*"I think it is a very good space, well placed in the centre of town."*

*"Yes, it is in a perfect location in the centre of town, with all the facilities that are needed."*

*"Yes definitely it's the best place where everyone can get to quite easily, situated in the Heart of the town."*

For survey respondents who mentioned the hall space or facilities as a reason the hall is currently meeting the needs of the community, respondents mentioned the size of the venue as being ideal for larger gatherings and events. Indeed several respondents suggested that there was no other venue which was suitable for concerts and events for larger numbers of guests.

*"We have nothing else to use for big events, so it is meeting those needs."*

*"Yes only concert venue in Melksham that's suitable."*

*"Yes it's easy to get to a great size and has some great events."*



Management (2) and publicity (3) were also cited by some respondents as a reason the hall is meeting the needs of the community. These were general comments about having seen a variety of events publicised at the hall and the overall management of the hall.

*"The events that I see advertised on social media (of which some I have attended) are some of the best in the area. I am referring to entertainment."*

*"I think it's very diverse and doing a good job under difficult times!"*

### **Themes (Partly – The hall is partly meeting the needs of the community)**

Amongst survey respondents who suggested the hall was partly meeting the needs of the community, the highest number of responses (44) were in relation to events and activities on offer at the hall. Many respondents said that they would like to see more variety in the types of events on offer at the hall, including events and activities aimed at a younger audience. Cinema/film events, streaming of live West End shows, community events and fairs were also mentioned as potential activities that respondents would like to see more of in the future. There was also some crossover with the theme of publicity, with some respondents suggesting more advertising of events on offer at the hall.

*"The MAH has a variety of events currently. Live bands, fetes etc. It would be good to have some more up to date films showing and possibly live streaming. One event a good few years ago was War horse live streaming it was well attended. Would like other activities like games nights, bingo and big band acts. possibly some plays, theatre dining nights. I do not think the hall currently serves the teenage generation."*

*"Could do with more acts e.g. live music/bands/DJs that appeal to younger audiences. Frome Cheese & Grain is a successful similar venue that offers a variety of events."*

*"I think it meets the needs of the community to a certain extent. I wish there were more fairs held inside. Movies that are held there, need to be better publicised. Perhaps a regular email to subscribers and advertising through Facebook groups. There should be more events to entice younger people to use the facility. My daughter would like to see a rave or disco."*

*"I think there could be more events - cinema and fairs but what it does provide is very good."*

*"On the whole yes although it would be nice to have a bit more variety regarding the acts appearing. There are a lot of tribute acts."*

There were 28 comments relating to management of the hall from people who felt the hall was partly meeting the needs of the community. These comments suggested that whilst the hall was beneficial space for the community, it is current underutilised and could

be put to better use. Some comments also indicated that management and use of the space had declined since Covid-19. In addition, there were several comments from respondents who felt the venue could be more affordable.

*"It was better before Covid, so I would like to see it return to that level and more."*

*"It seems under used. In comparison to the Swindon Arts Centre which is even smaller than the Assembly Hall..."*

*"Not reached its full potential, needs to evolve to meet current and future needs of an ever-growing town."*

*"Yes. But hiring fees have increased very steeply now. Contacting the hall is very difficult at times too."*

*"Not all of them. There are so many more things that could be done to make it more of an Arts Centre."*

As with comments from respondents who felt the hall is currently meeting the needs of the community, there were 17 general comments from those who felt the hall is partly meeting the needs of the community. These included vague responses such as 'mostly' or 'could do better' without elaborating on a particular theme.

Publicity (16) and space and facilities (14) were also mentioned by members of the public who feel the hall is partly meeting the needs of the community. Amongst those who mentioned publicity, there was a general feeling that the hall could be put to better use if the events and activities on offer were promoted more effectively, both within the local community and further afield.

*"Needs more promotion. Other places like cheese & grain have tribute bands which are much more supported venues. People automatically look at what's on there..."*

*"Yes, there could be more held there if it was actively advertised."*

*"Assembly Hall should do more events advertise the fact that this is a venue that can have many uses."*

*"I think it needs to be promoted more."*

For respondents who mentioned space and facilities, there was a general feeling that the hall was in need of modernisation to improve the facilities and décor. Some respondents also felt the space was too large or needed to be more flexible for different uses e.g. partitions for smaller groups/events. Other suggestions included improved seating, lighting and changes to the bar area.

*"I think it is a good venue but is a bit run down and would benefit from a makeover."*

*"It could do with a bit of modernising but it meets the needs for the community."*

*"Probably. Could do with much better seating."*

*"Sadly it's a bit dated. The hall is too large and not flexible enough for modern needs. The staff are great and do their best. However without a massive facelift it will be in difficulty."*

*"Mostly. Be good if the hall could be partitioned for smaller gatherings."*

### **Themes (No – The hall is not meeting the needs of the community)**

Amongst respondents who suggested the hall is not meeting the needs of the community, the highest number of comments (18) were general, non-specific comments e.g. 'No' which did not discuss or mention a particular theme. There were 10 comments about events and activities at the hall, these were similar in nature to those who felt events at the hall were partly meeting the needs of the community (see above), but these respondents specifically stated 'no' as part of their response to this question. Feedback included a lack of live events and a lack of variety. A perceived lack of live music, film and comedy was mentioned by several respondents.

*"No there needs to be more bands/singers for younger people. Also some comedy nights."*

*Get more weddings in there. Have a wedding fair."*

*"No. Needs more live events. Comedy, music and film."*

*"No, not enough activities."*

*"Not really. Less bands, comedy due to reductions imposed by Town Council. It is not fulfilling its potential."*

Management of the Assembly Hall was mentioned by 8 respondents as a reason why they felt the hall is not meeting the needs of the community. These included comments about the hall being underused and the way the hall is managed.

*"No or it would be in use more often."*

*"No, I think it could be used much more effectively, particularly if made bigger using the old 'blue pool' site which is adjacent."*

*"Badly managed."*



frequently cited by members of the public as a positive feature. This suggests that the size and location of the hall is felt to be the most positive feature overall and members of the public would like to maintain the status of the hall as a large, centrally located space in Melksham. Comments included:

*"A great hall that can be used for lots of different events it's also central in the town and a great size."*

*"Good size venue that lends itself to many different activities."*

*"The location is great! It's really central with good local carparking & transport very close by. The size is perfect for shows, dances, movies, parties, wedding receptions and everything else you can think of."*

*"It is a good-sized venue and situated perfectly in the town centre."*

*"The size and location are great. It can be used for so many varied events."*

The keyword 'events' featured in 103 responses. There was a lot of crossover with the theme of 'size' and the keyword 'events' in responses to this question. Broadly, members of the public feel that the size of the Assembly Hall is a positive feature because it allows for a variety of different public and private events. Indeed, several responded felt there was no other comparable venue in Melksham that was able to host the type of events that the Assembly Hall could accommodate. The keyword 'events' also featured in responses from members of the public who like the events and activities on offer at the Assembly Hall. Comments included:

*"Only place in Melksham that is big enough to hold events like tribute acts and live performances."*

*"A great hall that can be used for lots of different events it's also central in the town and a great size."*

*"It's a super venue, we are so lucky to have such a large space, with stage, and lighting, there isn't anything to compare or come even near this venue. It can hold over 400 people seated ..and can host virtually any event, show, or fayre. The hall has a good name on the theatrical circuit and is well known and highly regarded by well-known artists, especially those that have worked on stage there themselves...with many returning time and again over the years.. it is a wonderful asset to Melksham and will be for years to come..."*

*"Holds fantastic events with national and local performances and community daytime events."*

*"The size. Nowhere else in Melksham comes close for big events."*





The most frequently mentioned word in relation to how the hall could be improved was 'more' which featured in 113 responses from members of the public. This relates to the general feeling that the hall is mostly/partly meeting the needs of the community but could do more to make the most of the space and offer a wide range of different events to suit a variety of audiences. The keyword 'more' also frequently featured alongside 'need' (19), 'use' (15) and 'better' (14) which suggests that the community feels the hall is underutilised and not meeting its full potential as a community venue.

Members of the public who responded to this question would like to see more seating/improved seating or tiered seating, improved toilets and advertising of events. Some comments also suggested the foyer, bar, kitchen and communal areas were in need of improvement and the venue itself is dated and in need of modernisation throughout. Comments included:

*"Better seating, tiered seating for shows."*

*"Ladies toilets need redoing and there's very little room in there!"*

*"Collapsible tiered seating would be amazing."*

*"The gents toilets need improving, they are too small. It would be nice to have more comfortable seats."*

*"Spruced up and advertised more."*

*"Modernisation. Seating could be more comfortable. It has much to offer. Don't let it go to rack and ruin like Melksham House. The Council lost a lot of income from its events and room hire by closing it too early. Way before there was any sign of a brick being laid for the campus."*

The keyword 'bar' was mentioned in 44 comments from survey respondents. Members of the public said they would like to see improvements to the layout of the foyer and bar as congestion during busy times is felt to be a problem.

*"Bar and entrance could be made bigger, always congested there."*

*"Possibly updated internally; it looks a bit dated. Bigger bar as queuing can get a bit challenging."*

*"Foyer and bar area cannot cope with large numbers of people."*

*"The foyer is very small. The bar area could be extended."*

The keyword 'more' was also used frequently alongside 'events' (64). Members of the public would like to see more live events/music, films, community events, events for a younger audience and comedy shows.

*"More comedy events and popular films."*

*"Could be used more for groups, (discos for teenagers, dance nights for elderly, fund raisers, events for elderly), encourage local schools to put on events for local community (music, sing alongs, fund raisers, meet and greets getting younger community to mix with elder community)."*

*"More things for children (older), more shows/comedians/pantos. This town needs more for its residents and utilising the hall to the best of its ability will bring more people to the town."*

*"It would be great if it was bigger & refurbished to take bigger & better events (more concerts, comedy nights etc) with comfortable seating, bar & facilities. Maybe the campus would allow parking?"*

Availability of parking was felt to be a problem for the hall amongst some respondents with the keyword 'park' or 'parking' featuring in 22 responses about how the hall could be improved. Some hall users said they would like to see improved car parking for the venue or parking discounts at other local car parks. Some respondents also said they would like clarity on whether they can use the Campus car park when using the Assembly Hall.

*"Parking was poor. Would be improved if it was clear visitors could park in the new Campus parking area."*

*"The main bug barer is the limited parking. How do you fix this, I am not sure. It does need to be more versatile in what can be put on there to attract businesses for seminars etc. as well as local bands, talks and so on. It is not that you don't have parking spaces, the three car parks nearby can do the job but a lot of people who may go there from other towns find it difficult to find those car parks."*

*"Car parking close by would help."*

*"Parking discounts."*

*"Redecorated. Better toilet provision. Use of Campus parking."*

Keywords relating to advertising and publicity were mentioned by 17 respondents who felt the events and activities on offer at the hall could be promoted more effectively and with a wider audience to encourage more people to attend.

*"Advertising. Not always aware of what's on, until AFTER the event has happened."*



*"The advertising of events needs improving."*

*"I think it's a fab place but maybe it just needs more support and advertising."*

*"Advertise more than in the venue itself."*

*"Advertise and let people know about the place."*

## Feedback on Hall Facilities, Location and Accessibility

### Question 28: On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the facilities at Melksham Assembly Hall? (399 responses)

Individuals who had previous experience of using Melksham Assembly Hall were asked to rate the facilities at the hall on a scale of 1-10. The average score for the facilities was **7.83** which suggests that members of the public rate the current facilities as good. Overall, 70% of individuals who responded to this question rated the hall facilities between 7-9 (good), with a further 15% who rated the facilities as 10 (excellent). Overall the facilities received a lower average rating when compared to location (9.08) and accessibility (8.54).

Poor	Unsatisfactory			Average		Good			Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 (0%)	1 (0%)	4 (1%)	8 (2%)	19 (5%)	26 (7%)	85 (21%)	125 (31%)	70 (18%)	60 (15%)

### Additional comments:

After rating the hall facilities, members of the public were also invited to leave an additional comment to help explain their rating. 284 individuals left an additional comment about facilities at the hall. When the comments were analysed, feedback on hall facilities strongly echoed responses given for question 26 (what do you like about Melksham Assembly Hall) and question 27 (Is there any way you think Melksham Assembly Hall could be improved). To avoid unnecessary repetition these have been briefly summarised below with a selection of quotes. A complete list of anonymised comments can be found in Appendix 2.

Many of the comments in relation to facilities at the hall mentioned the bar. This is felt to be a positive feature of the hall which the community would like to retain. Whilst members of the public like the bar facility at the hall, some individuals felt the bar was overcrowded during busy times. Suggested improvements included changes to the layout and size of the bar as well as general refurbishment of the bar area. Overall the toilets were felt to be too small by some individuals, with some people also reporting that the toilet facilities were cold. There were several positive comments about the size of the dance floor and stage

facilities at the hall, although some respondents suggested improvements to the dressing rooms and backstage facilities.

Some respondents suggested that the kitchen was a positive feature for the hall but is in need of modernising. Indeed, there was a general feeling amongst survey respondents that the facilities at the hall are quite dated and could be improved with refreshed décor throughout the venue. Some respondents also said they would like to see improved seating at the hall e.g. tiered seating or more comfortable seating. Comments included:

*“The bar is good; the kitchen area needs to be updated to help catering staff on site for different functions.”*

*“When I have watched films or acts there, I found the chairs uncomfortable to sit on. The bar needs to be larger, as when the place is busy, it's hard to get to the bar.”*

*“It is a fine place; the toilets are small and cold in winter.”*

*“There are very few venues with a decent size dance floor, plus stage and licenced bar.”*

*“Back stage facilities need improving, dressing rooms, storage etc...Perhaps all facilities would benefit from an update.”*

**Question 29: On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is ‘poor’ and 10 is ‘excellent’, how would you rate the accessibility of Melksham Assembly Hall? (396 responses)**

Individuals were asked to rate the accessibility of the hall on a scale of 1-10. The average score for the facilities at the hall was **8.54** which suggests that members of the public consider the hall to be good in terms of accessibility. Overall, 57% of individuals rated hall accessibility between 7-9 (good), with a further 34% who rated accessibility as excellent with a score of 10.

Poor	Unsatisfactory			Average		Good			Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (1%)	7 (2%)	15 (4%)	13 (3%)	39 (10%)	84 (21%)	101 (26%)	134 (34%)

**Additional comments:**

After rating hall accessibility, members of the public were also invited to leave an additional comment to help explain their rating. 276 individuals left an additional comment about accessibility of the hall. Many of the responses were in line with feedback from question 26 and question 27 and there was considerable overlap between accessibility and location (see below), with many respondents mentioning ‘easy access’

to the building from the centre of town rather than accessibility of the venue itself. Themes are summarised below along with a selection of verbatim quotes. A complete list of anonymised comments can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

Feedback about accessibility for people with disabilities was generally favourable, with some positive comments about the availability of stair-free access and disabled toilets. Several disabled respondents took part in the survey and said they found the venue easily accessible. Some additional comments suggested that disabled parking and drop-off was limited and that disabled access (e.g. wheelchair access) at the entrance to the hall can be a challenge during busier times.

Approximately a third of all comments in relation to accessibility at the hall mentioned parking. Broadly many comments indicated that nearby parking was sufficient with local car parks and parking at the Campus. Some additional feedback about parking also suggested that access to the venue can be impacted by cars parking at the entrance of the hall for unloading e.g. on market days and equipment for live events.

*“Access is good for wide accessibility, unless cars are parked immediately in front of the halls, such as on market days.”*

*“Access is quite good into the venue. The 'disabled toilet in foyer can be difficult to get into due to the amount of traffic in the small foyer.”*

*“As a disabled person I find accessibility excellent.”*

*“Not very accessible for disabled drop off. Not much space for visiting groups to unload their gear.”*

*“The accessibility is ok, but it may be hard for disabled people to access the front door when the venue is busy. Also it gets packed at the front door with pedestrians getting in the way of cars, driving up to the campus.”*

*“Better now that car parking has improved due to the building of the Community Campus.”*

*Access is good. There are no steps and all the doors are large enough for wheelchair access.*

### **Question 30: On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the location of Melksham Assembly Hall? (396 responses)**

Individuals were asked to rate the location of the hall on a scale of 1-10. The average score for the facilities at the hall was **9.08** which suggests that hall users consider the location of the hall to be good. Overall, 45% of respondents rated the location of the hall between 7-9 (good) and over 50% of respondents rated the location as 10 (excellent).

Indeed the current location of the hall is highly valued amongst this sample of respondents and scored higher on average than facilities (7.83) and accessibility (8.54).

Poor	Unsatisfactory			Average		Good			Excellent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3 (1%)	0 (0%)	2 (1%)	1 (0%)	4 (1%)	6 (2%)	19 (5%)	57 (14%)	101 (26%)	203 (51%)

As part of their rating for the hall location, members of the public were also invited to leave an additional comment to help explain their rating. 277 individuals left an additional comment about the location of the hall. As with feedback for hall facilities and accessibility, comments expressed similar themes to feedback shared in question 26 and question 27. A summary of responses is included below along with a selection of verbatim quotes. A complete list of anonymised comments can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

Survey respondents like the location of Melksham Assembly Hall and feel it is ideally located for the town centre and local amenities. Respondents also said the hall is well connected by road (including car, bus and taxi) and on foot for residents of Melksham who live near the town centre. Some individuals also suggested the location of the hall relative to the new Community Campus was a positive factor in their overall rating for the location of the venue. Most people suggested that local car parking was sufficient to meet the needs of those visiting Melksham Assembly Hall, although some individuals suggested car parking could be improved along with signage for the venue and parking. Comments included:

*“Being in the town center it's in the perfect location and easy parking helps.”*

*“Good location, sign in market place saying it's there maybe? No parking.”*

*“In the centre of the town near the new Community Hub and Gym, library, and Town Hall. Therefore easy to find and car parking nearby.”*

*“Town centre. Loads of parking at the campus. Buses and taxis very close.”*

*“It's very central, with direct access to the Town Hall, and short of rebuilding it on any spare land around the Campus, it's better to have it where it is than not at all!”*

*“Location is good BUT needs better signage for the entrance and the hall itself as it's hidden behind the town hall.”*

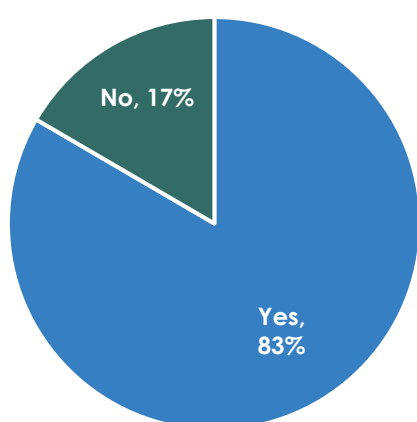
*“Good that it's situated in the town centre but remains somewhat hidden. Better signage required including What's On promotion.”*

## Events, Activities and Pricing

Please note: Question 31 onwards was for all individual survey respondents and was not restricted to those who had previous experience of using the hall.

### Question 31: Do you think there are a good selection of events and activities at Melksham Assembly Hall? (410 responses)

	Count	Percentage
Yes	342	83%
No	68	17%



The majority (83%) of individuals who responded to this question said they felt there are a good selection of events and activities on offer at Melksham Assembly Hall. The remaining 17% said they did not think the selection of activities and events at the venue was good enough. This suggests that, whilst members of the public are broadly satisfied with current activities and events at the hall, there is some room for improvement.

### Question 32: Are there any events or activities you would like to see at Melksham Assembly Hall? (284 responses)

This was an open-ended question inviting members of the public to make suggestions for events and activities at the hall. All responses were analysed and grouped under key themes which are summarised below. All verbatim responses can be found in Appendix 2.

	Count	Percentage
Bands and Music (e.g. touring bands, tribute acts)	86	30%
Cinema and Film	48	17%
Comedy Shows	41	14%
Live Shows and Theatre	37	13%
Activities for Young People (e.g. disco, kids film)	28	10%
Fairs (e.g. wedding fair, antiques, crafts)	17	6%
Dances and Dance Classes	12	4%

Exercise classes (e.g. yoga, pilates, Zumba)	10	4%
Art and Craft Events	8	3%
Roller Disco	7	2%
Markets (e.g. food market)	7	2%
Live Talks and Lectures	7	2%
Exhibitions	6	2%
Family Events (e.g. parent and toddler)	6	2%
Skittles & Short Mat Bowls	5	2%
Community Meals (e.g. lunches/dinners)	5	2%
Pantomime	5	2%
Bingo	4	1%
Gin Tasting Event	4	1%
Cheese and Wine Event	4	1%
Beer Festival	3	1%
Quiz Night	3	1%
Car Boot or Jumble Sale Event	3	1%
Comic cons	2	1%

Almost a third (30%) of members of the public who responded to this question said they would like to see more live bands and music at Melksham Assembly Hall. This included touring bands and tribute acts. However some respondents felt there are too many tribute acts at the hall which may not cater for all ages and would like to see a better variety of live music including more well-known bands to bring people into the town. 17% of respondents mentioned film/cinema at the hall (including a wider selection of films), with a further 14% who would like to see more comedy shows at the venue.

A variety of suggestions for events are included in the table above and respondents are keen to see a wider variety of events and activities at the hall to cater to all audiences including older people, families, young people and those with special interests including dance, exercise and craft. Suggestions for community events included the return of lunch/dinner events for the community, gin, beer and cheese/wine events, quiz and bingo nights and local food, art and craft fairs. Comments included:

*"Talks by celebrities or sports icons. Book signings. More live music by 'named' bands. Live comics. Streamed performances from London Theatres."*

*"I would like to see a better mix of stage shows and not so many tribute acts..."*





under-utilised and could be more adaptable and ambitious to meet the needs of the community in the future.

*"Ideal vision to keep the hall and update as necessary. I would like this to be the heart of the community."*

*"For it to be the hub of Melksham life. For people to want to come to Melksham instead of writing us off and making jokes about how awful it must be to live here."*

*"A thriving hub for all kinds of events and community groups/classes. The heart of Melksham arts scene. A bit like The Pound."*

*"Let the Assembly Hall become the hub of Melksham. It could be a beautiful building let's look after our Melksham heritage!"*

*"A place residents can be proud of in the future. A fully fledged entertainment venue for all ages..."*

In survey responses about the future vision for the hall, several references were made to the Cheese and Grain (Frome) and the Neeld Hall (Chippenham) as examples of venues of a similar size which are felt to host a wide variety of events, with suitable facilities and events. This may offer a useful starting point to explore how Melksham Assembly Hall could be adapted or redeveloped to meet the needs of the community.

*"A more modern venue where it meets a variety of age groups and makes it more appealing for people to attend. Perhaps franchise it out and become Melksham's cheese and grain venue."*

*"The Cheese and Grain in Frome and The Komedia in Bath are similar sized venues and have earned a great reputation for live events. Melksham has the chance to emulate them if the will and backing is there to try."*

*"Be as popular as the Cheese and Grain."*

*"A reasonably priced venue hosting original musical acts and quality craft/artisan fairs. Something akin to Frome's Cheese and Grain or Chippenham's Neeld hall venues."*

*"Install stowable rake-seating (like in Neeld Hall, Chippenham) which gives enhanced viewing and quick conversion for non-concert events."*

Many of the comments about the future vision for the hall were of a similar nature to those provided in other survey questions. Members of the public would like to see more events and activities at the hall which are suitable for a variety of different audiences. In addition respondents felt that advertising and promotion of the hall could be improved to attract



more people to the venue and make it easier to find out what events are taking place. One respondent suggested an improved website for the venue with a guide to upcoming events. Some people felt that pricing for the venue, including hire charges and event tickets should be considered as part of future plans for the venue and to ensure that the hall is affordable for those wanting to hire the space and for event attendees. Suggestions included subsidised pricing and membership options.

*“My suggestion of one REGULARLY UPDATED & accurate website for all hall use & events, properly marketed, would increase hall usage.”*

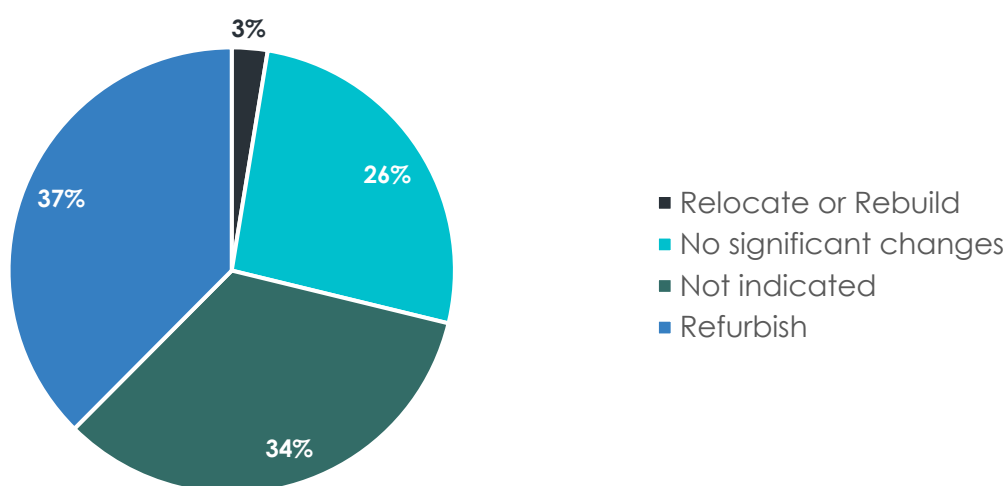
*“It needs to be affordable for events to happen without charging silly prices...”*

*“Prices of hire are high and tickets could perhaps be subsidised for pensioners etc.”*

*“Something on each weekend, maybe some weekdays/evenings, reasonably priced...and much better publicised. Hopefully better supported, that might come down to price. Maybe some sort of membership/regular user discounts?”*

*“More of the same with plenty of advertising and although it is probably the hardest hurdle, try to keep the hiring fees as low as possible.”*

As part of the analysis for comments relating to the future vision of the hall, feedback from members of the public was categorised according to suggested potential development options for the hall building and facilities. This included refurbishment, rebuilding/relocating and no significant changes/keep it as it is. Where a response did not indicate what should happen to the venue in terms of location, facilities or the building itself, the comment was classified as ‘not indicated.’



### Refurbish (37%)

37% of individual respondents suggested refurbishment of the venue was a key factor in their future vision for Melksham Assembly Hall. The hall facilities and décor are currently felt to be dated and in need of modernisation. Words like ‘facelift’, ‘spruce’ and ‘redecorate’

featured in comments about refurbishment of the hall. Further suggestions included changes to the layout of the entrance, foyer and bar area, modernisation of toilets, stage and kitchen, tiered seating and improved access, frontage and signage. Some respondents also suggested changes to the layout of the hall space to make it easier to accommodate different sized groups e.g. with screening.

*"More flexibility around how space is allocated. E.g. ability to divide main hall into smaller areas as required."*

*"For it stay in same location and building, just improve access and frontage."*

*"A lick of paint, new chairs, a new up to date stage and sounds, enlarge the bar and update the kitchen."*

*"I think it could do with a revamp as it is looking a bit tired."*

*"An updated version of the existing Melksham Assembly Hall with improved frontage, kitchen and bar. New lighting, sound and tiered seating options. Updated toilets. Versatile partitioning so that various groups can use smaller areas at a reasonable cost instead of having to hire the entire venue."*

*"Opening out foyer, extending bar to comfortable sitting lounge. Improve toilet access."*

### **Not Indicated (34%)**

34% of respondents did not indicate whether they felt the hall should be refurbished, relocated/rebuilt or kept mostly the same in terms of facilities, decor, location and layout. Amongst this group, comments were generally about the events and activities at the hall e.g. 'more live events' and did not state what (if any) changes were needed to the venue itself. Other comments were of a general and vague nature e.g. 'events for all', with additional feedback suggesting that the hall could generally be better utilised. In terms of vision, some respondents suggested the hall could become a focal point for community gatherings and activities in addition to entertainment and live events.

*"More events aimed at all ages, it being used by more community groups - brownies, dance classes/ shows etc."*

*"A focal point for the town's events."*

*"To have a large variety of live shows, ability to host local events."*

*"A place for all to use with pride."*

*"A place people of all ages to enjoy."*

### No significant changes/Keep it as it is (26%)

There was concern amongst some members of the public that the venue might close altogether, some of these respondents left comments of a general nature e.g. 'to stay as it is' or 'don't close it' rather than specific suggestions for how the venue could be improved for the future. Most Melksham residents who responded to the survey are keen to retain the venue as a community space, albeit with refurbished and modernised facilities and a variety of events for the whole community.

*"Keep going as the great hall it is."*

*"For it to never close."*

*"Keep it going for the town. Shame to lose it."*

*"To remain as a large venue for live music/acts, fairs and community events."*

*"Just stay open so Melksham has a local entertainment venue."*

Some local residents are likely to be protective of the venue at this early stage of the public consultation process. These individuals may have more ideas for how the hall could be improved once sufficiently reassured that Melksham Assembly Hall will be retained for the benefit of the community.

### Relocate or Rebuild (3%)

A small number (3%) of respondents suggested Melksham Assembly Hall should be relocated or rebuilt rather than refurbished. Some of these individuals felt the building should be knocked down and rebuilt to include more modern facilities and equipment. Others suggested that it should be relocated, with suggestions including the Cooper Tyres site, within the Campus area and an unspecified location which offers more parking. Two individuals mentioned the Melksham House venue as a possible suitable entertainment venue to replace Melksham Assembly Hall. Comments included:

*"Probably a new build as I feel it is too far gone to be rescued as a building."*

*"Either at the location it's at now OR River side (Cooper Tires site). Same size and facilities or a little larger. But smarted up, maintenance caught up and managed day to day by the community - CIC or similar."*

*"When finances allow, it could be rebuilt within the Campus area to offer modern facilities."*

*"Relocate the facility. Melksham House was a fabulous venue. Is it possible the new building there could be used. It is off the main road but not too far, good parking."*

*"When the renovation of Melksham House is completed in late 2023/early 2024 is this not the time to evaluate the future of both community spaces? Both facilities will be competing for the same business and revenue..."*

## The Blue Pool

There were no specific questions relating to the Blue Pool in the Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey, however there were 13 responses to the various open-ended questions which mentioned ideas for the Blue Pool site.

Some respondents felt that the Blue Pool offers a useful space for Melksham Assembly Hall to be extended to include the Blue Pool bathroom facilities as part of the main hall, remodelled to extend or move the entrance, foyer and bar area or knocked down to create additional parking spaces for the hall. One respondent suggested creating an open-space or park area in place of the current Assembly Hall and Blue Pool sites to complement the new Campus facilities and those at Melksham House. A further respondent suggested the Blue Pool site could be used for indoor bowls.

As there was no open-ended survey question relating to the Blue Pool, all of the responses which referenced the pool are included below, rather than in the appendices. Melksham Town Council may wish to obtain further, specific feedback from the community as it relates to the future of the Blue Pool site as part of any future public consultation.

*"Make necessary improvements. With the closure of the Blue Pool, the Assembly Hall can incorporate the BP entrance and bathroom facilities. Parking can be added where the closed pool is now. The gym area can be a side venue for smaller events. In other words, increase the size and functionality of the Assembly Hall."*

*"Could it be enlarged to a bigger venue incorporating Blue Pool. Perhaps annexe the pool to create an ante-room."*

*"Facilities could be renovated but I understand the difficulty in securing finances. I personally believe that the site should now be extended to create a "super venue" now that the Blue Pool is no longer in use."*

*"No, I think it could be used much more effectively, particularly if made bigger using the old 'blue pool' site which is adjacent."*

*"To be extended/incorporating the blue pool."*

*"Could do with a car park, suggest Blue Pool site."*

*"I think the foyer and bar/lounge area could be more inspiring. When funds become available consideration could be given to constructing a new entrance foyer/bar area on redundant Blue Pool land. Tiered seating would be great for concerts/shows."*

*"Centre of Town. Close to bus stop for ease of travel. Central to activities in the Market Place. Access could be improved if entry could be considered from the other side of the building or from the Blue Pool area. The land is there to carry out the work."*

*"When the renovation of Melksham House is completed in late 2023/early 2024 is this not the time to evaluate the future of both community spaces? Both facilities will be competing for the same business and revenue. Should the focus be on making sure the new modern Melksham House facility thrives? When Melksham House opens should there be an inclusive plan allowing all current club/organisations, events and activities transfer to Melksham House at no increase in cost or hire charges? This would allow the assembly hall and blue pool space to be redeveloped as an open space complementing the Campus/Melksham House facility while being aware of the residents in Place Road and the parish church. There is the opportunity to create a 'park' or leisure area in the centre of Melksham New housing would be a distraction with access issues with pedestrians and vehicle access clashing around the Town Hall area. Prior to the Blue Pool development in the 1950's this area was part of Melksham House with the pool grounds being given to the people of Melksham for leisure or community use. A part leisure area would respect the wishes of the origin transfer of use. Not building is a little radical which is possible the reason my idea will be discarded."*

*"Make necessary improvements. With the closure of the Blue Pool, the Assembly Hall can incorporate the BP entrance and bathroom facilities. Parking can be added where the closed pool is now. The gym area can be a side venue for smaller events. In other words, increase the size and functionality of the Assembly Hall."*

*"Keep the hall, convert the old pool to indoor bowls."*

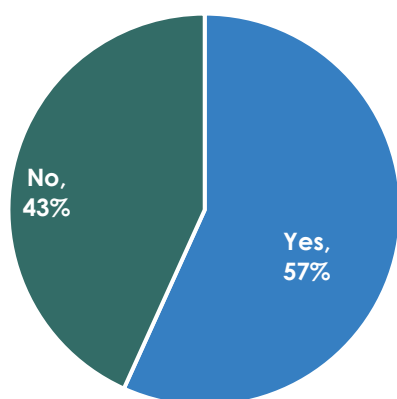
*"The whole building is dated, it would need a lot of money spent on it, but it would put Melksham on the map. Can the old swimming pool be incorporated into improvements?"*

*"Knock it down along with the old swimming pool. Sell the site for development and use the money gained to provide more bins around the time and empty them more regularly."*

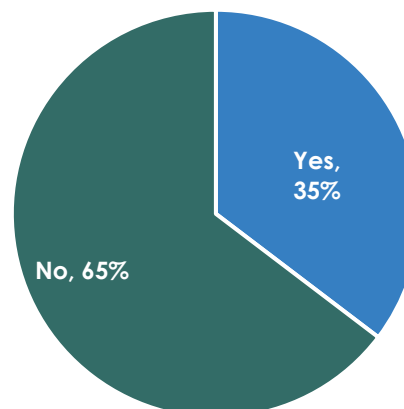
## Future Consultation

All survey respondents were asked whether they would like to be involved in further consultation as it relates to the future of Melksham Assembly Hall.

**Question 19: Would you like to be involved in any further consultation as it relates to the future of Melksham Assembly Hall? (Organisations – 37 responses)**



**Question 37: Would you like to be involved in any further consultation as it relates to the future of Melksham Assembly Hall? (Individuals – 416 responses)**



	Count	%		Count	%
Yes	57%	21	Yes	147	35%
No	43%	16	No	269	65%

In total, 21 organisations (57%) who responded to the survey said they would like to be involved in future consultation. A total of 147 members of the public (35%) also said they would like to be involved.

Organisations and individuals who wished to be involved in future consultation about the Assembly Hall were asked to provide their name and a contact email address. For reasons of privacy, names and email addresses are not included in Appendix 2 and contact information has been provided to Melksham Town Council in a password protected file for future consultation follow-up.

# Appendices

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# Appendix 1

## Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey

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Welcome to the Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey. This survey aims to understand what local people and hall users (e.g. community groups) think about Melksham Assembly Hall and how Melksham Town Council can improve the hall so that it better meets the needs of our community. We are working with independent charity Community First who will analyse the findings from the survey and report back to the Council.

This survey is the start of a wider consultation on the Assembly Hall. We know that the Hall is a valuable community space and we are keen to hear from as many local residents and hall users as possible. We would like to reassure residents and hall users that the purpose of the consultation is to make the Assembly Hall better for the future rather than to get rid of the hall entirely.

**This survey is open for responses for 6 weeks between:**

**7th November 2022 – 19th December 2022**

As part of the survey, residents, community groups and other hall users will be invited to share their contact details if they would like to be part of additional consultation as it relates to the future of the Assembly Hall. This is entirely optional and survey respondents who indicate they want to be involved in future consultation about the Assembly Hall will be contacted by the Council at a later date. Contact information shared with us as part of the survey will not be used for any other purpose and your contact details will not be shared with anyone else. Any responses provided as part of this survey will be anonymised in reports and findings shared with the Council.

For more information about how the Council uses data, please see the Privacy Policy.

**This is an online questionnaire which can be completed in your browser window by selecting the 'continue' button below. If you would like to request a paper copy of the questionnaire please email: [assemblyhall@melkshamtown.co.uk](mailto:assemblyhall@melkshamtown.co.uk)**

## Survey Questions

### \*Are you an organisation or an individual?

- Organisation (e.g. community group)       Individual

Organisation response:

### Is your organisation based in Melksham?

- Yes       No

### What is the postcode for your organisation?

Open response

Individual response:

### Are you a resident of Melksham?

- Yes       No

### What is your postcode?

Open response

## Survey Questions for Organisations

These survey questions are for organisations who would like to take part in the Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey. If you are not an organisation e.g. a community group or business and would like to submit a response as an individual or resident of Melksham, please return to the previous section.

### Has your organisation ever made use of Melksham Assembly Hall?

- Yes       No

### Is there any particular reason you have not made use of Melksham Assembly Hall?

Open response

**Which statement best describes your use of Melksham Assembly Hall?**

- We have used the hall in the past (more than 2 years ago)
- We have used the hall recently (within the last 2 years)
- We have used the hall in the last 12 months
- We are regular hall users

**If your organisation used Melksham Assembly Hall more than 2 years ago or within the last 2 years, is there a particular reason you have not booked the hall again?**

Open response

**How often does your organisation make use of Melksham Assembly Hall?**

- Weekly
- Monthly
- 3-4 times a year
- Twice a year
- Yearly
- Other (Please specify)

Open response

**What do you like and value about Melksham Assembly Hall? Please select all that apply:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Size and shape of hall       | <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dressing rooms               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound facilities                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breakout lounge/meeting room | <input type="checkbox"/> Projector availability                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flooring                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Seating availability                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acoustics of the hall        | <input type="checkbox"/> Air conditioning                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Height of ceiling            | <input type="checkbox"/> Décor and atmosphere                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flexibility of layout        | <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting facilities                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet facilities            | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise insulation from surrounding areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staff assistance             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to black out         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stage and size of stage      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staffed bar                  |  |

Open response

Is there any way Melksham Assembly Hall is not meeting your needs as an organisation?  
For example, are there any features you think are missing from the hall?

Open response
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On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the facilities at Melksham Assembly Hall?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Please explain your answer

Open response
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On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the accessibility of Melksham Assembly Hall?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Please explain your answer

Open response
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On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the location of Melksham Assembly Hall?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Please explain your answer

Open response
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Do you feel Melksham Assembly Hall hire charges are reasonable?

- Yes  No

Do you have any comments to make about hire charges at Melksham Assembly Hall?

Open response
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### What would be your ideal vision for Melksham Assembly Hall in the future?

Open response

### Would your organisation like to be involved in any future consultation as it relates to the future of Melksham Assembly Hall?

- Yes  No

### What is the name of your organisation?

Open response

### Please provide an email address so we can contact you about opportunities to take part in further consultation about Melksham Assembly Hall.

Open response

*[Survey end page for organisations]*

## Survey Questions for Individuals

These survey questions are for individuals e.g. residents of Melksham who would like to take part in the Melksham Assembly Hall Community Survey. If you are not an individual and would like to submit a response on behalf of an organisation, please return to the previous section.

### Have you ever visited Melksham Assembly Hall?

- Yes  No

### Is there any particular reason you have not visited Melksham Assembly Hall?

Open response

### For what reason/s have you visited Melksham Assembly Hall? Please select all that apply:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private party or event | <input type="checkbox"/> Work event, lecture or conference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Live act or band       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roller disco           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair or festival       |  |

Open response

**Do you think Melksham Assembly Hall is currently meeting the needs of the community?**

Open response

**What do you like about Melksham Assembly Hall?**

Open response

**Is there any way you think Melksham Assembly Hall could be improved?**

Open response

**On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the facilities at Melksham Assembly Hall?**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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**Please explain your answer**

Open response

**On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the accessibility of Melksham Assembly Hall?**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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**Please explain your answer**

Open response

**On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the location of Melksham Assembly Hall?**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

**Please explain your answer**

Open response

**Do you think there are a good selection of events and activities at Melksham Assembly Hall?**

- Yes  No

**Are there any events or activities you would like to see at Melksham Assembly Hall?**

Open response

**Do you think events and activities at Melksham Assembly Hall are priced reasonably?**

- Yes  
No

**What would be your ideal vision for Melksham Assembly Hall in future?**

Open response

## About You

Finally, we would like to know a bit more about you so that we can understand whether we have received a broad range of responses from people in our community.

**What is your gender?**

- Man  
 Woman  
 Other (please specify)

Open response

**What is your age group?**

- 18-25  
 36-35  
 36-45  
 46-55  
 56-65  
 66-75  
 75+

**Would you like to be involved in any further consultation as it relates to the future of Melksham Assembly Hall?**

Yes

No

**What is your name?**

Open response

**Please provide your email address so we can contact you about opportunities to take part in further consultation about Melksham Assembly Hall.**

Open response

[Survey end page]

## **Survey End Page**

Thank you for taking part in this survey, your responses will help us understand the needs of the community and how we can improve Melksham Assembly Hall for the future.

For more information about the Assembly Hall, please visit:

[www.melkshamassembly.co.uk](http://www.melkshamassembly.co.uk)



# Appendix 2

## Open Ended Responses

### Question 3: What is the postcode for your organisation?

Whilst question 3 was an open-ended question, postcode data is not summarised below for reasons of confidentiality. A full list of postcode data for organisations can be found in the password protected file sent to Melksham Town Council.

### Question 5: What is your postcode?

As with question 3, this was an open-ended response requesting postcode information from members of the public who responded to the survey. A full list of postcode data for members of the public (individuals) can be found in the password protected file sent to Melksham Town Council.

### Question 7: Is there a particular reason you have not made use of Melksham Assembly Hall? (Organisations)

- We haven't run events in Melksham and parking at the venue is not great.
- We are Melksham Talking Newspapers. Our listeners (apart from those living in four local care homes) are all blind or partially sighted and do not meet as a group, so we don't need a meeting place. However, some listeners and many volunteers will have attended functions at the Assembly Rooms in the past organised by other organisations.
- Probably too large for what we need and other more suitable spaces in the town. Also, more expensive than our budget allows.
- have own space for weekly meetings. have heard cost prohibitive if wanted to hire when holding a larger event.
- Not needed to add yet. We are a fledging group, so not yet up to speed with our activities
- We meet in Bowerhill Village Hall and have no reason to use the Assembly Hall.
- We are a charity providing a service to a specific sector of the community, namely the blind and partially sighted. We have a very small studio in Chippenham and do not need to use any other venue, particularly a large one like the Assembly Hall/
- Not really, just not had the opportunity
- We are based in Trowbridge, but have clients from Melksham and the surrounding areas
- People come to us for advice, and confidential discussion.
- Not invited to any events
- Lack of evening public transport to return people to other West Wilts Towns
- We are a community action group based in Shaw & Whitley and have little need to hold gatherings in a hall. Furthermore, there are several halls within our two villages

when we need to meet eg committee meetings and our AGM. As we have never used the Assembly Hall, we are not qualified to comment on the remainder of the survey.

**Question 9: If your organisation used Melksham Assembly Hall more than 2 years ago or within the last 2 years, is there a particular reason you have not booked the hall again?**

- Covid and a change to on-line meetings
- Too expensive and booking was not easy. It would be nice to see what's on at the assembly hall at a glance or calendar. Even if it's a private booking - put private booking then the public can see what's on and booking people can see availability.
- We used to use the Melksham town hall for our dance shows but we would prefer a tiered seating option therefore have gone elsewhere. But we loved using the hall and would again if the seating changed
- Covid Regulations
- When we went to book the venue. The venue was fully booked and could not fit us in.
- Tried to book the venue, however no availability for the time that we wanted
- It became too expensive

**Question 11: What do you like and value about Melksham Assembly Hall? Please select all that apply ('Other' responses from organisations)**

- Bi-monthly
- Yearly but may expand use
- Twice a month for a community film

**Question 12: Is there any way Melksham Assembly Hall is not meeting your needs as an organisation? For example, are there any features you think are missing from the hall?**

- "The kitchen needs modernisation! The chairs are uncomfortable and need changing!"
- No
- Community partnership. Getting the community groups involved in events.
- We would love if the seating was tiered!
- N/A
- no
- Toilets need a refurb.
- The hall meets our needs perfectly
- No we have used the Hall for our Show for the past 11 years - always meets our needs.
- The venue is fantastic, speaking from the owner of a children's organisation - having an area alongside the hall for big family events would be brilliant. An area where children can let off steam, run around etc. perhaps an outdoor area? This would also open up an opportunity to host weddings etc
- N/a
- No

- Current facilities meet our needs, particularly with the availability of Kevin, the Hall Manager
- More parking
- No
- No. We only hire it once a year for our celebration night for our swimmers
- Not being open during the day can be a problem.

**Question 13: On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the facilities at Melksham Assembly Hall? Please explain your answer (organisations)**

- The Hall fully meets our needs.
- The Assembly Hall is a good community hall and our film shows regularly have 30 to 70 older people attending. The hall is easy to access from town and from public transport. The bar is an excellent facility. The kitchen allows us to provide drinks for visitors, though it does need modernising. The projector allows us to show modern films and the hall can be darkened. These facilities are not available elsewhere.
- When we've had a drink from the bar the beer was flat. The hall could make a lot of money from the bar and have the hire reduced or free to community groups. The space is very tired and the decor very dated.
- The seating we feel could be improved in order to see the stage better
- Suitable but it is very dated
- The hall appears to be in good order.
- As above. Tables are the most important for our needs
- The kitchen could do with some up-dating
- No venue will ever rock all the boxes, but if you have a checklist of location and facilities, then on balance the venue is ideal for our purposes
- Great facility in an easily accessible location.
- Facilities are excellent for our requirements
- As above, it meets our needs for holding our monthly lectures - notably the size and facilities available in order to accommodate our regular membership of between 250 and 300 each month
- Flexible big space with plenty of equipment and support
- A great venue, loads of space. we only use it once a year for our celebrations awards and disco
- Excellent, enough room for all our members to attend the celebration night.
- It would be a 10, but the building is in. rather a poor state of repair.
- I have raised nearly 10k in the past 6 years hiring the venue for our annual charity pole show. The venue is fantastic and the staff are amazing! We cannot see this increase!! The whole show is non profitable all money raised goes to charity the only outgoings is the venue. We'd definitely have to go elsewhere if the prices were to increase
- It's a lovely hall
- The facilities are excellent

**Question 14: On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the accessibility of Melksham Assembly Hall? Please explain your answer (organisations)**

- Being all at ground floor level accessibility is never an issue.
- Easy access from town. Public transport stops outside the market place. Some disabled parking close to hall and parking available in the Campus car park. Toilets easily accessed and disabled toilets in the hall.
- Now you have the campus parking is much improved.
- Not sure if the toilets are very accessible
- It works for me.
- Accessibility is a problem for our members for loading and unloading their plants for our show. ie Parking
- Parking is now a problem since the Market Place was updated, especially for disabled members. If we were allowed to park at the Campus that would help.
- Parking is good and indeed better now the campus is open. It's entrance and internal facilities are all on one level
- Well positioned and within easy walking distance of multiple car parks
- No parking especially disabled
- Our membership tends to be made up of pensioners and hence absence of steps is important plus toilet facilities - as is nearby car parking
- Accessibility to the hall is good but parking outside is limited
- Great
- great
- Campus parking is great for access to the building and it's events.
- We are a local business the location and accessibility is fantastic!!
- Doors are heavy for the elderly
- Never had a problem with accessibility
- It's always, easy access

**Question 15: On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the location of Melksham Assembly Hall? Please explain your answer (organisations)**

- Being centrally located is a great plus for us. Being close to local hotels is also a big advantage. Parking is not an issue with a number of parking areas close to the hall.
- Close to town centre. Public transport stops close by.
- Parking is a problem
- Now that there is a car park behind and you can access from the campus it is good
- 5 minute walk from our school. The hall is also the only space large enough to accommodate our whole school for shows. It is also on our emergency plan should we have to evacuate the school due to bomb threat.
- Central location with links to car parking, bus and taxi services
- The town is gradually moving away from the hall leaving it isolated and not fully accessible by the public
- In the middle of Town - some notice boards at the Market Place would help to let people know what is going on

- Perfect - central location for all visitors
- Town centre location and easy access.
- Very central serve by bus service
- The town centre location is good and nearby car parking facilities are very important
- Close to the centre of town
- Great to have the venue in the middle of town.
- It's nice to have a venue in the centre of town.
- Central to town, great footfall and close to other amenities
- Parking for ands/artists can be a problem
- Now the camps car park is open its in the perfect place but needs to be more visible

**Question 17: Do you have any comments to make about hire charges at Melksham Assembly Hall (organisations)**

- Hire charges for local groups must be kept low to encourage the use of the hall.
- I do not know what the current charges are. Having looked on the website I couldn't find an indication of the present charges.
- They've always been too complicated and too expensive. Venues around Melksham offer their space for free and make the revenue from the bar.
- Would be good to have a flat fee rather than a price per hour
- I am sure it would be used more frequently if the rates were reduced.
- We are fortunate that we have been awarded grants for the full hire charge to put on our show for several years now
- We are lucky as we get a grant for the hire, but from other people I think they are quite high.
- Everyone wants something for nothing, but generally I think a discount/subsidy for local users (much like Trowbridge museum or Parade Gardens in Bath) would be preferable with the Town paying a subsidy through Council Tax to guarantee its future existence and viability. Not all assets can be costed tangibly
- We would like to use it monthly but costs are too high
- The charges are reasonable bearing in mind that we are a charity running on limited funds
- Really expensive the last time we hired the venue.
- Might make it cheaper to hire for local clubs in Melksham
- No
- The rates should be more flexible

**Question 18: What would be your ideal vision for Melksham Assembly Hall in the future? (Organisations)**

- A face lift would be an advantage.
- Keep it. Don't move or replace it. Update and refresh inside.
- The Hall needs decorating, modernising and some improvements. My vision is of a great, well used local resource that has many different functions to attract all ages.
- Not sure - better free parking?

- I'm sure our listeners and volunteers would all wish to see the Assembly Hall refurbished, upgraded and retained as a community facility. It is a well-known venue well beyond Melksham and brings people into Melksham from all surrounding towns and districts. If modernised it could attract even more and better events from the whole area.
- A more flexible space in the bar area - so you could book classes or parties in the day.
- The hall could have a room divider and split in to two areas. Better clarity of when it's available. An online calendar showing what's on and when it's booked. Better clarity on pricing structure - hourly rate - or block booking Main Hall Bar area (maybe name this space) Main Hall whole (inc stage, kitchen & bar)
- Could there be dividers to make smaller spaces for use in the day for community groups?
- I believe it should be a facility that serves the community. Perhaps there could be more fayres of various descriptions on a regular basis so that, for example, once a month folk know there is an activity / show on that they could go to.
- Updated to be a bit more homely as its quite a cold looking area
- More music events promoted, perhaps aimed at a younger audience.
- For our needs we need easy access for the public to park close by or the hall to be central to the commercial centre
- We feel that the Assembly Hall should continue to be a community hub and resource for use by any and all groups at a minimum rental/entry fee. It should be administered and maintained by the Town Council with County subsidies.
- To keep it and perhaps update. It is the only big building in Melksham for holding events.
- We have recently held a big screening of the England football games. With 250 attending it was a huge success. There is no other venue in the area that could accommodate such numbers. The staff are fantastic, they go above and beyond to help and the facilities such as the projector and sound are brilliant.
- Hold training sessions or meetings
- As above a subsidised venue for the benefit of the town. Outside user paying a premium
- To remain as a part of the towns facilities, and not be swallowed up or closed down. For a vast number of years the Assembly Hall has been a focal point for local events, and long may it remain so.
- Somewhere that the people of Melksham (Wiltshire as a whole) and groups can use and come together. It shouldn't be restrictive in price as often these places are. Trowbridge town hall and the civic centre are too expensive for small groups
- More users bringing price down
- The hall is ideal subject, as stated, to having Kevin, the Manager, on site, particularly to assist with the projection and sound facilities - which facilities need to be right up to date to accommodate the needs of the lecturers
- Maintain the facility and keep costs the same
- Need time to consult about that one.
- to stay as it is for local clubs to hire the venue
- to stay as a venue

- As per Neild Hall in Chippenham, regular community events organised with local charities, Council services etc involved
- An injection of cash, to spruce up the building, but no changes to the feel of the place and the internal options on offer.
- Large meeting hall so that our meetings through the year could nee suitable hosted one in each West Wilts Town
- A modern adaptable hall with tiered seating. Better toilet facilities.
- It suits my needs as a dance hall with a superb floor.
- Tiered seating to combine a theatre as well as dance hall

**Question 20: What is the name of your organisation?**

**Question 21: What is your email address?**

Organisations were asked to provide their details if they wished to be involved with future consultation about Melksham Assembly Hall. As this was an anonymous survey, organisation names and email addresses have been sent to Melksham Town Council in a password protected file for further contact relating to the future of the hall.

**Question 23: Is there any particular reason you have not visited Melksham Assembly Hall? (Individuals)**

- The Events don't appeal to me
- Not a member of any of the community groups that use it and many events there appear aimed at those who like music from the 60s and 70s. Building is unprepossessing
- Just moved to Melksham
- There hasn't been a need for me too. I also don't really understand what it's for or who runs it.. I see things advertising events at the hall in The Melksham Independent News paper every now and then
- Didn't realise it was there
- I only just moved to town last month, but from what I've heard it's a valuable resource for the town and one which encourages community spirit and coming together, as well as patronage of the Arts.
- no
- No
- No interesting events
- New to the area.

**Question 24: For what reason/s have you visited Melksham Assembly Hall? Please select all that apply (Other responses – Individuals)**

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • rugby presentation         | • Cinema                            |
| • Hosted public events there | • Markets                           |
| • Cinema                     | • Childrens halloween ball - cinema |



- Liaise with staff and helping out; finding out what's going on
- Political meeting
- Disco (2022) Community Christmas Day lunch (up to 2019)
- Christmas parties, conferences, films, community meals
- Skittles presentation, Gazza
- Cinema
- Friday night cinema
- film screening
- Films
- Jive classes
- Film shows
- Assembly Hall Sunday Lunches
- Xmas Fayre, Cactus Show, Garden Show
- Closure of Melksham Library
- Live streamed theatre events
- Film shows
- Area Boards, Shows, Films, etc.
- Mayor's reception, and a Michelle Donelan event
- Cinema and record fair
- Exercise class
- Garden show organiser
- Cinema
- Charity fund raising event
- melksham historical association, films, community lunches
- Casual staff
- Film
- Films
- Film showing
- Community event
- Live theatre streaming
- Exhibitions
- Pride
- Town Council event; Family of Churches event
- Wrestling
- Film Society films
- Yoga & Pilates classes
- Christmas Lights Switch On
- N.W. Arts Society, History Society, Monday Films,
- Film showings
- Over the years I have been to many events which spans every kind of events put on at the Assembly Hall. It is a much-needed hall.
- BCSS show
- show
- Seniors Movies
- Various functions in childhood
- Film
- Cinema
- Cinema
- Pauls Pops circa 1960, lunches, Films
- May Day celebration with Lowbourne Infanr School , aerobics
- movies
- Classes. Cinema
- Cinema
- Excercise classes
- Charity fundraiser
- Taekwondo
- Second hand sales, bonny baby event
- Cinema
- Cinema
- Sunday lunches before they moved out
- Exercise class / film nights / garden produce show
- Movie Days
- Movies
- Films
- Films
- Performed with pole da cise Wiltshire
- Cinema
- Films
- Skittles prize giving event
- Wedding reception, pantomime, so many different things over the years
- Pilates
- Market
- To view films, carnival royalty competition, gardening society,

- school performances, school prom, christmas fair
- Film, church events , free Christmas lunch
- Clothes give away for Ukrainian family (we host)
- My own band performance
- films, record fair, wrestling
- Area Board
- Remembrance Sunday also organised RAFA concert Band show
- Cinema
- Arts Society
- Dance / concert
- Films community fitness
- Remembrance Day after the parade and wreath laying. Also occasionally to watch a film.
- Movie and Christmas Market
- Films
- Rock n roll dance
- Melksham rock n roll club
- Model car racing

- Cinema
- Cinema
- Community meal
- Cinema
- Historical Society
- Cinema
- Dances
- Seniors Film Time
- Monday meetings of the film club. Monthly meetings of the Melksham Historical Society
- Film Shows, Garden Show
- Cinema
- Cinema films
- Film
- Film show, Christmas show
- School pantomime
- Have made and decorated the assembly hall for many years and supported them for many years also, have put many dances on for charity and was on the MEG committee which was a great success

**Question 25: Do you think Melksham Assembly Hall is currently meeting the needs of the community? (Individuals)**

- no
- No I think they could do more events at affordable prices.
- Not reached its full potential, needs to evolve to meet current and future needs of an ever growing town.
- It meets some but can be used for a variety of other events
- The hall provides good events , would like to see more live streaming of shows from west end. More up to date films. It is a fantastic resource and we need to advertise far and wide.
- Yes
- It was better before Covid, so I would like to see it return to that level and more
- Yes, mostly.
- Not completely
- Not since the regular film shows were stopped. I know the Senior citizens ones are still held but the evening ones were stopped
- Yes but it can improve
- Room for improvement.
- Yes
- Partly. There are things like Roller Disco, Tai Chi, Tai Quando that have been costed out and there is limited promotion of the hall. And seeing how so many event can fit the hall, there is scope for much more.
- Partly

- "Yes, I am not aware of any failings. How do you define "the needs of the community"?"
- Sadly it's a bit dated. The hall is too large and not flexible enough for modern needs. The staff are great and do their best. However without a massive facelift it will be in difficulty.
- "The MAH has a variety of events currently. Live bands, fetes etc. It would be good to have some more up to date films showing and possibly live streaming. One event a good few years ago was War horse live streaming it was well attended. Would like other activities like games nights, bingo and big band acts. possibly some plays, theatre dining nights.
- I do not think the hall currently serves the teenage generation."
- Yeah
- Yes to a certain degree, there are some great acts and shows, some not so great, the hall would hugely benefit from tiered seating..but that said does function relatively well without..
- Yes
- Partially, however that could be improved by holding additional events, particularly some for younger residents.
- I feel a greater variety of shows would attract a wider number of attendees.
- It seems under used. In comparison to the Swindon Arts Centre which is even smaller than the Assembly Hall it has too few groups playing and comic acts. The Assembly Hall has so much potential, When the likes of Andy Fairweather Low can raise the roof there, it is such a pity that more groups are not invited to play there, when there are so many Tribute Bands on tour who cover a vast wide music tastes.
- Yes
- More events would be good
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes, locals need to support the events
- It's a fantastic resource which sadly is extremely undervalued
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes and no. It is providing a large hall for live acts/bands which have been great to see However, there are not enough live acts being put on, or if they are they are a rotation of previous acts. Some are great, but need to attract other acts similar to those at The Civic in Trowbridge, Cheese & Grain in Frome, Neeld Hall, Chippenham or The Forum, Bath. All of which I have visited in order to watch live entertainment. From the point of view of other businesses in town they benefit from good shows being put on at the Assembly Hall. Have noticed a lot of people both before or after an event will visit other venues in town for food and/or drink and therefore boost the local economy. If there was no longer a venue such as the Assembly Hall, people will visit other towns and in turn boost their economy, with Melksham missing out.
- Yes
- "Not really. Less bands, comedy due to reductions imposed by Town Council.
- It is not fulfilling its potential"
- Partially
- I am not sure as I don't live in town but it was v popular on the occasions I have visited
- On the whole yes although it would be nice to have a bit more variety

regarding the acts appearing. There are a lot of tribute acts.

- Yes
- It certainly seems to be advertising lot of events every month. We used to use it most for school parties but in recent years for craft events and live shows, such as the big swing bands. And used it for voting in the elections.
- Yes!! Yes!! Yes!!
- Yes
- Could be used more
- Yes
- No
- There are a variety of events and clubs who use the hall The hall is the largest venue in the town and is in competition with a growing number of community halls which are smaller in size and capacity Should the Assembly Hall be closed replacing it with a hall similar to those that already exist within the community would be a mistake There seems no clear plan for the use of the hall in the renovation of Melksham House. In the 'old' Avon Melksham House the hall although not as large as the Assembly Hall could be a more cost effective alternative. Having two 'community' spaces with 100m of each other competing for the same business and revenue, both could possibly fail Based on my comments the Assembly Hall is meeting the community needs. However is the future with a modern Melksham House facility?
- Yes
- Mostly yes, but it could perhaps be used more
- I think it's very diverse and doing a good job under difficult times !
- Yes. It's a great asset to the town.
- Maybe a bit more entertainment that brings people together

- It's trying but could do better with the right backing and publicity.
- Yes
- Yes- used for a variety of events
- Possibly not because as a venue it is out- dated, and needs money spending to bring it into line with 21st century requirements.
- Mostly. Could reach out to younger generations more.
- I think the bar needs some work, could do with being bigger
- I like to think that there is somewhere that you can walk to and not worry about transport. The films are good and the live shows I have been to are really good.
- It is a valuable community asset. The building is an ideal location and venue for many types of events.
- I enjoy going to events at the Assembly Hall, There doesn't seem to that many at the moment
- It's very tatty not nice to visit. It's really cold so you don't want to stay very long. Nothing that goes on there really interest me and yet I have to pay for it in my council tax.
- It seems popular if you like the events it holds
- It has been an ideal venue for the purposes I have visited it for up until now.
- It's a great space in the centre of our town but would benefit from updating the stage, seating, lighting and bar.
- Yes
- "It depends on what the needs are.
- I feel there is a lot on offer....movies, used for fayres etc.
- bands and New Years party etc"
- No
- "Yes perhaps could be utilised more
- Miss the cinema and theatre transmissions"

- Yes
- Yes
- Not fully, it needs a wide and varied programme promoting
- Yes it's great
- Yea I think so, but I'm not an accurate representation of all people
- Yes for the functions I have been to
- I don't know
- "No there needs to be more bands/singers for younger people. Also some comedy nights.
- Get more weddings in there.
- Have a wedding fair."
- "It seems to be booked for intertainments, and for rock and roll dance nights and the like. As an older resident of Melksham I don't attend. However as this town has a rapidly expanding
- community of young families there will always be a need"
- yes
- Yes
- In many ways, yes
- Yes. Probably could obtain more interest if renting out was competitive and reasonable.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes. But hiring fees have increased very steeply now. Contacting the hall is very difficult at times too.
- Have not visited since Covid so can't really answer this Q.
- Yes
- Needs to be used more
- I think it needs more promoting and more events could be held there. Monday-Friday daytime could be utilised more for business use/ Preschool children etc
- Needs more activities
- I feel it does but needs more advertising further a field. Need

support from outside melksham. Not sure it meets needs of teenagers. Perhaps cinema screening, make it a soft bar from under 18's with younger local bands. Need to look at the under 18 population.

- Yes
- Yes excellent venue and a panto, watch a choir
- Yes
- No. Lack of parking and it's very dated. Also not easy to find if you haven't been before
- No, I feel more could be done to meet the needs of the community on a more regular basis.
- "I think it is a very good space, well placed in the centre of town.
- I used to attend Discos back in the day, I have watched bands, attended the rock and roll club, and volunteered at the Christmas lunch. I do think it could do with an injection of cash to update the interior."
- No, it needs to focus on a variety of ages. (More inclusive of younger ages 3 years old - 25 years old)
- The events that I see advertised on social media (of which some I have attended) are some of the best in the area. I am referring to entertainment. Not being a Melksham resident I can't comment on local events as I am not aware of them.
- In most instances yes.
- I think it is a fantastic amenity and have never been disappointed on a visit
- "Yes, although it seems to no longer be on the comedy circuit.
- I fear that higher charges for non-locals threatens to reduce the.h variety and quality of events. Given that all events benefit the Melksham community, this makes little sense."

- It provides a meeting space for a large number of people and offers flexibility and a range of facilities. However I think it was a little expensive to hire.
- Yes and it's a vital element of the community.
- In general yes, more events of interest to the younger generations are needed though
- In short, yes I do.
- Yes although it should be utilised more.
- Yes, could do with a tidy up and make it cheap enough for people to consider booking.
- More or less, but more events would be good.
- Yes
- It does have a good list of events, covering all different interests /genre
- Yes, but microphone for meetings is sometimes not very clear until Kevin re adjusts it
- Yes . Centre of town, easy access
- It needs a good manger who would make the most of all kinds of events.
- Not quite.
- No. Needs more live events. Comedy, music and film.
- No, I think it could be used much more effectively, particularly if made bigger using the old 'blue pool' site which is adjacent
- Mostly
- Just , needs to do more
- I've attended many live bands that have been great. Would love to see more there!
- Could be better in providing local affordable live music. I think the space is currently under utilised
- Yes. It is necessary to many people in the community. We don't have a cinema in the town & very little else.
- Yes
- I think it is a good venue but is a bit run down and would benefit from a makeover.
- I think it is under used.
- I would love more live bands
- yes although it starting be be a bit dated now.
- I think the hall is important to the community - not sure events are varied enough.
- Yes I do, but new suggestions I guess are always welcome
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes.
- Difficult to say as I am unsure of the needs of the community. It seems invaluable an asset for the community
- Yes but needs a revamp
- I think so only heard good things.
- More cinema would be great
- Probably. Could do with much better seating.
- No
- Yes
- Yes it is but could be used more if affordable,
- On the whole yes,
- hard to say. could screen more films as it did in the past.
- I think the assembly hall is a great function provider, but is not used as effectively as it could be. I also believe when there are events on open to the public the events need more advertising.
- No
- Yes
- Yes
- Unfortunately no.
- I think it's a great venue for live acts and shows. We moved into the area

Mar 21 and have attended at least 5 events.

- It could have more events and should be advertised well, it's a large popular venue and is not being used to its full potential
- Yes I do
- Yes
- It's a great place
- Yes! It is an essential part of the town & nothing else comes close.
- Yes
- Yes
- It is a great space and should be utilized more often
- Yes
- No probably needs to put on more live music events
- Yes
- Yes
- I no longer receive emails advising what is on and I believed this was due to Covid. Therefore I am not aware of what is happening currently.
- I think it could do more for the community
- Yes
- yes definitely
- Needs more promotion. Other places like cheese & grain have tribute bands which are much more supported venues. People automatically look at what's on there. Plus, where has the roller discos gone. Last one was June.
- Yes, valued amenity.
- Yes but has the potential to do more. The shows tend to be adult focused, I would like to see more for children and families. Film screenings are an excellent one but also some live shows for children would be great.
- I presume it is as I have had friends go there for some events. I personally haven't been there since Covid

- Mostly, could be used more often.
- Reasonably so.
- Yes
- I think more could be done to utilise the hall
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yeah I think it should stay as it is and make it more affordable for other events
- Yes. It's a great venue with disabled facilities and free car parking.
- I think it could do more for the community.
- Yes
- No
- Yes
- Events are regular & wide ranging catering for all tastes.
- Yes
- Yes definitely
- Yes. It provides a variety of events in a central location.
- No
- Yes
- It is a wonderful place. I have been to lots of events there and the facilities are fantastic. I am disabled and it is so accessible and right in the centre of town. Right near the campus as well. There is such a variety of entertainment available for all ages plus the bar and kitchen facilities. It is the only entertainment venue Melksham has so needs to be kept at all costs. No more houses, we have very few facilities as it is, we can't afford to lose this gem.
- Yes
- Yes, there is no other venue like this in Melksham.
- Absolutely- such a great venue!



- Yes it's a vital valuable asset to the town it's the only place In melksham you can see a film
- I think it's an amazing asset to our town, with lots of events being held there.
- Would be good to have more activities.
- Yes
- Yes, it offers a range of different events and seem to have something to offer everyone.
- Yes
- Yes, definitely!
- Yes brilliantly,good bands and entertainment
- Yes I Do and it has done for many years
- Yes always something for all ages,music tastes etc
- Yes, it has reasonable seating. Plenty of space, a bar. A good place to see films, live acts.
- Definitely,
- Yes, required a little updating but otherwise a fantastic venue
- Yes, provides a variety of shows - this is important as not everyone can travel out of town for entertainment due to poor public transport. The hall is also used by local organisations for fairs etc
- Yes, the times I have attended shows or fayres it has always been well supported. If this facility goes, the towns around us will gain from our loss.
- It is a great facility which if lost, would be a great blow to the community. Is the kitchen usable for functions?
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- I think there could be more events - cinema and fairs but what it does provide is very good
- Yes it is a great place.
- Yes, but it would be good to get some more shows/live acts.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes Definitely it's the best place where everyone can get to quite easily, situated in the Heart of the town
- It could do with a bit of modernising but it meets the needs for the community.
- Yes and has the potential for much more
- Yes - it's a wonderful space and I have seen several acts their that were great. It's a must for the community and Melksham at large.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes it is why get rid of something so valuable to our community. There's nowhere in melksham to go out really anymore so this needs to be kept.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes but it can do even more with support
- Yes
- Yes, it is a fantastic resource that we value deeply.
- Yes.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes but. They could do a lot more
- Yes.it is used for entertainment...stalls.fayres.etc
- Yes
- We have nothing else to use for big events,so it is meeting those needs.
- It's a great venue and very accessible+

- Yes. It is a great large venue in the centre of town, which is accessible and good community asset.
- It's the towns only entertainment venue currently. The population has grown rapidly thanks to massive increases in housing development. Where can residents go to be entertained or watch a film We're rapidly becoming a dormitory town.
- Yes, I would like more but if they close it the town will miss out yet again
- Yes it brings lots of live acts and offers large groups to use it to host events
- Yes. Nice central meeting place and lovely room for events
- Absolutely
- No
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes, I think it is a perfect place for the community to go, meet and enjoy themselves.
- Some great events on in there
- Yes it's easy to get to a great size and has some great events
- Partly but it could be utilised a lot more.
- Probably, would say Melksham only has a couple of wedding venues which have good photo setting, it's a shame the hall couldn't be hired for such event as no place for a decent photo shot
- It provides a wide range of events to cater for the different interests of the community
- Yes
- Badly managed
- Yes
- I think it meets the needs of the community to a certain extent. I wish there were more fairs held inside. Movies that are held there, need to be better publicised. Perhaps a regular email to subscribers and advertising through facebook groups. There should be more events to entice younger people to use the facility. My daughter would like to see a rave or disco.
- Yes - used for a variety of events. A great asset to our community.
- Yes, there could be more held there if it was actively advertised
- Yes
- Yes it supports the community
- Yesi
- Yes
- Not enough acts .
- Yes, perfectly. There are things put on for all age groups. It would be a great loss to Melksham if it were to close.
- Yes it is a valuable commodity to the community
- Yes, it is in a perfect location in the centre of town, with all the facilities that are needed.
- Could improve
- Yes
- Yes, the size and its position within our community.
- Yes
- Yes, it would be missed. We don't have many facilities in Melksham so this is valued
- Yes
- Not noticeably
- Yes
- I think so
- It's an essential part of our community.
- Yes
- "No
- It is a dated building - not enough goes on in there to make it pay currently"
- Yes
- Definitely
- I believe that any live entertainment is a good thing to bring to local

communities, and you do have a diverse selection

- Yes in the whole
- It fills my needs
- Needs to do much more be more accessible and used more
- Yes I do, I think that they cater for everyone needs.
- I think it is extremely important that spaces like this are not lost. The Pound in Corsham is such a valuable space for the town and I believe the Assembly Hall in Melksham is the same. It has a variety of different uses and should be promoted to reach even more people. I believe it does serve the community well but of course there is always room for improvement. A facility that should be invested in rather than gotten rid of.
- Yes I do
- I think it's very important to melksham
- Yes
- Yes.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes but could be used more often
- Although there are events, it could do more. Eg for younger generation.
- Yes
- Yes
- It is a great venue
- Yes, but could be even more
- Yes
- I don't have enough knowledge of the activities there to say
- I think its an ideal building, situated centrally, that provides a base for many of the needs of the community
- Not fully
- I think it could be used more, or advertised more
- Unsure
- absolutely, yes
- What are the "needs of the community"?
- Yes
- Yes
- Generally yes but why not use the bar area for more small social events or make it a cafe to use more often
- Yes
- Yes
- More acts please
- Yes
- Yes and you should let them carry on the way they are
- It could be used more for films, live screenings etc.
- Yes. A much used asset for the community and the surrounding area.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes only concert venue in Melksham that's suitable
- Yes, the pandemic stopped it,
- Yes
- Could do bett
- Yes it is very much so
- I think it could be used a lot more. It is a great venue and sadly under-utilised. Some of the tribute acts and cover bands seem rather over-priced though when you can go to Frome and watch nationally or internationally known acts for the same price.
- I think so, seems plenty of variety of movies, events etc that goes on in there throughout the year to suit all ages and interests.
- Yes but more events could be held here.
- It is fantastic and great benefit to the town x
- Mostly, but could do more.
- Not all of them. There are so many more things that could be done to make it more of an Arts Centre

- No or it would be in use more often.
- Could be used more
- probably not - don't really know
- Somewhat. Bring back Rich Hall and SMART-NOT SMUTTY- comedians like Rich. There was standing room only and the punters came from Som, Glos, and Berks. Great local from Bath are The Hot Potato Syncopaters.
- Yes and more
- I think it is a very valuable resource that is well used but could be used more for a greater variety of things
- Yes definitely
- Yes, although a lot more use like teenager activities in evenings and weekends
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes, but could do better
- Yes
- Ability to be used for more events if publicised and promoted.
- We have enjoyed going to the Rock N Roll club there most months for many years now. We would like it to continue to be available as a venue.
- Yes, despite what appears to be the Council's efforts to prevent it doing so.
- Yes, great place
- Yes , there are dances every month plus other entertainment through the year.
- Mostly. Be good if the hall could be partitioned for smaller gatherings.
- It needs to be affordable
- Unsure
- I would think so
- I guess so.
- No
- No not enough a activities
- Could do with more acts e.g. live music/bands/DJs that appeal to younger audiences. Frome Cheese &

Grain is a successful similar venue that offers a variety of events

- Yes
- Yes
- Yes but could have some things on a more regular basis like roller skating monthly and films more often
- I think the Assembly Hall is too large for most private events as most people have events for less than 200 . My guess is that average would be closer to 100 .there are now plenty of new halls and venues to accommodate residents needs.
- Yes, I think so, I don't use it regularly but I think we all appreciate it.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- No
- Yes
- Yes
- No
- No
- Don't know.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes although it would be good the see some more events there
- I think it needs to be promoted more
- More events for the whole community
- Yes I do and should continue doing so ,there are people that still attend the Assembly Hall for functions 50 years on
- Yes
- Yes, very good to have it in the town.

- Not totally, could definitely do more to include all of the age ranges in the town.
- It was pre-pandemic and could continue to do so. It was brilliant accessing the comedian circuit bringing big names to Melksham
- Yes
- Assembly Hall should do more events advertise the fact that this is a venue that can have many uses.
- Yes i do its local and easy walking distance

### Question 26: What do you like about Melksham Assembly Hall? (Individuals)

- I don't like it but toilets are nice
- Staff are always friendly and happy to help.
- It's the only function hall of its size in the area.
- Heart of the community - only place to watch live band with bar and plenty of space
- I like that it is a good big space, good floor for dancing, it has a stage for acts and events. The space can be used in lots of different ways. It has a kitchen and bar facilities. The atmosphere is fabulous and welcoming.
- Wonderful local venue
- The size, the flexibility, the sentimental memories so many people have
- Convenient, local, value, variety of events
- The space
- Central, good space
- It's a lovely size hall. It holds different kind of events really well. It's at the heart of melksham.
- It's in town just off the high street. It's simple to get inside and outside of.
- Location
- Only community facility in Melksham big space/venue for events
- Size, friendliness of the dedicate staff, location, suitability for events
- Space, location, well looked after
- Its a focal point for the town to host community events.
- The staff are amazing. The bands are good and there is a great variety of events. However the age of the building is a huge disadvantage to the running of the event.
- I like the friendly atmosphere, the size of the hall and the fact that the space can be changed to suit the needs of the 'organization' for example, can be made smaller with partitions for private parties. The seating is moveable, and it has a stage for acts.
- Accessable and central
- "Its a super venue, we are so lucky to have such a large space, with stage, and lighting .there isn't anything to compare or come even near this venue.
- It can hold over 400 people seated ..and can host virtually any event, show, or fayre.
- The hall has a good name on the theatrical circuit and is well know and highly regarded by well known artists, especially those that have worked on stage there themselves...with many returning time and again over the years.. it is a wonderful asset to Melksham and will be for years to come..."
- Large floor area - plenty of room to dance
- "Easy access from town.

- Plenty of events to attend.
- The staff are friendly and helpful.
- The hall is generally clean.
- Toilets are good, including the disabled one."
- The hall is a good size to hold events with changing rooms, light and sound systems.
- Central location and ease of access
- It is very practical and informal, and no fuss. Plenty of room. Lots of parking. Being small it is a warm feeling place, and the staff are very friendly and welcoming.
- The size
- It's local and friendly
- Spacious
- "Convenient location, good size, good stage, excellent lighting rig, adequate sound facilities.
- Adequate bar."
- The size of the room and stage
- Friendly place for all sorts of events and most importantly it's local!
- It's accessible to all the community in the centre of town, it's a large open space that can be adapted to suit a variety of events
- In the centre of town, easily accessible. Good space. Good facilities.
- I like the Assembly hall for its live acts. When it is a full house, such as recently for Majesty, the atmosphere was fantastic. Since Covid a lot of people want to see live acts, as they missed this during lockdown.
- Location. Staff. Variety of events.
- Local. Good entertainment. Large venue with bar.
- Size, atmosphere
- Engaging staff, Room sizes inc bar area excellent , fully functional, warm, well lit, good acoustics, good facilities, easy to walk to.
- It's in a good central location. It is the only venue in Melksham large enough to host shows. There is parking nearby plus a taxi rank. The layout is good with a quieter area near the bar if needed.
- Convenient town centre location. Everyone knows it!
- It's central to the town and easily accessible.
- Size, location, facilities, stage, bar, kitchen
- The size, the accessibility, that it's central in town, the stage, the floor, the bar.
- Lovely inside and good facilities
- Good size hall. Good acoustics. Friendly staff.
- Lots of potential
- Range of events, space for large number events
- Large space to cater for a large variety of functions.
- Being able to see live music and other good events in my home town
- Nice size
- It's diversity
- It's a large venue and very central to the town.
- Its capacity is great for a large town
- Convenient place to meet up with friends

- It's in the centre of town and provides a fantastic space for all sorts of events.
- Spacious modern room and bar area.
- Flexible space. Accessible. Feels local not corporate
- Apart from the staff who have generally always been efficient and welcoming, the loos are OK, the bar is not too bad, and the small lounge is just that - small!
- Convenient to the town centre
- The main room is a very good size, everything on one level, really good for disabled.
- It is spacious and it is not over large.also there is a bar which if you wish to have a drink is great
- Located centrally in Melksham, close to public transport, taxis and car parking. It's a large spacious building which makes it essential for large groups and events.
- The size it can receive many people and sometimes have catering along with the bar
- I like the idea of a hall for the community. But when I am struggling to afford food I don't want to be paying for thing I don't use.
- Central location, spacious venue
- It has a reasonable capacity, although it could have been filled even more if there was room. Especially for live acts.
- Central location and parking nearby. Good Size, affordably priced tickets. Variety of events offered. Available to hire for events
- Central position and good size.
- Central location. Spacious
- A good sized hall.In town centre. Kitchen facilities. Bar.
- The size. Nowhere else in Melksham comes close for big events
- It's local, it's puts on amazing tribute bands, it's not expensive and it's a great night out
- As by far the largest hall in the town it can be used for shows and screenings as well as community events that need a larger hall than the others in town.
- The history and the potential
- Local to get to, great big hall, toilets, cafe/bar which is always reasonably priced and over the years they have put on some great events
- Diversity of events and nice staff
- The relaxed facilities and atmosphere it creates at the different events held there
- In centre of Melksham. close to bus stops, free parking in Melksham leisure campus next door. Has kitchen, bar and stage and screen
- Lots of space, for seating a large number of guests.
- yes
- It's a large flexible space convenient to the town
- Accessible,wide range of activities
- "Local large facility that can hold functions in middle of Town that potentially could bring trade to Town.
- Good car parking facilities now."
- It belongs to Melksham.
- Good size, not too big or too small.
- Looks great. Lots of space. Happy people gather there.
- Convenient to access with good parking in the Town's car parks.
- It feels accessible to the whole community & I see lots of events happening there.



- Friendly comfortable atmosphere
- Central location. Accessible for all. Community feel
- Close to town centre and local businesses
- Location is great in centre of town. Adaptable for multiple use. Great size, which could also be adapted for smaller parties, gigs, screening. Has a kitchen that can be used. Great lighting and stage. Bar area.
- Size, ease of access and a range of events to suit a wide spectrum of the community.
- "Good size, bar, good location, suitable for lots of different things. Acoustics fine. Supported by the community.
- Parking near by and bus stop close.
- Easy to walk to for me"
- Size and amenities
- Central location
- It is a good sized venue and situated perfectly in the town centre
- Location. Good size with a stage.
- Its easy to find, parking near by, normally reasonably priced.
- Central to the town. It's a good size but not too big. Excellent atmosphere with lighting that would make many top venues very envious! Nice bar area, kitchens and dressing rooms. All that a venue could need. Speaking as a musician who has played there many times over the years I would say that the stage is a great size, the sound is really good and the access is excellent. Not many venues can you load straight to the stage. All in all I would be very sad if things got changed.
- The fact that it has Bar and kitchen to support the main venue hall
- Accessibility, parking nearby for late night finishes, nice bar, good choice of events, friendly staff (volunteers?)
- "Size & variety of events, The fact that it has a bar. The fact that it's local.
- It's a very good and substantial community asset."
- I have always found it to be clean, well organised and the support staff were very helpful.
- A good size, good facilities, includes a stage, good dance floor, bar, has air conditioning, great location.
- Great capacity
- It's brings thr community together. Ots perfect location in the centre of Melksham. Very close to the town hall which I feel work well together.
- Well presented, very functional, relatively easy to access, spacious.
- Size, location, dance floor. Location, size of room and stage, bar.
- The size of the hall.
- The largest wooden dance floor in the region.
- The full size stage with lighting.
- The Central location.
- The quiet bar and friendly staff"
- The sense of community at events
- The space
- As above
- It is in the middle of town and easy to get to.

- It is clean, fairly modern, and in a convenient location.
- It's a good sized space and can be used for various events.
- Central to town, no traffic problems getting there, it's local, so supports local jobs and economy
- Proximity
- Locally run venue
- Great location. Nice size venue.
- Good space for events and music in a good location
- It caters for all ages & many different activities, without costing a lot to attend. It is easy to reach.
- Accessibility. Clean. Friendly
- intimate atmosphere and being close to the stage.
- Large venue
- easy to get to
- Central position and a welcoming atmosphere
- "Central
- Spacious"
- Its conveniently close and it belongs to Melksham. Dad would refer to it as The Drill Hall, so that tells how long and for what use its had in the past.
- Size of the venue, friendly staff
- It's great to have bands playing locally
- Convenient. Has good events on throughout the year. Value for money
- Good venue, local and easy to get to. Well organised.
- Central, good size, bar, parking close by.
- Central location size
- GOOD SHOWS get ABBAMANIA back
- I'm disabled so the chairs are perfect for me to sit comfortably
- Size of venue, helpful and friendly staff
- Easy to get to. Has had some great comedians in the past.
- Nothing
- Location. Accessibility. Friendly helpful staff. Good variety of live shows.
- Melksham House and the Assembly Hall covered all aspects of entertainment. We have lost the part that Melksham House played and that leaves the Assembly Hall. Melksham has a great following of people wanting to be entertained, they come from far and wide. The actual hall is a perfect venue, great size for bigger events, good size stage, wooden dance floor, great lighting, bar area, seating area, office and kitchen. Yes, it may need updating but it is still functioning and comfortable.
- "Good size,
- Only hall with proper stage
- Easily accessed on foot"
- it's local, invites individuals to shape it's future, it brings people together, local prices
- it's only 5mins walk from my house.
- "It's on the centre of the town
- It's a large accessiy space
- It can be booked for privat events.

- There have been some great public events on during the evening- comedians, discos, tribute acts.
- It was great when the sat cinema was open, especially having young children at the time
- There is an accessible bar and seating area as well as the main hall"
- Its a facility but not used as well as it should be
- Affordable ticket prices that brings live events into the community that a lot of people want to see.
- It is wheelchair friendly- which is important to us as a family as my son is powered wheelchair user - nice big disabled toilet . It also lputs on great and varied events at a reasonable price - a group of us go regularly - there are not any places in melksham like it. It is also very central.
- When it's at capacity it's great. When it's being used.
- It's close to where we live and the hall is a great size fir events, including the light switch on
- Central location, large hall
- There is a really friendly atmosphere. I've thoroughly enjoyed all the live acts/bands that I've gone to see. It's great that there is seating and an area for dancing. The bar is well stocked and not too expensive.
- The assembly hall is the only venue in town that is large enough to host big events. Its central position is ideal for town events. It's a pleasant venue inside.
- Local and good entertainment
- The location is great! It's really central with good local carparking & transport very close by. The size is perfect for shows, dances, movies, parties, wedding receptions and everything else you can think of.
- Size. Location. Facilities
- Easy to get to, park and has lots of variety to see or visit
- Size is good, and its layout with the ability to have live music and events is great
- Access to live entertainment
- Easy to get to great atmosphere
- Offers various activities and local
- Good facilities, good space.
- Small and friendly. The little bar area is great.
- Its local
- Good choice of events - Great sound system - Very well run
- it's location, size
- Venue is a fair size. Variety of events has been tried but I still think promotion is key. Alot of time I speak to local people and they don't know what's on there!
- Locaql, good size and suitable for a range oif events
- Easy access
- Accessible, close to where I live, value for money and has the capacity and versatility to be used for a wide range of activities including private hire events. It has a stage and lighting and audio that is an excellent asset for a town to have for live entertainment.

- I did like its' events that used to be on. I used to go to do fitness classes there. Nice big Hall
- Great size, accessible.
- It's a nice venue space with a decent bar area.
- It's local to me!
- I think it has a lovely atmosphere, the seating is comfortable. A good range of entertainment for all ages.
- It's a great venue for the town to have. The events held are wide ranging offering something for everyone.
- Local
- It eminety
- It's spacious, it has some good bands/entertainment on. It's central for everyone to enjoy and easily get to. It meets the needs of disabled people. Staff are very friendly.
- It's central so easily accessible to all, it's a large hall with many many possibilities.
- It's central
- Accessibility
- It's central and is used for a verity of things.
- Roomy, accessible, facilities including kitchen, stage & bar
- "Location .
- There is nothing in Corsham after the community centre was pulled down."
- Size, location, events on offer, adds to community spirit
- "Big room. Plenty of space.
- Easy access. Good facilities"
- It's central location. The venue is a good size and when it was up and running could provide food too. I did voluntary work there on Christmas Day for a few years it was a valued service. And could do a lot more.
- Fantastic venue for the tiwn and surrounding area.
- Locally able to see comics and groups and films
- Such a versatile space for all ages. Very accessible as I am disabled. Right in centre of town near campus and transport. Not all the residents of Melksham like football and rugby !!! but the council spent obscene amounts of money over budget for these facilities. The council need to provide what the residents want and they want the Assembly Hall.
- Venue, where it is and what is put on there
- Good community space in a central location.
- It's proximity to the town centre
- The space the variety of acts that come everything from Buddy Holly tribute to Story of Patsy Cline
- Communal space, with stage area, separate bar and kitchen; perfect for any event.
- It's easy access.
- Central location
- It's right in the heart of the town. It always has something to offer.
- The closeness to the town centre, the large open areas and the community
- The sence of community, how it brings us all together. I also love all the events held their

- Clean, tidy, great atmosphere and variety
- It's size and location
- Love the tribute band nights
- Being able to go to a venue that is within walking distance from my home. Access is easy for all
- It is central to the town, large enough for private functions and putting on shows or music events, it used as extra space for fetes, craft markets, community events, it is all on one level so everyone is able to use it, has the bar and kitchen facilities so able to provide refreshments suitable for the event taking place.
- Location, programme of events and the fact it is a real community space.
- Great sized space, friendly and layout is adaptable
- It is in the town, with easy access for people to walk to, or car parks are nearby. As a lady on my own, I feel very safe attending the venue.
- Central location, well maintained, clean and friendly helpful staff
- Good size and facilities
- Central large hall for all event's private and otherwise. Bar area toilets stage perfect
- Large venue and has lots of live bands and events on
- Location and size
- Large space, good for private parties. Getting more shows lately
- Local, convenient & great events
- Useful multi purpose space
- It's big so can hold large events, there's a bar and centre of town
- They always put on great bands and shows it is also a good size hall for events
- as I said before it's easily reached. it has bar facilities for every kind of occasion wether is a Wedding, a Show , Dances or as a Cinema. it has is own kitchen which is an added bonus for doing Sunday Luches and any other functions that need hot food.
- Space of the hall and stage is a good size.
- Central location, excellent staff
- It's a great space and wonderful when events are on and the whole town comes out for them.
- It's local with easy access for all
- Being able to host lots of events
- Shows and my daughter does dance comps there
- Central. Big enough to hold most events. No others in the area
- Local good sized space central to town
- It's a community hub at the centre of the town, providing a vibrant and irreplaceable cultural resource
- It's convenient, we can walk there
- The facilities, it has a large hall, great bar a kitchen where food can be provided. Great sound system for all events. It's central location in Melksham is also very important.
- It's size, amenities and closeness to the town centre.
- Only place in Melksham that is big enough to hold events like tribute acts and live performances
- Location, great facilities, clean, variety of events. Very friendly and helpful staff.

- It's a lovely place for all sorts of entertainment
- Very comfortable...and great entertainment.
- Convenient location friendly atmosphere just right for community events and visiting events also has licensed bar for different events.
- A large hall which meets a lots of needs.
- Good size stage and good capacity. Bar fantastic
- Size, location. Flexibility.
- Locality. Offers a variety of entertainment for all ages. A good sized venue.
- It's local and friendly and reasonably price.
- It is a very large flexible venue that no other local site can come close to being able to offer the same facilities
- Great place for events like our charity pole show. Easy to get to
- Good events, good staff, central
- Location
- Brilliant venue, great shows
- Variety or uses, easy location with parking nearby in the form of various car parks. Size of venue. Bar on site
- The size, that there is a bar, the choice of events held there.
- A great hall that can be used for lots of different events it's also central in the town and a great size
- Easy to get to, great size and staff
- It's large enough for concerts, lectures and films and has a bar
- Location
- It's convenient, not too big or too small. Perfect for the occasions I've visited, love the live shows too.
- Location, variety of events
- The size of the space and potential
- Location, size
- Fabulous space, lovely staff
- I enjoyed the acts I saw. Its a good space to hold events and get the community together.
- Large community hall; focal point for community; some really good Tribute bands, comedians and events here..well attended by local people.
- My Pole Studio holds an annual show there and it's incredibly accessible, we train all year to perform here and it would be a shame to lose it.
- Its a larger facility than other places have, it has the facilities for many different types of events, its almost Iconic in Melksham
- Close to all amenities and very good for the community
- It's a great place for live entertainment
- The size and all one level. Plus it's central location
- Central ; good staffing . Easy access
- It's a great venue for shows etc. A place we regularly visit.
- It's size and accessibility, it is a large space for functions but is in the centre of town so easy to get too

- It has everything the town needs, central location. Multi purpose use for so many different events.
- Location, size and lots of memories
- Location, space, facilities
- Its position.
- It's a great space for lots of different things and the history surrounding the building
- Size, location, atmosphere
- Good value. Easy to get to
- Is in centre of town.
- It has a fantastic dance floor but is also large enough to accommodate a large crowd for concerts and for festivals etc.
- To my knowledge it is the only large space within the town to hold events
- It's the same space I went to as a child for events like roller disco...the highlight of my year is going to shows/evenings put put on there.
- Central location
- Everything
- What's not to like? Been using it as far back as the 1960's when the caretaker lived upstairs.
- I like the size of the auditorium. This enables the staff to limit/increase the number of seats available, without overfilling the room
- The size, stage, separate bar & lounge. A good range of events. Central to town
- I think it's a fantastic versatile venue for various occasions
- Capacity and location versatility
- Variety for everyone, good amenities. Well organised and reasonably priced.
- Good size venue that lends itself to many different activities
- The size and location are great. It can be used for so many varied events.
- I love the fact we have somewhere that is giving us great events
- Community spirit
- That it brings Melksham residents together.
- The size and convenience
- About the only thing that has been a part of melksham left and used by not only melksham people to come see the entertainment
- Great to have a local venue that put on events for the whole community ranging from babies right up to pensioners. Great size venue for big private parties. Lovely bar with competitive prices & location is perfect, in the middle of town so parking close by but also taxis if needed.
- Easy to get to, good quality and range of live music events.
- Love location, easy walk for me, but is accessible for bus, car and taxi etc. Great big space, so much potential
- The size of the hall the lighting. The ambience. In the centre of town. Easy to get too.
- Big space, kitchen, sound and projection facilities.all you need for a big event....better than any other local halll
- Location, size
- Good size and well equipped



- Central position. Friendly people. I have enjoyed several films there, it feels more of a shared experience than at the Odeon.
- Its central position, its size and the facilities it offers
- Locality
- Position in town, accessibility and its size.
- It is the only large capacity music venue in the town
- the sprung floor, the stage, the lighting, the bar
- Central location. Adaptability.
- Big enough, run by brilliant staff. Love coming to cinema there shows and markets
- Spacious, clean, stage, bar
- clean, tidy, warm and well presented.
- The range of events held there.
- That we have someone to see acts in Melksham. As well as our girls dancing shows when they hire the hall.
- You can see the stage from where ever yours sitting
- It's local. It's a good size
- Events and entertainment
- It can accommodate a large audience
- "It's by far the best hall in the area.
- It can be reached on foot by many of the Melksham residents so not having to rely on transport and subsequently less pollution."
- The size and space. Stage kitchen bar changing rooms. Events
- Easy to get in a central location
- As above
- its local and good for our community a large building, it must be kept.
- Good sized venue, with stage, so suitable for a variety of events. Sensibly priced bar and, overall, seems well managed.
- Large and convenient
- It brings the community together
- It's an excellent space for events such as live music, something the town centre is now sadly lacking since the Parson's Nose discontinued their weekly Friday evening live band spot. People used to travel to Melksham from around the area for those and bring money into the town. With the right bands and promotion it would attract people from outside the local area in the same way the Cheese and Grain in Frome does. It has a decent stage, lighting, and a good sound.
- Very spacious and easy accessible.
- Great 60s,70s,80s,90s events. Local .
- It's local
- Its roomy, spacious, clean and tidy. It has a decent size stage. Acoustics are good.
- The space, the stage, the fact that there is a bar area, though that could be massively improved.
- The size of the hall. The lounge area and bar.
- Central to the town
- It's in the centre of town, it's great size and the floor is superb.
- When it's full it doesn't look dreary.

- Proximity size space" It has a stage and plenty of space for seating and/or dancing or exercise classes. It has a screen for lectures or films and a bar and separate room. There is plenty of parking nearby.
- Holds fantastic events with national and local performances and community daytime events
- In town, easily accessible for everyone
- Excellent for concerts & events. Spacious, equipped and central with parking nearby.
- Large, central and holds excellent events
- It is a great space and central in Melksham . it could do with being updated.
- Large dance floor. Stage. Bar with separate quiet room.
- Good building, adaptable for different events, central, good parking and bus routes nearby. Good facilities. Staging good for shows, demonstrations etc. Welcoming and helpful staff, clean and comfortable.
- It works beautifully for what we want.
- It is an inclusive, accessible space.
- Friendly staff, lovely environment, beautiful place especially this festive seasonno
- Easy access and parking nearby.
- It's large. Looks good. Could be a bit warmer.
- Location is excellent as all transport links go to town centre.
- It is outdated but it is a central location and can accommodate a large number so it is a usable and necessary space for a range of events.
- It's in the centre of town, with reasonable facilities and would be a great pity to lose it
- It provides a local venue for events and live entertainment.
- Central, easy to get to
- Location and size
- Ample space, good lighting, stage & decent bar area. Central location. Lots going for it.
- It's size and location
- Central location. Right size for events
- Unfortunately there is nothing that I would list as a unique selling point other than its size , which is large. But the building is dated and tired. If I was looking for a venue for 200 , which implies I have a budget of several thousand pounds I would go for a private house with marquee
- It's obviously local.
- Central Stage - Good venue
- The good space - good acoustics, good catering area.Right in the centre of town.
- Good choice of films.
- It's local
- Always a nice friendly atmosphere a great place to hold functions.
- Good space. Well equipped
- Easily accessible from town centre and near to refreshment venues. Easy access to bus services.
- Needs to be open more regularly maybe with an onsite cafe. Maybe toddler group etc could use space during the day.
- A very good building, plenty big enough.

- Friendliness
- It's spacious, plenty of seating and close to all other amenities.
- Its central position and facilities.
- The size and accessibility now we have the campus car park
- Location. Friendliness. Space. Live music
- Right size and style of building for many types of events for example: stage, large projector and screen
- It is well supported by all ages
- It's a large open space in a good location
- The size and facilities
- Big hall
- Everything
- It has everything you need, kitchen, bar, stage toilets. The size of the hall is perfect there isn't another one in Melksham the same size
- It's a good size, level access and very conveniently situated in the town centre.
- The space is huge, the bar is always well stocked, well manned and always friendly..
- Central location great venue and should continue
- The hall course it's nice and big
- Nice dance floor and plenty of room
- Centre of Melksham nice bar and great hall for lots Of various uses
- I enjoy going to the events they have on I love going to see the mediums

**Question 27: Is there any way you think Melksham Assembly Hall could be improved? (Individuals)**

- yes show queen
- The cleanliness could be better. I been there recently and it looked like the toilet facilities had not been cleaned for a while.
- Greatly needs updating, or relocating, build a new one fit for purpose in 21 century, with adjacent parking.
- Use it for school nativity plays by encouraging schools to use it. Install skittle alley/alleys to ensure money put behind bar on regular basis and replaces Melksham house alleys that were lost. Use for parent groups and baby soft play etc. Hold big poker events with cash buy in occasionally or a general casino with variety of games
- I like how the hall is as it is multi functional. I think the toilet facilities could be updated and the foyer area modernised.
- Alteration of seating e.g similar to Neeld Hall Chippenham. Modernise the building
- Necessary structural repairs, better advertising of events
- Making it easier to work out costs for hiring it
- Cheaper rents so hall could be hired. More events for all areas of Community
- Yes it should be cheaper for local people and also better wifi.
- It's kind of tucked away so it's potential use and purpose can sometimes go unnoticed
- It would be great if it was bigger & refurbished to take bigger & better events (more concerts, comedy nights etc) with comfortable seating, bar & facilities. Maybe the campus would allow parking?

- Used more- adverts advertised better
- Thinks like the leaky room needs fixing, and the entrance with cars blocking the way puts people off. Also people don't want to come into the Town Hall to book. Better promotion - to individuals and organisation and the Friends could provide real help if enabled, bringing much more of a community spirit.
- More entertainment/events
- More events, bands and entertainment.
- Without a massive cash injection I think it's life is very limited.
- I think the layout in the foyer area could be changed as this area gets a bit crowded and difficult to pass if using the toilets and people coming in and out of the building. could open this area up a bit ?? The toilet facilities could do with updating.
- No
- Only in the way of tiered seating..The facilities in every other way are fine and work well...
- Kitchen needs modernising! New, comfortable chairs that are not locked together. Decorating.
- Holding extra and more varied events to cater for a wider audience.
- No we in Melksham are very fortunate to have a large hall with bar that offers a variety of functions
- The gents toilets need improving, they are too small. It would be nice to have more comfortable seats
- Better bar
- No
- Better projector for cinema events
- Foyer and bar area cannot cope with large numbers of people
- Possibly refreshed decor and refurbish the toilets.
- The decor could do with updating
- Refurbishment to make it look more modern.
- If I am honest it needs a complete refit or knocking down and starting again. If rebuilding it needs to be repositioned on its current site in order it is more prominent or it needs to be located elsewhere in the town with plenty of parking. If refurbishment is the only option, it needs tiered seating so everyone can get a good view of the stage. The bar also needs reconfiguring to enable more people to be able to to the bar at the same time. On full house evenings the queue for drinks can be too long. May be part of it partitioned off with a moveable wall that allows for both smaller and larger functions.
- Redecorated. Better toilet provision. Use of Campus parking.
- More bands and comedy, along with other ents. Seems that there are less events than there used to be pre-pandemic. Pricing for those wishing to put on events seems illogical, and designed to make the venue fail.
- Partition for smaller groups. Better back stage facilities and proper theatrical lighting for more theatre shows. Installation of removable raked seating
- Comfier chairs perhaps and as previously mentioned a bit more variety in the acts.
- Can parking close by would help.
- I think it's fine the way it is, unless you want to spend a lot of money!

- Caterers.. we struggled locally & brought in a national company at high cost
- It's great. I've heard the changing rooms aren't brilliant.
- Have more events there
- Bigger bar, perhaps at the end of the hall. Current bar gets congested.
- Updated and used more often for events.
- The catering facilities
- Could it be enlarged to a bigger venue incorporating Blue Pool. Perhaps annexe the pool to create an ante-room.
- Better chairs
- "With no current funding I do not see how you can make changes.
- It always feels to me cold and clinical no very welcoming at all."
- I'm happy with it as it is. Maybe a refresh.
- Can we see more tribute acts and dancing space we had a Zumba session in there that would be great to see that it was called ( this girl can )
- My wife and I have discussed this and reckon that the bar is a bit user unfriendly. The Cheese and Grain in Frome and The Komedia in Bath have additional bar areas in the main auditorium. A bar running across the width at the rear of the room could have better access and maybe encourage more sales.
- Maybe have more local events, such as New Year's Eve party or more indoor markets
- Raked seating for some events
- How long have you got? The answer is 'yes', and I could give you a list. I'd start with the appalling catering facilities, dressing room accommodation, acoustics and go on from there! And that's only for starters!
- Collapsible tiered seating would be amazing.
- Maybe the seated area could be incorporated into the bar area to make the bar larger.
- Just keep putting on shows and live music plus the films.
- The hall is in need of updating with its decoration interior and facilities.
- Not without spending a lot of money
- Yes get a new better energy rated place. Somewhere that doesn't seep money out through every pour.
- More comedy events and popular films. More publicity on social media
- If it was possible, it would be better, if it was bigger.
- Yes tiered seating, improved lighting and sound system. Improve the bar and kitchen area which is very dated. Modernise the decor.
- More events for youngsters
- Reducing the rent.
- Used more but cost of hire can be prohibitive
- On tribute band nights ... less seating or seating that is put down the sides of the room as people want to dance and have fun!
- A better stage and more tierd seating for shows put on by local dance groups who currently have to hire The Arc or other towns halls for larger events meaning difficult for some people to travel to watch because buses are no longer appropriate times.
- Renewable energy sources to power the operation. Solar panels, ground and air source heat pumps.

- Parking
- Better seating and tables in room by the bar area. A more welcoming entrance area.
- "better advertising of events. Toilets are a bit small"
- Yes the cleanliness of the assembly hall, Toilets not very clean, mirrors always look dirty with water marks left on the them, main touch points on doors especially the men's.
- no
- Toilets and bar area could be improved
- Having ticket checking area inside entrance door creates people jams so customers have to wait outside longer than necessary and cannot easily main hall or, more importantly, the bar
- Managed by events team experienced in drawing in trade.
- No
- Not easy to get information about it. The website is very poor!
- Just a general update would be suffice.
- Invest some money in the building to make it more attractive and maintain it for future generations.
- Needs updating
- It could really do with an update internally
- More variety of activities for different age groups
- The foyer area can get very busy, blocking access to the toilets. All the toilets could do with updating and making easy access . The kitchen area could offer hot snacks etc.
- Apart from it's ugly brick facade, not really.
- Perhaps modernise a bit, bigger bar, improve toilets
- No
- Facilities could be renovated but I understand the difficulty in securing finances. I personally believe that the site should now be extended to create a "super venue" now that the Blue Pool is no longer in use
- Needs the interior up dating.
- Yes, the advertising of events could be improved and it could also look a little bit more modern.
- Not a lot, like everything else times change and things get a bit tired but other than a spruce up....no.
- Solely on the fact that I use the stage I think there should be handrails going up and down the stairs when entering from the side especially as is sloping when leaving the stairs and dark with no security light. An accident waiting to happen.
- I'd like to see it used more and better supported by the wider community
- More bands, perhaps slightly better decor, (it looks a bit tired, although for the most part I attend nighttime events, so this isn't particularly an issue for me). A larger team managing events and getting hold of new and varied performers.
- Use more often for bands/gigs ect
- For the number of people that could be accommodated, I think the kitchen facilities for providing meals were somewhat inadequate. Tea, coffee, biscuits not a problem.
- Just a bit of aesthetic maintenance to tidy it up a bit, something on the road and frontage to highlight it better to attract people to the venue. It doesn't look as appealing on the outside as it is a good venue on the inside.

- Parking, but otherwise no.
- Have one website that is KEPT UPDATED showing all hall usage & events & links to booking said events. More blue badge parking nearby.
- Refurbishment and made inexpensive.
- Draught beers
- "Some maintenance.
- Making its location known with more prominent signage near the main road."
- Microphone and IT would prefer the screen to be higher so people sitting further back can see the bottom of the screen
- Yes if there were ample funds.
- The chairs could be more comfortable but the stage is a good size .
- "The main bug barer is the limited parking.
- How do you fix this, I am not sure.
- It does need to be more versatile in what can be put on there to attract businesses for seminars etc. as well as local bands, talks and so on. It is not that you don't have parking spaces, the three car parks nearby can do the job but a lot of people who may go there from other towns find it difficult to find those car parks."
- A larger bar area and more toilets.
- Bring it up to date, assess how it could be used, and staff it adequately to run it properly
- Book more known acts
- Maybe a bit of general wear and tear / decoration is required!
- The bar could be greatly improved to make it more of a social and desirable venue for a night out rather than the current low end social club feeling it currently has with limited drinks offerings if you don't drink lager or cider. This would help with attracting new customers and users for both live music and other events. Follow the lead of the hugely successful cheese and grain in Frome and you could really have an amazing place here. The bones are here but it needs the vision and leadership to get there
- not really
- Have more live band and maybe lectures
- yes, I think the bar area and bar seating could be updated.
- seats not so close together
- Just needs fleshing up a bit otherwise leave it alone
- Different types of events for youths
- Maybe updated a bit, but why change that if its not necessary.
- Maybe a bit bigger but no it's great
- Possibly updated internally; it looks a bit dated. Bigger bar as queuing can get a bit challenging.
- Revamp to modernise it
- shows to younger generation
- Just wished that disabled people were near the front as people stand and then we can see the stage properly.
- More cinema, live acts (saw national comedians in the past which were great)
- More comfortable seating.



- The building is in a completely inconvenient place. It would be much more attractive to hold events in the new campus if that is possible. There is no tiered seating and the building feels bleak somehow.
  - More shows and films.
  - It may need updating but not urgently, its functioning and comfortable
  - Improve the kitchen and up date toilets. Possibly find a way to divide it for smaller events. Folding raked seating
  - more film and sport screening
- After events, keep the bar and lonuge area open- you are loosing money to those of us that head to the pub after an event. The hall needs to be used more during the day- assuming there would be a need if advertised. The advertising of events need improving. The toilets could do with a bit of a refurb.
- Needs to be used as a community facility
  - Toilet refurbished
  - More bands, something for the teenagers to do,
  - It is in need to a face lift but I'd rather keep it as it is than loose it all together if funding it tight. It's a universal space that offers so much to the community
  - Could we better advertised when events are taking place. Previously comedy nights a live music has sold out..... let's have more of that
  - Not really
  - Decor could be updated but otherwise ok.
  - No
  - I think it could do with the facilities updating like the toilets & bar area as well as decorating throughout. The floor is fabulous for dancing so definitely don't replace that!
  - Parking discounts. Attract bigger names to the bill. More frequent acts. Better marketing
  - Nothing major other than more live bands.
  - More live gigs
  - Facelift
  - Hides itself away I'm sur many people in Melksham don't know it's there
  - More live entertainment
  - No
  - More live acts/tribute bands.
  - The Bar could be extended
  - No
  - Bar is often busy but the hatch area could be utilised. Lots of venues have pop up bars for busy events with cans and bottles only and plastic glasses.
  - "Remove the Decibel meter, so concerts sound better. Have more concerts taking place. Plenty of rock & indie tribute bans would play and it'd stack up financially if two or three played in one night. I currently travel to Bath, Bristol, Frome and Swindon to watch bands. Trowbridge are about to convert a building to host music events - proving demand is there
  - Encourage more day time entertainment

- More variety. The roller discos are brilliant and film screening, I would like more like this that is family friendly.
- Have more recognisable comedian's on again
- More events going on.
- More live acts.
- More discos like 80s v 90s night
- Bar and entrance could be made bigger, always congested there.
- Perhaps the entry and the bar area could be modernised to make more room.
- Bigger bar area and possibly a little updating
- More affordable for local events
- Have more icons tributes from past decades eg Gary Numan, Kate Bush, Depeche Mode, The Cure. Some alternative tribute music like The Mission.
- More things for children (older), more shows/comedians/pantos. This town needs more for its residents, and utilising the hall to the best of its ability will bring more people to the town.
- It always needs more parking but I do understand the logistics!
- More live entertainment
- No
- Bar & tickets could do with an upgrade but it's fine as is
- Acoustics can be awkward when on stage. And raking of seats would help the audience see acts more clear.
- It could be updated and decorated which would encourage more acts to come. I went to a concert recently and the act said it was so cold back stage. You need to address things like this to encourage more acts to the hall.
- More live entertainment
- No
- No
- Advertising. Not always aware of what's on, until AFTER the event has happened.
- Maybe revamp
- No, I think as halls go it's very good compared to the competing halls in other towns.
- No
- I think the foyer and bar/lounge area could be more inspiring. When funds become available consideration could be given to constructing a new entrance foyer/bar area on redundant Blue Pool land. Tiered seating would be great for concerts/shows.
- Would love more alternative tribute bands
- Maybe the entrance way
- Could be used more for groups, (discos for teenagers, dance nights for elderly, fund raisers, events for elderly), encourage local schools to put on events for local community (music, sing alongs, fund raisers, meet and greets getting younger community to mix with elder community).
- A little updating required but otherwise fantastic size and location
- No
- No, it is a perfect venue for the use of the town.
- For a local amenity, it has good facilities. Greater use of the cooking/kitchen would bring more events. Beer festivals etc.

- Maybe more affordable for local groups or regular social meet ups
- No
- Just needs a lick of paint
- Improved bar.
- No
- Perhaps a lick of paint here and there
- Modernising, refurb of the toilets.
- Possibly a dining/kitchen function.
- More events
- Have more live events
- Not that I can think of
- Update toilets and sound system
- Toilets often at least one not working
- More investment from the council to enable it to build on its current success
- Maybe a bit of modernisation
- Maybe some investment to keep the place in good condition to ensure it doesn't go into disarray.
- No.
- General updating of the premises
- Not really.
- Yes do a lot more entertainment And events
- No
- Maybe to be run by people who actually care about Melksham.
- Modernise slightly but has a good feel
- Could the space be divided so it can be used by more people at one time. Tired seating.
- Modernisation. Seating could be more comfortable. It has much to offer. Don't let it go to rack and ruin like Melksham House. The Council lost a lot of income from its events and room hire by closing it to early. Way before there was any sign of a brick being laid for the campus.
- Not at this time
- Maybe modernised a bit
- I think it's brilliant
- Yes, replace with a different building such as Melksham house
- No
- Continue to provide what they are currently and a greater selection of events. Be affordable to attract these additional events to take place.
- It's pretty good as it is.
- Needs a make over advertising more for what's got to offer the stage cooking area and bar great size room to try to get useage up in weekdays must say there doing an excellent job
- No fine as it is
- The possibility of tiered seats so that it could be used as a theatre/cinema. Dance groups and various clubs could also be held there. It could also be used as a meeting place for coffee mornings/fund raising.

- Would say build a new hall that meet modern needs, especially for the younger generations, shame about Melksham House such a good place
- Money invested to out on more band nights
- Slightly modernised decorations
- Terrible management for several years, hard to get a positive response to ideas there as many staff seem stuck in old ways and unwilling to try new things
- Better signposting around the town for people to find the venue. Maybe it should have its own facebook group.
- Greater publicity of events...maybe in neighbouring towns and villages.
- More signage to show accessibility
- No
- No
- No
- More acts more events ,like the civic hall in Trowbridge
- None at all.
- It could do with updating
- I think it is just fine as it is. Why lose something already good? Or is it because it's in a prime location & worth a lot of money? Councils should stop being greedy and let people enjoy the good facility that we have enjoyed for years, for so many different purposes.
- More publicity for events. More things for the teenagers of the town
- It has all the facilities that any wanting hire it may need.
- No
- Just updated a bit
- A bit of modernisation
- Possibly a rebuild with better insulation and toilets
- Improve the bar area, increase the size of it and selection of beverages. Increase the size of the stage so that bigger productions could be held.
- Toilet facilities seem very cold/clinical
- Only if possible more investment to keep it amazing for generations to come
- Needs rebuilding - modernising ability to have smaller break out rooms - collapsible theatre like seating
- No
- More comfortable seating in Bar Lounge area
- Ladies toilets need re doing and there's very little room in there!! Outside could be more inviting.
- I think it's fine
- Lower costs. More events. Community engagement.
- Improvements can always be made in any given circumstance. Having never hired the hall myself I cannot comment on the ease of booking or quality of the infrastructure but when attending events I have been happy with the facilities.
- I think it's a fab place but maybe it just needs more support and advertising
- More comedian shows
- More use/ films shown
- Use it more

- Put more entertaining on and things going on at weekends for families
- Slightly bigger bar for busy events.
- Better advertising of events. Bar needs to be bigger for events when it is full or near full
- The foyer area is very small. The bar area could be extended
- No
- Haven't been for a while so don't know. Keeping sound etc up to date important
- Tiered seating like Neeld Hall, Chippenham
- Just a general update as looking a bit dated.
- "Removable tiered seating for films and plays/concerts. I had a long lasting neck problem after watching a film there!
- Improving the foyer as it's dated and dark."
- Any building can be improved but the facilities it offers at the moment are acceptable
- (Movable a la Melksham Oak) Raised seating for ease of viewing.
- Spruced up and advertised more.
- Yes, through modernising the building and making it a more attractive and more well signposted space.
- create a Mezzanine floor, move the bar and offices upstairs
- Don't know.
- Im not sure
- Seating and toilet facilities, if I want to be picky
- Use as cafe similar to that of the Srt cafe
- Don't know
- More acts and more variety for the whole family.
- No
- Yes be updated
- No, leave it as it is
- Better seating, tiered seating for shows.
- Yes by keeping it as an asset.
- More toilets
- No
- No
- Not sure, maybe advertised more for different activities.
- I think the entrance, both outside and inside could be improved and possibly made larger.
- Decor
- Better publicity and increase the size of the gents' toilets.
- More events
- Bigger gents toilets.
- The whole building is dated, it would need a lot of money spent on it, but it would put Melksham on the map. Can the old swimming pool be incorporated into improvements? We NEED a proper cinema, not just the odd showing of old films. We could ask Amateur Drama Companies to perform. If a smaller town like Corsham can do it, with The Pound, surely we can!

- The acoustics are not good. The kitchen needs redesigning. The toilets could be improved and (distant) memory tells me the dressing rooms are very small. Better parking.
- More events
- if more people would support it
- Bring in more memorable comedy and music. Advertise more than in the venue itself.
- Access parking
- I don't know about the energy efficiency or insulation but I expect they could be improved. Some areas could be updated.
- More daytime community use for all ages
- More events/activities could be introduced
- More concerts & events.
- Yes - loos - pretty pathetic by standards of today. Not large enough for larger events in the hall. No idea about the ladies mind! Doubt if they are much different
- refurbish it
- Keep it maintained & staffed. Some heating in the toilets, in winter, would be nice.
- Better promotion and advertising, should behold to more community events. Not used to capacity by not being promoted.
- Removal of threats of closure
- No, love it just the way it is
- Not really, it has all the facilities it needs.
- As above
- Furniture and flooring could be modernised. The toilet facilities could also be updated.
- It's appearance from the outside needs a lot of enhancing to make it more welcoming - including its approach from the market place
- Refurbishment.
- Cantilever seating for shows. Larger chairs with space between, it can feel very cramped
- Yes provide more activities at an affordable price
- Parking was poor. Would be improved if it was clear visitors could park in the new Campus parking area. More variety of events for the whole community- better advertising of events
- There is always room for improvement/investment but it's a great community space.
- Amenity's such as kitchen need updating
- The council or committee is not an effective management style for a social venue. It requires a flexible ,focused, reactive, decisive energy which has freedom and authority to deliver a goal. (which the council could set out the goal but the person delivering on that goal needs to be allowed to try his/ her strategy) With little interference/ a light touch on the tiller. It's something the council can' do as it is ultimately responsible financially and does not take risks or speculative action. Eg. The cinema showed some good films but the seating was/ is standard chairs with no arm rests so gets uncomfortable, ( this was several years back, I have not been recently). Suggestion made was to invest in carver type chairs with arms or even retractable tiered seating , Anything! The proposal was to buy some cushions! The final action was to do nothing!

Cinema attendance has never really got going because it was never seriously backed.

- Not sure
- Bring back Sunday lunches
- Only pay for what your hire
- Cheaper lettings to community groups.
- Cannot think of any improvements currently
- Parking, cafe, improve toilets.
- Some kind of car park otherwise ok
- More staff behind the bar when bigger functions.
- More toilets for larger functions
- It could be used more
- Yes, sound system is not always reliable
- More promotion and more events
- Updating the hall, more advising of what can be held there
- As long as they carry on with the great entertainment they put on NO
- Tier seating which could be pulled out
- No
- More events for all age ranges, the hall is very much aimed at older people ie pensioners or small children. I'm not sure what functions but something other than films on a Friday.
- Keep costs affordable so that Local groups like western dance nights can access the venue
- Bigger car park
- If it's not broken don't fix it
- Advertise and let people know about the place.
- No u can get a lot of people in the hall it has everything you need

**Question 28: On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the facilities at Melksham Assembly Hall? Please explain your answer (Individuals)**

- it's a s\*\*t hole
- Mainly cleanliness
- Facilities dated, look run down, needing much TLC, lack of parking, external facade does not look appealing.
- Could do with modernisation inside
- As previous stated the toilet facilities / foyer need updating.
- In need of improvement
- It has what it needs, but things can be improved, such as the entrance, more bathroom facilities, etc.
- Toilets could be improved. More comfortable seats
- There are some great events out there & this venue could bring more people to Melksham. Also in walking distance of some great pubs for pre/post food/drinks
- Many are tired and need an update; it's slipped behind under previous councils



- The staff make the most of the facilities however it is a struggle with such an inflexible building.
- As mentioned, the foyer area crowded, toilets need updating. Could put in easy access opening doors at the front of the entrance e.g., push button opening doors.
- It's able to hold a variety of events, always clean and tidy.
- Only dropped the points as the seating would be better tiered and would hopefully encourage more attendance, as with a full house, it's very difficult to see acts from far back in the Hall.. the chairs that are there now are very uncomfortable after sitting for a while.
- It would have been helpful if each facility was listed separately - toilets, bar area, hall - have I missed anything?
- "Lighting is very good.
- Bar is brilliant.
- Kitchen is alright but needs modernising.
- Projector is excellent."
- See previous answers.
- Offers all the facilities needed for a great night out
- The gents toilets need improving, they are too small. It would be nice to have more comfortable seats
- See previous answers
- Foyer and bar needs to be improved
- Facilities from an attendees view seem to be good!
- It's facilities are suitable for meeting the needs of the community
- Everything is there that is needed but needs an update.
- It is looking a bit tired. I think the way it looks puts people off from hiring it for a private function ie party/wedding reception venue for instance.
- Serves the community
- As above
- Room sizes inc bar area excellent, fully functional, warm, well lit, good acoustics, good/clean facilities
- It has a bar, kitchen, good lighting system. The raised stage provides a good view. Good parking nearby.
- Car parking needed.
- It does everything I need it for and what I think it's intended use is should be for.
- I love it, perfect for many different functions
- It's useful for do much in the town. So handy. Always packed at the events for Melksham.
- More toilets maybe
- Everything clean and tidy. Everything you need for a night out.
- Lots of potential but needs some TLC
- They are becoming dated
- Plenty of space.
- Just needs an update
- I think the layout is poor wasted space needs to be brought up to date.
- I've always found it more than adequate.

- Does not sell real ale in bar
- Could do with a face lift
- As above. The bar is rather small and, if a full house is expected, can get very crowded.
- Very nice area with very adequate heating and lighting.
- Bar is okay, good range of activities. Cheap events
- Four might seem mean, but there is so much wrong with the place, although it's saving grace is that it is at least THERE! Without it, where could large events be held? Nowhere, but that does not preclude making it better, particularly for smaller events.
- Looks a bit tired. Kitchen could do with updating.
- Easily accessible for everyone.
- I think that if people use it to its full potential it would give income to improve the acts you put on
- They are adequate but are in need of updating and modernising
- You can dress it up to make it look special.
- As I said before it is very tatty and really cold.
- Large venue with all the facilities to hold an event
- I have explained previously.
- Dated toilets, bar, stage, poor lighting and sound systems. Tiered seating is not available.
- Adequate
- It has a kitchen and toilet
- Everything I said before!
- Adequate
- They desperately need updating and sustainable investment made.
- The bar is good, the kitchen area needs to be updated to help catering staff on site for different functions
- see above
- Could do with spruce up.
- The Hall is a good size for holding events and easy for a access
- Some facilities could do with up dating. Access is sometimes crowded around the bar area.
- Bar area and toilets in need of upgrade/redesigning. Some means of sectioning off hall to make it more useful for smaller gatherings. Hire cost is high.
- Good for larger functions. Bar. Car parking close. In Town
- Seems OK
- Bar, toilets, stage. All good. Films sound good too.
- The best venue for miles.
- Have always found the staff pleasant and helpful.
- Overall good, just the bar area feels a bit pokey.
- They need updating
- Just a bit old inside. Needs redecorating/upgrading The bar area could be improved
- Large hall, licensed bar, clean toilets

- The entrance to building flow often impeded. Bar area gets very busy. The frontage of the hall is 'drab' and does not spark or get peoples attention of what is on offer. So better signage, eye catching display of events.
- It seems to have most of the facilities that one would need for most events. The only thing that it doesn't seem to suit is theatrical productions...
- Have never had any issues at any event
- 6
- Building could do with renovation / repainting to make it more attractive to a wider variety of users"
- It does look neglected.
- 8
- "It serves its purpose very well. I would say they The Assembly Hall is a gem and one of the best in the county
- Based on my usage so far. I've not used the loos!
- Some areas could do with sprucing up a little (kitchen & bar). It seems to have been left to run down over the past couple of years, (perhaps because Wiltshire want to use Melksham House instead).
- See comment above about the kitchen.
- It's got everything the community needs for a great live entertainment venue.
- No complaints
- Good
- Clean, spacious, very functional.
- Good but needs refurbishment.
- Pretty good
- As the hall is in the town centre (as opposed to on a large housing estate) it is ideal for hosting live entertainment. The full size stage, with lighting and dressing rooms is a great asset.
- The dance floor is the largest and best for miles around.
- We actually moved from Swindon to Melksham as a direct result of attending shows at The Assembly Hall.
- I sincerely believe it is the heart of Melksham which needs to be kept beating healthily at all cost."
- I think there has been a lack of care, I also think the sound insulation could be improved. We are close neighbours and cant sit in our garden on saturday nights in the summer. There is a lot of accommodation close by, mostly for the elderly and the music must be very irritating for them
- Useful hall, accessible to all
- The toilets are OK and the Bar could be bigger but on the whole the Hall is a good size
- It has a kitchen, lighting and I believe, Wifi and toilets which is a good starting point but there could be more.
- A larger bar area and more toilet facilities would improve things.
- It's just all a bit 'tired'. Needs a full update with new toilet facilities, accessibility improved, and some proper refreshments. Currently it is all a bit 'village hall venue' rather than local theatre venue
- they're ok.

- Just needs sprucing up!
- In severe need of an overhaul as described above to improve the atmosphere and bar offering, toilets are ok but need updating. Great space in the hall needs the support of these improvement to attract the revenue and new generation of customers to support its economic viability to then provide the low cost/free community events and services people want but cannot or will not support financially.
- For the size of the town, not necessarily including the new builds it is suitable for wide range of ages .
- As before it starting to be a bit dated
- Its always served the purpose I've attended.
- Not enough toilets
- Good seating, bar and easily booked.
- It's tired
- Every thing is available.
- Decent capacity, great bar staff. Great staff in general.
- The facilities are ok, toilets good, bar ok but no atmosphere.
- As already stated.
- Ss I said before, it needs updating but not urgently ss it functions perfectly well, the outside look isn't too good.
- Poor view at seated events. Kitchen needs updating
- the toilets are a little cramped
- Toilets
- The facilities are good just in need of cosmetic make over
- Toilets often not flushing, could do with a revamp
- The facilities are really good considering the size of community it serves. A couple more ladies toilets would be helpful.
- Facilities are good.
- The facilities are great! They just need updating and decorating. Nothing a good plumber & decorator can't sort.
- Nothing wrong with them
- Great facility but some features are a little tired
- Toilets and entrance require update
- Like the various acts and could have more live music
- The Bar is small and cramped and very limited. The Ladies Loos are dated.
- lovely venue for live music & events
- Bar area as above
- A better selection beer. Appreciate you need people to drink it, but more events = more sales
- It has everything my family needs.
- They do have good facilities within the hall, Bar, toilets, Kitchen etc
- Small bar.
- Decent bar, could do with bigger toilets.
- There is always a queue for the ladies
- Improvements can always be made, I have never used the kitchen so can't comment on that, but I think they are basically fine.

- Always room for improvement / allow disabled people to go into the hall prior to doors opening to get settled, as there is limited tables/chairs in the waiting area.
- Large & has all the necessary amenities
- Parking is the only issue but easy enough to drop people off
- All facilities are there and under utilised. It has easy access, good size stage, good changing rooms, bar and kitchen. It's space for large groups, dancing, fairs and roller discos is not found anywhere close to Melksham.
- I think maybe the bar area could be improved - access is always crowded when an event or show is on. Maybe a coffee bar could be a useful addition to catering.
- I have been to many events at the Hall and always felt it was a good venue. The staff are marvelous and very helpful. Melksham has no cinema and if you are not a sports fan, apart from pubs there is no other entertainment in the town. The council should be fighting to improve and keep this valued asset. Please listen to the public for once.
- Could do with a bit of updating
- Never had an issue
- Toilets are quite often out of order, or in a bit of a state; dependant on the event & who's attended.
- Plenty of variety and good to have this facility.
- Lots of multipurpose space, clean, heated,
- It's got everything you need, good size, good bar facilities
- Always clean and tidy and polite
- Clean and tidy and enviting
- Back stage facilities need improving, dressing rooms, storage etc. In the past I organised a few choir concerts in the hall and used the Town Hall for extra space. Perhaps all facilities would benefit from an update.
- Friendly staff hall always clean as are the toilets
- Could do with a better laid out entrance
- All is on one level, it can cater for all ages, it is large enough for weddings, private and public functions.
- The facilities are all there for shows etc.
- As above
- Both bar and kitchen available but small toilets
- Needs a bit of an upgrade. Particularly the bar
- Bar, dance floor, plenty of room, maybe just a bit it decorating needed
- As in my previous comments it's in the middle of town and getting to it is very easy by bus, taxi, those that use mobility scooters or even cycling there. Its near to a couple of car parks for those who prefer to drive
- It dose what it's meant to in providing a venue
- 10 a bar and a large venue for get togethers
- Improve the above then it will have 10
- Good for town of this size, could do with more fim events in the evening for working people and maybe for families as cinemas can be very expensive and difficult for some people to get to
- Everything you need
- I can't think of any facilities it's missing, and those that are there are in good condition.

- Everything is there that is needed.
- Meets all needs very well
- It's a lovely place to go but they could put more things on
- Overall a good venue and multiple uses
- Would have liked to give a 10 but it's not there yet.
- Toilets are a bit chilly and dated
- Could be improved but the potential is there to create a great venue for the Town.
- Could do with some modernisation but is ok as it is
- Want for nothing
- Facilities need modernising
- Could be modernised but is actually fully functioning in its current state.
- I feel the facilities meet all the need required.
- Bar kitchen stage great size room can hold lots of different types of events
- Everything you need in this hall
- Everything is there but could be improved by providing lunches/afternoon teas.
- Bar could do with improving /toilets not very good
- Everything was great, easy to access and user friendly
- Needs updating
- Great offer of facilities
- Potentially brilliant facilities rusted up by bad management
- When I have watched films or acts there, I found the chairs uncomfortable to sit on.  
The bar needs to be larger, as when the place is busy, its hard to get to the bar.
- Clean, there's a bar, toilets. What's not to like.
- Bar is a plus!
- Toilets.....really good. Bar.....really good. Stage.....really good. Floor.....really good.  
Kitchen facilities....good
- It ticks all the boxes
- It has lots of potential just needs to be used
- Ample ample and comfortable seating. Nice little bar area for pre show drinks.
- It's a large space with a bar, stage and toilets why more so you need
- It serves the purpose of everyone's needs.
- Large open space,bright,location
- Good facilities. Seperate bar area which works well
- It has has space....position....facilities for any size events from a music event or fayre to a smaller gathering.
- As above
- It has everything and brings people together
- 9
- As above
- Just needs a little updating, it's the best venue we have in the area for holding anything.
- Some modernisation could be done.
- More needs to be done as explained above

- Would be better if a coffee machine was installed as having to drive to events alcohol not drunk and there's only so many fizzy drinks one can consume. Also applies to water and squashes.
- Ladies toilets- not enough cubicles or space.
- I think it has everything you need for a community venue
- It's a great space but as with everything could probably do with some modernization in areas. Advertising of events happening to a wider audience would also be good.
- Never had a problem
- Great things in but not advertised in lots of places
- It is right in the middle of town and extremely convenient. Flat level access and the biggest hall in melksham
- It has everything that's needed.
- As above
- When I last went whilst not a luxury venue, all seemed clean and adequate
- Has what's needed just needs updating.
- Good bar area and toilets. Very large space
- Its an oldish building and that in itself brings problems but for a town the size of Melksham I believe its facilities rate an 8
- Male toilets are small and cramped.
- Decent facilities, but tired.
- Never had a problem with events ive done there but always room for improvement
- Facilities provided
- Well presented tidy and clean
- We've always had great experiences at the assembly hall.
- I enjoy coming there for music
- Everything is working fine
- Could do with redecoration
- The toilets just need decorating.
- Bit slippery floor in cold weather
- Does everything it needs to
- Not sure what additional realistic expectations one could expect .
- It has every need
- If I compare it with the Neeld Hall in Chippenham it is, perhaps, a little outdated. Neeld Hall does have raked seating but this does limit opportunities for different types of event.
- Facilities not up to the size of the venue
- For one its central for Everyone, it's very clean and spacious
- I can't speak for the ladies' toilet but the gents' is rather cramped when there's a well attended event on. The bar has long queues too and I've missed parts of events trying to get a drink.
- Could be updated
- Improved refreshment area and bar come lounge area would be a boon.
- The facilities are there but outdated, no attractiveness to any of them
- See above
- Could do with a little updating



- don't know what all of the facilities are
- It is generally dreary: decor, loos and entrance hall. I bet it could look more welcoming without a huge amount of money spent on it.
- It's a great local venue
- Seating, bar and toilets all of good standard.
- By facilities I take it you mean the loos and kitchens. Have known worse but could definitely be improved. Foyer area could also be improved - a tad small and a bit of a wind tunnel when weather poor
- See above
- There are very few venues with a decent size dance floor, plus stage & licenced bar
- Clean, adaptable, accessible.
- It is a fine place, the toilets are small and cold in winter.
- They're very good
- What is there to explain, toilets are great, perfect venue, in the right place, great dance hall and also if you want a private chat there is space for that also
- It has all the facilities it needs.
- As above
- As above, it needs some refurbishment but it still fulfils a necessary function for community events and unless a new hall is being planned, we should retain it.
- The facilities on offer are quite basic. Asdie from the main event area, there's a bar and functioning toilets and that's about it. It's a little dated and tired.
- Bar is good but kitchen is limited
- Slightly outdated and the seats are hard
- Slightly lacking in toilet facilities
- Amazing space and location
- The kitchen facility should be available and utilised at events held in the hall.
- Good size has a good bar great location
- It has the essentials , but it's all just too old and dated.
- As I say haven't been on a regular basis but when we have it has been good.
- Need to improve sound system - microphones etc
- As question
- Facilities are adequate
- Toilets could do with a revamp. Good coffee.
- Easy access, flexible space allocation.
- Good space, central to town but costly to hire and needs updating.
- Very fine building for the town, very lucky.
- Has all that's needed for a Assembly Hall
- Unfortunately some public standards effect the facilities and make it hard for others to use, eg toilets. Bar is a good place, the layout is good with various exits if needed.
- All facilities near to hand
- More toilets would make it higher
- For the times I have used it for concerts/events it is fine.
- As above and toilet facilities good, kitchen lets it down slightly
- It is warm and cosy
- Up dating

- Can sometimes be cold in the assembly hall, otherwise it would have very been a 10
- Perfect everything you need
- It meets my needs.
- The space is huge and so much can be done with it. The staff are lovely and very helpful. And again the bar is always well stocked.
- All good
- It's clean and tidy even the toilets are looked after

**On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the accessibility of Melksham Assembly Hall? Please explain your answer (Individuals)**

- my paraplegic son could get in he plays rugby very well and gets many girls
- Location is great and it is accessible for all needs.
- Prime location being in the centre of the town and on the level. But tucked away behind the TH.
- Access is quite good into the venue. The 'disabled toilet in foyer can be difficult to get into due to the amount of traffic in the small foyer.
- Easily accessible
- Closer parking would be helpful
- No steps at entrance
- Would be good to be able to park at the new leisure centre and walk down to the hall.
- Gets blocked by parked cars at the entrance; within the hall is good.
- Parking is the only issue, largely due to Wiltshire Councils appalling attitude to car users.
- What do you mean by accessibility. I am not disabled so can't comment. Do you mean the visual accessibility in which case it's poor due to its location
- It is accessible, flat area for wheelchairs etc., however the access to the toilet facilities is hampered when the foyer / bar area is busy.
- Maybe automatic doors and a disabled drop off point could improve this
- Easy access, although there isn't a car park to speak of, there is a car park very close..
- I am reasonably able-bodied
- Good transport stops in the market place. Parking in the campus. Easy access for all users including disabled and elderly.
- Access is good for wide accessibility, unless cars are parked immediately in front of the halls, such as on market days.
- Centre of town, ideally situated for anyone who wishes to walk to an event or offers easy access to parking or taxis
- Plenty of parking, all on one level.
- I have no problems accessing the hall.
- Plenty of parking available in Campus and King St and near bus stops
- The hall is accessible to all as far as I can tell!
- It has good flat entrances and plenty of space inside for moving around
- Like it in the centre of town. Could do with more free parking.
- From my point of view it is easy as I can walk from where I live and there are no inclines, plus there are no steps into the hall. However for those who drive it may be

more difficult unless they can use The Campus car park for functions, particularly in the evening.

- No problems
- Central, easy to walk to, on the flat. Maybe some issues from a carpark to the rear but otherwise good all round
- Central location with bus stops, taxi rank and parking nearby.
- Car parking needed.
- As mentioned before, ideal central location.
- Super easy, parking at King's Street, taxi/bus out front
- Right in the middle of town and level access.
- Although not physically challenged, it appears to be easily accessible.
- Good accessibility for all
- Te variety of events and different club or organisation uses
- Easy to access for all.
- Now the campus is there, coupled with King Street, there l'd adequate evening parking
- Not being disabled I cannot give a positive scale here. But I would say okay improvements could be made.
- Obvious really. Single storey. Very accessible.
- Everything on the same level
- Very accessible I would say. Easy, level, access.
- I don't know as I've not had to access it with a disability
- Central to the town centre. Parking fine for car drivers
- Not the best but better now that the Campus Car Park is up and running - until they start charging for the privilege!
- Not very accessible for disabled drop off. Not much space for visiting groups to unload their gear.
- All on one level for mobility scooters, wheelchairs or people on crutches.
- I like it because it is easy to use and it is in walking distance
- Central location. Close to public transport etc.
- It's wheelchair friendly and on a bus route.
- For people walking to venue it's in an ideal location. Doesn't help that cars impede entrance sometimes
- Central Melksham is an ideal setting.
- It's accessible via the campus or Market square but is hidden from main view behind the Town Hall. Ample parking at the Campus but the entrance needs is overshadowed by the taller building and needs improving.
- Wheelchair friendly
- Central to town and parking
- Limited parking
- Could do with more parking. Should be allowed to share campus parking. More than enough spaces for both.
- Very central and easy to get to. Close to parking with the campus now.
- Ground floor level access, spacious, hearing loop.
- Limited parking for disabled people, despite good access by front doors

- see above
- Management and staff are always friendly.
- car parking can be used at new sports hall
- Entrance area quite small.
- Near bus routes, car parking. In walking distance for many residents. Access for bands unloading kit might be an issue. I suggest relocating main entrance.
- Toileting facilities for all need update.
- OK
- No parking.
- Parking not easy.
- Parking close by.
- Appears available to all
- Fairly easy access, car parking, and bus service close to hall
- I think it's reasonably ok. I'm not disabled so I don't feel I am suited to fully answer this
- Easy to get to. Hall is wheelchair friendly
- As described previously, can get congested due to toilets being in the foyer
- It's on the level and, now the campus car park is open, easy to get to for car owners.
- Never had any issues accessing
- 7- Accessibility is OK for disabled patrons. Although not much can be done due to the nature of the venue, the layout could be looked at for a better flow of people on arrival / exit
- In town centre. Used to have free parking at Melksham house, unsure if that is still the case.
- 10
- It is fairly close to two car parks, Central to the town and the access is flat.
- Difficult for loading and unloading when more than one group setting up. Access to stage as previously stated.
- It is in a central location, there are buses and local parking for those that need it.
- Good central location. On transport routes. Disabled access, with no stairs. Open aspect.
- Loading/unloading of equipment was difficult because of the limited space for vehicular access. Same applies to facilities for disabled access.
- I currently have no accessibility issues but it seems very accessible. In particular it's central town location.
- No complaints
- The parking could be a little better.
- Needs more blue badge parking.
- Good but parking not at same location but I don't find this an issue.
- No problems for me. Not sure for disabled people.
- We lost a considerable amount of parking as a result of the campus development
- There is plenty of nearby parking, a couple more disabled spots would be appreciated
- There is a car park close by .
- As previously mentioned, car parking and unloading.
- It's right in the town, so most residents could probably walk to it. Plenty of parking around too.

- Toilet facilities are cramped and not signposted very well. Otherwise ok.
- Great location but could be better promoted in a accessible way for those more social media lead and would have been a 9 if the parking hadn't been lost
- Parking may be the only problem, but it is close to bus stops
- very easy for disabled access
- Never had any real issues.
- Parking nearby is convenient and for myself I've never had any problems accessing it.
- Easy to get to
- Easy access for my wife and I as it is located centrally
- Parking close by and easy to reach.
- Central location flat entrance disabled friendly
- Good parking. Level access.
- Tucked behind the Town Hall it is an uninviting area.
- Easy access for y wheelchair.
- With the new Sports complex parking is excellent
- Unable to answer accessibility within the hall as I am have no access issues. As previously stated easy to access on foot
- very easy to travel to and leave.
- We are able bodied so I have answered this in location and ease not from a disability perspective
- Central location, easy access, no steps
- My mum who is disabled had no problems with access.
- All seems ok.
- It's brilliant! In the middle of town, right off the market place, good for carparks & public transport alike.
- Generally good, parking not great though
- Easy access
- No problem for me
- Better than many establishments, all on flat
- Parking area could be improved by closer disabled access
- Easy Access but wheelchair users have difficulty using the bar
- as above
- I don't see that accessibility is a problem
- Easy access. Now car park re-open next door, shouldn't be an issue
- It is accessible to all.
- All on one level, very accessible
- I don't have accessibility issues so not really for me to judge.
- As previous two answers
- Entrance and parking poor.
- Centralised easy to get to. No stairs to climb.
- Not enough disabled parking close enough
- Parking is only issue
- I don't have accessibility issues but have seen people who need easy access using it. If there was a change maybe make the foyer a bit larger to help further.
- N/a so cannot comment

- I am disabled with a blue badge and so it is easily accessible. For other visitors there is ample parking locally and right next to bus stops.
- Excellent
- With the exception of the stage area, most places within the assembly rooms, are accessible for disabled persons.
- As above
- Near the campus, parking available, close to town facilities
- Good amount of parking near by and everything on 1 level
- Easy to navigate a pram around
- Easy access and lots of parking around
- Built on level ground good access for disabled, perhaps more disabled parking close to the venue would be helpful
- My husband has a disability and has no problems accessing areas
- Access is good from what I have seen
- access is suitable for all local community, easy access over whole site as inside is all on one level, large enough to space out seating to cater for disabled, would of given a 10 but since disabled parking close by was removed it us harder for disabled, elderly to park nearby
- As I said previously, access is very good.
- Fine for me, but disabled parking is limited.
- I think pretty good but not an expert
- Right in the middle of town is a perfect location where it is
- Plenty of nearby parking & great for the town.
- Not sure. I haven't considered it from an accessibility point of view before.
- I have answered this in the section before
- Plenty of parking in nearby campus now
- Very good
- Doors wide enough for wheelchairs
- Accessibility is good
- It is accessible to all
- Couldn't be in a better place. Central to everything and public transport.
- Seems to be easy for everyone to get in and facilities are available for all abilities.
- Wheelchair friendly within walking distance also carparks nearby.
- Accessibility is ok.
- No issues with a push chair or pram
- Flat, near public transport.
- Centre of Town. Close to bus stop for ease of travel. Central to activities in the Market Place. Access could be improved if entry could be considered from the other side of the building or from the Blue Pool area. The land is there to carry out the work .
- Very easy
- Central location
- Central location in easy reach of numerous car parks. Wheelchair friendly access and parking.
- Parking was always a problem for the hall. But there is parking available close by as long as you can walk. Not great for disabled people tbh.

- Central in town there's parking not far from it easy to drop of disabled people. Taxis close by and bus stops
- Very accessible
- Not the easiest place to get to for the disabled.
- Bus links excellent
- I had no problems personally using the facilities, nor did a friend who is less mibile
- Very easy to get to
- Easy access and parking.
- Brilliant location for pretty much anyone to attend although frontage is usually clogged up by staffs own cars and looks scruffy
- The accessibility is ok, but it may be hard for disabled people to access the front door when the venue is busy. Also it gets packed at the front door with pedestrians getting in the way of cars, driving up to the campus.
- Car parking options nearby. Located in market place where buses and taxis are nearby. Residential areas also close by.
- More signage
- No problems of access
- Perfect as it's flat
- Very accessible
- Right in town with ample parking facilities close by.
- It's in the centre of town with parking nearby but also easy to walk too.
- The hall is in central location with car parks all around. Even someone with a disability is able to gain access to the hall easily. A lot of people will walk to the location from their home.
- Perfect
- On one level
- It is central with an area for drop off / set up etc.....
- It's very accessible
- One level
- 10
- Centre of town
- I think it pretty good for everyone.
- All flat easy to enter.ive attended with a baby in a pram and my 100 year old grandfather in a chair.
- Town centre location
- Not enough disabled parking now market place been pedestrianised.
- You could do with more disabled parking
- Hardly any disabled parking
- For my personal perspective I have no problems, I feel that disabled access is fair but not needing to use those facilities I am not qualified to comment.
- As a disabled person I find accessibility excellent.
- Centre of town
- As an able bodied person this isn't something I could personally comment on.
- Have attended with a disabled friend in the past with no issues
- Generally easy but foyer can be overcrowded making difficult to access toilets



- Flat entrance, accessible toilets. I'm not qualified to comment further .
- Once you know it's there and where to park it's great. But it's his away and not well known or advertised
- Things may have improved but when I went to a popular film and the hall was full, I was concerned about what would happen in the event of a fire, especially as many of the audience were elderly
- Its central position makes it very accessible
- Better now that car parking has improved due to the building of the Community Campus.
- Central. Good parking at Campus.
- Again never had a problem disabled seem to manage fine
- Never had access issues
- Parking for outsiders can be a problem
- I think it's all on one level so should be useable for a wheelchair user.
- Ow the campus is on site
- Everything is fine
- For people without mobility problems it is easy to walk from car parks
- It's accessible to nearly everyone including wheelchair access.
- Level access from town
- Easy to walk into.
- Local parking available ..flat access
- Car parks nearby .
- Entrance area quite small and parking used to be a problem - not so much now the Campus has free parking,
- Level access, car park some distance
- It's wheelchair friendly easy excess fo people who come by bus etc
- Although the entrance is rather tucked away, there is parking available and no steps to cause difficulties for those with mobility problems.
- Great
- Suits the needs of most.
- It's in the centre of town, with parking available in several locations. It's a crying shame that it can't be brought up to date. If money can be found for an underused market centre, why not for our Assembly Hall?
- It is central, close to bus stops but car parking is unclear unless campus can to be used
- Central to town
- With free parking in the Community Hub (needs advertising for those driving from far away) it should be a real winner.
- Parking and turning space for drop off is poor
- I don't know enough about this to rate it
- Easy access from the town centre
- Parking an issue, although they could now share with the campus
- Wheelchair access everywhere - all on the flat.
- Not too bad but could have a more inviting frontage
- very easy to access
- Is wheelchair accessible & has disabled toilet facility

- Parking and bus routes very near and walking distance of town.
- We park in the big car park behind the factory shop, and it's a short stroll across the road, so pretty accessible I would say.
- It is all level, and the doors are wide enough for wheelchairs.
- It is right there in the centre, easy to get to, large car park just across the road
- Access is good. There are no steps and all the doors are large enough for wheelchair access.
- No access problems
- It is central and has parking nearby. I cannot comment on how accessible it is for those with physical disabilities.
- I had absolutely no trouble gaining access to the place and I didn't witness anyone else struggling either.
- Hard to get disabled parking close by
- I see not issues with accessibility
- Car parking signage could be clearer - especially in the darker months
- All level so great accessibility for all
- Central in Melksham. Car parking nearby, but should be free when events held.
- "It is town centre and has parking at the Campus plus bus stops.it is also close to taxi rank.
- It is a single height venue ,so no disabled access issues as far as I am aware"
- Space for concerts/dances/meetings - adaptable
- Car parking can be a problem
- Good access, poor parking
- Near town centre with easy access to bus routes and refreshment facilities. Easy access to shops if needed.
- Centre of town.
- Excellent why do you want to knock it down lots of towns would like a building like this.
- Off main road, all flat.
- A little tucked away but otherwise very good.
- Easy to access from main street, easy parking
- Plenty of free parking nearby and good drop off points
- At events the entrance can get very congested when tickets have to be checked and folk use the toilets
- Good accessibility for the disabled
- I can walk but you can park in the new sports centre
- Easy to get into, poor parking
- Really easy to enter an having the 2 sets of double doors into the hall is good.
- Easy access.
- Everything is on the same level and the disabled toilet is more than big enough.. great for wheelchairs and parents of small children.
- Easy access
- Good access to the assembly hall and now with the campus open there's a large car park
- A lot of people in and around Melksham visit

**Question 30: On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent', how would you rate the location of Melksham Assembly Hall? Please explain your answer (Individuals)**

- its in melksham
- Great location.
- Location is good being in centre of the town.
- Great location, easy to get to by public transport too.
- Perfect location as central to town
- It needs to stay in town centre
- Centre of town
- It's a right place - Town Centre, new (lots of new!) parking. Near public transport and walkable for most electorate. Let down again by poor visibility and a wall of cars!
- Where could be better than in the Market Place?
- Sadly a building behind another one is never going to be seen easily.
- Great location in the town, easy access close to other amenities, bus stop, taxi ranks.
- Very central
- In the Market place, easy to find by people from other towns, couldn't be in a better place
- I think the town centre location is perfect
- Very good location. Close to town centre.
- It is in the centre of town, next to the new campus. The campus carpark could also be used if terms could be arranged.
- As above ideal location
- Perfect
- Very convenient for town centre, bus stops. Good car park at Community Hub, now.
- In the centre of town
- Centre of town is an excellent location
- It's central located to benefit the whole town
- Right in the middle of town, accessible by public transport or if local can walk.
- Whilst it is in the centre of town. It is hidden and therefore, if you are new to the town or visiting you may not know it is there.
- Town Centre
- Central, easy to walk to, Near both bus & rail (ish) routes. Plenty of central parking
- As in previous answer.
- Ideal place in town centre.
- As above
- Perfect location
- Middle of town
- Good that it's central but didn't know it was there for ages, quite hidden/not advertised
- Right in the centre of town with plenty of local parking. Easy flat walk away.
- Near the market place in town but could be difficult to find the first time.
- Central with car parking either in the campus or King Street
- Location is good BUT needs better signage for the entrance and the hall itself as it's hidden behind the town hall.

- Centrally placed for all
- I think if you live locally it's excellent but if you are a car driver they would probably not agree. Where can you park?
- Already mentioned.
- Brilliant location in centre of town
- It is perfect for us. A mere five minute walk away. Also close to parking for those who need to drive.
- It is not far from car parks and bus stops.
- Central position
- It's very central, with direct access to the Town Hall, and short of rebuilding it on any spare land around the Campus, it's better to have it where it is than not at all!
- Easy for my family as within walking distance. Good for others as on bus route. Parking would be better if able to use Campus car park.
- Easy to do a drop off with parking not far away
- Again because it is in walking distance
- It's on a bus route.
- Town centre location
- I feel previous comment covers this. It has an ideal location.
- Central and with good parking at the campus. The entrance needs improving at the main door as access is restricted and dominated by the rear of the Town Hall.
- Central to town
- Good central location
- It's town central central location is very easy to get to and continue on after to a local pub
- Central
- Central with nearby parking
- By town Hall a central part of area easily accessible by both foot,public,motor transport.
- see above
- Ideal great spot.
- In the centre of the town near the new Community Hub and Gym, library, and Town Hall. Therefore easy to find and car parking nearby.
- it is central in the town and easy access
- See above
- Near to Town/ carparking/bus stops/taxi. Rail station is walkable if mobility good.
- OK
- Central to town but we don't live in town so a mile walk.
- Centre of town not stuck out on the outskirts like some other venues.
- Central for the Town.
- just the parking could be improved but great location in the centre.
- Right in the centre perfect
- Location is nice and central so available to all. Not great if you need to carry lots for an event, but can always unload outside then go and park. This is balanced up by the central location for public transport etc
- In middle of town

- Location great Town centre, access to public transport. Walking distance from bus stops, taxi ranks etc.
- It's near a large car park, there are bus stops metres away and there are several pubs and restaurants within a minute's walk...
- Centre of town spot on
- 9 - good location, accessible to people within the town as well as those arriving from further afield
- Good location in the centre of town. Can have a drink, meet friends, in perhaps the Kings Arms before going into venue if seeing a band.
- 10
- It has worked well in this location for years.
- Good central position. Only drawback see previous answer.
- See above
- Good central location. On transport routes.
- Central, good proximity to bus stops. Better one-way traffic drop-off facility would be a further improvement (stewarded for busy events, ideally).
- Central town location is excellent.
- Its central
- Perfect
- Town central.
- Centre of town. Is parking at campus available for users?
- It is about as central as it could possibly be
- It is central and useful but it is close to housing which I have mentioned. I think sound insulation would improve that irritation
- It is in middle of town by the Town Hall.
- It is in a good location overall.
- Right in the centre of town. It's a great location.
- As above
- Close to centre of town
- it took me some time to find it when I first went there
- Good central position and close to public transport and reasonable car parking
- Where else could be more convenient than in the centre of town, to where it belongs.
- See above answer
- Central.
- Approximately 3 minutes walk from my home.
- Central
- Places for disabled
- See above.
- As above.
- Very good.
- Great location. Centre of town, easy to find, easy to park.
- Central, With campus parking now easier
- being in the town center it's in the perfect location and easy parking helps.
- Perfect for us we live in the new Acorns Est and can walk to the venue
- Very central

- It's easy to get to from anywhere and we can walk there from home.
- Brilliant position in the centre of town and just off the market place.
- As above, it's right in the centre but with good car parking & buses.
- Spot on
- Great especially with the free parking just behind it
- Middle of town, not far from parking
- Good location just needs to promote itself as hiding behind town hall
- It's very close but not in our village
- Its in the center of town accessible to taxis and public transport with good parking facilities
- very central
- It's in the heart of the town.
- Right in middle of town is perfect. Vast majority of attendees can walk - great for the environment and peoples health. Out/edge of town meand more driving
- Great central position in the middle of town.
- Central to the Town
- Bang centre of town.
- Easily accessible with car parks nearby
- The location is fine, right in the middle of town.
- As above
- Centre of town is great
- It's in the centre of the town
- Right in the middle of town close to pubs ect
- It's in town. It's in easy walking distance for a lot of people. There is parking nearby for those who need to drive.
- A little bit hidden away. People are not aware that it's there.
- It is right in centre of town close to car parks, buses and the campus. Also the taxi rank.
- Great location
- A bit out of the way and hidden by the Town Hall. Unless local, may struggle to find it.
- Central location
- Close to amenities
- Right in the heart of town!!
- So close to all local amenities and any town event
- It's in the centre
- In the heart of the town, who could ask more!!
- Very central, taxi ranks nearby, super location
- Location is reasonable, easy to walk to. Unable to comment about parking as I walk there.
- It is central for all of local community, and on level ground, it is close to bus stop,
- In the heart of the town
- As previously stated, good car parking nearby, and a bus stop outside if needed.
- Town centre. Loads of parking at the campus. Buses and taxis very close.
- Very central . But maybe hard for parking - again not an expert as I don't drive
- If parking is available and not too expensive
- As previous

- In a convenient location close to car parks
- and again I have also answered this in a previous section
- It's in the centre of Melksham
- Centre of town easy to get too
- Town centre. Parking at Campus or behind Factory Shop. Central for buses
- It's quite hidden away, maybe some better signage to make it more visible
- Central in Melksham.
- Nearby car parks and bus stop. Easy to get to if walking from most parts of the town.
- Good central location
- It's in a good position for everyone
- It's in the centre of town
- Very central, parking nearby.
- Perfect central location
- As above
- As previously stated above - central to Town. Close to campus. Offers areas of entertainment. Change of access would boost its accessibility. Link's well with events held in the Market Place.
- Very centrally sited.
- Central location in easy reach of numerous car parks
- Location is good except for the parking.
- Central in the town easy to get to parking near by taxis and bus stop outside
- In the heart of melksham
- As above. Not brilliant for disabled parking but this could be improved.
- It's in the perfect place to me. Most folk visit the town for things so this being right in town suits. Plus the bus stop is very close as are taxis
- Perfect town centre location
- Very central to melksham
- Same as last question
- I think it needs to stay central to the town and is ideally located by the new campus. It just needs to be modernised to make it more accessible for all.
- Centre of our town. In the market place. Perfect for visitors from afar and local residents as well.
- Very central to town
- Heart of the town, where it should be
- Ideal for the town so central
- In the town center
- Perfect. Close to parking areas and the bus stop.
- Couldn't be any better, right in the heart of the community
- Perfect
- Central to town,very accesible
- Centre of town
- Central with easy access...
- Bang in the heart of Melksham
- Car parks near by
- 10



- Centre of town
- It's very central.
- Centre of town. Couldn't be any easier
- Town centre location
- Easy to locate behind Town Hall
- It's easy to find, central to the town and there is quite a lot of parking available, although not enough disabled
- Great in town centre!
- It's in the town centre with plenty of parking nearby
- Great location
- The location is great, the only thing is sometimes finding a disabled parking space can be difficult.
- Central!!!
- Parking within walking distance. Taxi rank close by.
- Right in the town centre makes it easy to get to and helps other local venues which may be visited before or after a show
- Ease being in town access via taxi, car, bus and walking
- You can drop people close to the door if needed, and unload stuff. It's not the easiest access but could be a lot worse. There is parking in king street nearby.
- Location is great, knowledge of finding it makes it not great. As above.
- Central. Parking close by
- Its central position makes the location very good
- Centre of town.
- Good that it s situated in the town centre but remains somewhat hidden. Better signage required including What's On promotion.
- Central.
- Again its easy to get to central to local people
- Right in the town centre. Couldn't ask for a better location
- Location good in centre of town
- Fairly central and parking nearby.
- Everything is fine leave well alone
- In the centre of town
- It's very convenient for residents. Bus routes and the local taxi rank. Melksham train station is within walking distance.
- Central to Melksham town
- Close to bus stops.
- As above
- Excellent especially for local people and we have a rising population
- It is central to the town.
- Central
- Ideal location to get to for buses etc
- It is in the centre of the town, It's unfortunate that there are no notice boards with upcoming events that are visible to passers-by on the street, rather like a cinema would have.
- Central.

- Local
- Within easy reach of most.
- Please see the answer above
- See above
- Easy access
- it's in the centre of town
- Right in the centre of Melksham is good for all other business too like pubs, restaurants etc as long as revelry/music doesn't disturb neighbours.
- Central
- Plenty of parking and right by the campus and market place
- Perfect location in the town centre
- Centre of Town
- Easy to access and easy to park.
- Central 10. Tucked away 8!
- right in the middle of town where it needs to be
- Fairly close to car parks, near to taxi rank. In town centre for buses
- Central, near to local towns and villages.
- Once you know where it is, the location seems fine to me.
- Not obvious from the bus stop at night - more signage would solve this.
- Perfect
- It's in the centre of town and has parking close by.
- Right in the town centre. Very important
- Central and everyone knows where it is.
- Perfectly located in the centre of town, within easy walking distance from home. No need to drive there.
- Central
- Perfect location in the centre of town
- Fine
- Excellent location and within walking distance for Melksham residence as in town
- As above
- It is a bit hidden by the town hall. It could move its entrance to the side where the footpath accesses to the Campus is and make it a bright inviting foyer with a over doorway canopy . Although this would still be off the side it would be visible from the market place and may well work better as when thinking of re configuration of the interior.
- Perfect
- Near centre - near car parking
- In the town centre and by bus stops.
- Easy to get to.
- Already given easy access etc in Q10 above.
- Could do with a car park, suggest Blue Pool site.
- As above.
- A little tucked away but otherwise very good.
- Easily accessible
- Quite central for most of Wiltshire

- In centre of town car parks close by. Pay/Display - Free also
- Right in the middle of town centre, where a facility like that should be
- As above
- Good location, sign in market place saying it's there maybe? No parking
- In the centre really easy to get to.
- A good central location in the town
- Only issue I see, is that the hall is situated behind the town hall and is almost lost there.
- Easy access
- Great location between town hall and the campus
- It's been a lovely place to have parties and dancing

### **Question 32: Are there any events or activities you would like to see at Melksham Assembly Hall? (Individuals)**

- yes a live performance by queen i love Freddy if he would die I will kms
- Maybe more fairs, craft or evening summer fair, like we had for the jubilee.
- General increase of current activities, try and get more live acts, turn it into a night club on a regular basis. More films, we don't have a cinema.
- Use it for school nativity plays by encouraging schools to use it. Install skittle ally/alleys to ensure money put behind bar on regular basis and replaces Melksham house alleys that were lost. Use for parent groups and baby soft play etc. Hold big poker events with cash buy in occasionally or a general casino with variety of games.
- As previously mentioned, up to date live streaming of shows. Would like to see armature dramatics / professional invited to put on plays. Bingo evenings, charity events. Perhaps something for young teens. ?
- (The previous question needs a text box.) As stated earlier, the events that were pre-Covid were amazing, especially the nationally known entertainers. I would like to see a return of pre-Covid-type events
- Family events
- Cinema
- Roller disco, car boot style event but with affordable prices... return of comic con
- Christmas dinner for the community. Enjoyed attending, pre pandemic
- Stand up comedy nights, theatre events. Craft events (I.e. Christmas wreath making is very popular)
- Good (or was pre-covid) but could be much better. Pantomime, Am Dram, comedians, touring companies, classical music, wedding fair, so much more could /should be done.
- More comedy nights and bands
- More Bands, shows etc
- as previously mentioned, games evening, bingo, theatre dinner nights, plays. as above
- More cinema, and plays
- I do attend shows 2 or 3 times a year at the hall, if something appeals to me, but I do also go along to other events that are held there as well, ie Melksham Pride, Gardeners annual show, cacti society...etc...I would like to see a better mix of stage shows and not so many tribute acts...

- Not sure
- Community meals again. Advice and support meetings. More concerts and events that interest locals.
- No
- Arts and crafts, maybe love drawing or something similar. Exercise classes. Live talks. Wedding fayre. More comedy.
- "More for younger residents. Additional bands/shows could be arranged if there was someone to organise then.
- I would like to see 70s groups playing Motown or tribute bands for that decade  
"Loads more live music. Comic acts
- Boxing
- "Dance classes & workshops for adults. Level General to advanced. There no adult classes anywhere that I've seen so far. Food stalls like they have in Camden (London).I notice that there's scoff pop up. I think these are really popular & having an indoor area particularly during winter months would be great.
- More of them would be better! Too few and far between.
- There could be more events for younger people children and teenagers to give them more to do especially in the holidays and weekend.
- More live bands.
- Unsure, maybe more advertising for it, reminder of what it's there for, who runs it/deals with it, or just knowledge of where to find this info.
- More top comedians as it used to have a few years ago. More live acts not just 60s or 70s acts which appeals to an older audience.
- Return of comedy acts, beer festivals etc, along with more bands
- Amateur and professional theatre
- Maybe some more comedians. The Pound in Corsham gets some well known names.
- No
- Already a good variety of events. Maybe circuit training and fitness classes which don't require a gym. We used to go to the podium in Bath for circuit training and it was well supported.
- More live screenings please, I loved watching War Horse there a few years back
- More comedy
- Just more in general and advertised more
- Plays. More films. Live musicals. Talks with people who have written books / book signings.
- More concerts/entertainment events.
- More comedians
- More music events, comedy shows etc
- I think The Assembly Hall do a fantastic job of activities for all ages well done.
- Not sure but good publicity needed.
- "CAMRA Beer Festivals. Beer Festivals - contact Stealth Brewery. More cinema events. More live music ( not tribute acts ). Model train event, modelling events. Comedians"
- Tribute acts, Zumba just having theses especially for the middle age.
- Talks by celebrities or sports icons. Book signings. More live music by 'named' bands. Live comics. Streamed performances from London Theatres.

- As I said earlier - maybe a New Years Eve do or more markets.
- Panto?
- More verity regarding music events. Looking forward the Soul show you have coming up next year. Maybe discos like a traditional 70's disco. Not always tribute bands
- Loads, but in its current state some of them would be tricky! However, we've had some wonderful comedians in the past who loved Melksham. Go talk to Josh Widdecombe! Get 'em back! Live transmissions of West End shows. ;Billy Liar the Musical' and 'War Horse' were fabulous, to name but two!
- Tournaments. eg darts or table tennis
- Happy with what is provided
- The useful thing is flyers through the door which would help to plan evenings or day time activities
- No I can't afford to spend money on non-essentials.
- Comedy nights. An evening with' insert celebrity or similar. Psychic fayre
- More live acts. Comedy acts specifically. I have seen quite a few over the years.
- Talks and lectures to smaller interest groups would be useful where the various groups could be partitioned and sound proofed but not use the whole building thereby making it easier and cheaper to hire and offer more flexibility. A good bar and kitchen would make it more attractive for social events.
- Bigger selection of movies. Bingo nights and quiz nights.
- Daytime exercise classes.
- Miss the theatre transmission. Especially cultural events like ballet. Perhaps the Last night of Proms could be broadcast or similar
- More tribute bands
- More chances for local groups to hire or more film screenings
- Short mat bowls, parent and toddler activities, quiz nights, more local organic activity by the residents for the residents
- Cinema. Continue with other events
- More current films
- More monthly catering functions suitable for all.
- I don't know what all the vents are that are held at Assembly so can't answer the question
- Maybe more for younger generation, wrestling, boxing, bands, pantomime, roller disco.
- more films and musicals
- Bring back the dances that used to be in Melksham House. Skittles.
- Comedy/music/plays
- "Yes, strip shows for men. You have them for women. Dreamboys?
- More of the same. Maybe more for children, particularly in the holidays. Pantomime and other small theatre shows.
- more of the same please
- I think there's quite a good selection for most ages and different groups of people. Especially the events for older people. More use could be made of quieter days & times
- Children's theatre groups, Comedy nights

- Under 18's activities, concerts bands, soft bar. Up to date film showing. Live theatre streaming. Pantomime, plays. Cheese and wine tasting, murder mystery dinner evening.
- The music programme could do with some more 'cultural' events, as most of it seems to consist of tribute bands. It would be nice to see folk, jazz or classical content.
- More 80s/90s nights. Exhibitions. But overall happy with the shows
- More concerts
- Don't know what is on
- Yoga/Pilates. Art groups for older people etc
- More events aimed at a younger audience - there are a number of events such as rock and roll acts etc that won't appeal to the younger crowds which is a shame
- I would like to see more for younger people. It does need to promote itself better.
- Children's discos/shows.
- I cannot think of anymore than what is currently put on.
- Cinema for the general public.
- Maybe more films, we're not all available/eligible for the seniors showings and the film club (though welcome) can be a bit niche
- More bands. Would be good to reconnect with the comedy circuit.
- My answer is really "Don't know" but not offered. I don't pay much attention to things that don't interest me. It really depends on who applies. I would like to think no-one is turned away but realise it all depends on demand.
- More live entertainment would be good.
- More music, discos or sort of like club nights catering to the younger generations, dance music etc. that Melksham does not now cater to, what with Swish and the djs they have playing if they do anymore. Since the Taverns been totally changed into a up market eatery that is more suited to somewhere like bath theres nowhere for youngsters to go for a night out and a dance to good music.
- No I'm happy with all that's on offer
- More shows and music events but need to be advertised well to draw from the greater area.
- More films, more comedy and live or tribute acts, beer festivals, exhibitions, etc
- Regular live bands and dances to capitalise the excellent dance floor etc
- more modern films please
- More could be done with events both in the Day time and at night and at weekends
- Workshops on local and other activities.
- More live music and comedy acts.
- Try and attract some bigger acts, who may come if venue is updated and capacity improved
- More live concerts (less tribute bands)
- More named acts
- More live bands
- More live music from both touring and local bands.
- none that aren't there
- As above
- more live bands

- Maybe more of the better known celebrities if that's at all possible, rather than having to travel further afield, i.e. Frome/Cheese & Grain. I don't know how certain demonstrations would fare, i.e. cooking and the like? What about a monthly antiques fair similar to that held in the Cheese & Grain once a month?
- More live acts.
- ABBAMANIA
- Jive talking was amazing more like that
- As above
- More comedians like there used to be.
- No, not there.
- More tributes to sixties and seventies music.
- Cheese and wine evenings. Craft days. Gin tasting. Charity money raising events i.e. Macmillan coffee mornings.
- More films
- movie and sport screenings, maybe a skittle alley, activities for the young generation.
- Although I have said yes, I think there needs to be more events on. To include comedy, music etc.
- Community events for example weekly breakfasts, weekly cinema,
- More bands
- More bands,
- Not that I can think of I feel they offer a varied programme including films
- Comedy nights, bingo, live music regular events to support all areas of the community
- Possibly some comedy acts as we really enjoyed Rich Hall.
- More bands, comedy acts and general entertainment.
- More more live bands
- It's already got a great mix of events. Considering that the whole country is still recovering from the horrors of Covid which hit social centres most of all. It's recovered remarkably well!
- Local regional and national music- it's a great venue, it could do with some good bands or comedy and not third rate tribute acts
- More live music would be good
- Continue with live bands
- Need more music events
- More live music please including classical blues jazz and pop.
- As above - more live bands and tribute acts.
- A community kitchen for lunches and a warm space with crafting activities.
- More live music
- The weekend cinema could be retried. Adult cinema fri/sat night. Kids sat pm/sun am if no other event on. There is no local cinema and you can't reach Trowbridge by bus at night. By doing regularly, people would start to look at what's on more routinely and then see other events advertised at the same time. Personally would like the roller skating to return.
- Comedy evenings ?
- More entertainment for over 60s
- More for young people and children



- More of the former events that used to be on
- More events, dancing, bands, live theatre.
- More live bands, comedy and cinema.
- Quiz nights/bingo/antique fairs
- I can't think of anything else
- It would be great to see some regular dances (ballroom) held there.
- More famous people. More bands. More plays
- More 80/90's tributes. Eg Gary Numan, Kate Bush, Siouxsie and the Banshees. More alternative rock tributes like The Cure, The Mission.
- We need more.
- Honestly don't know
- More cinema/film events
- More live music and concerts - this has tailed off lately. Also think events could be advertised better, lots of people say they are unaware of what's going on.
- More comedy
- Anything would be wonderful to see the hall used. The staff are so enthusiastic. I am sure anything that could be put on would be welcomed and supported if facilities were given an update.
- More comedy, especially smaller comics
- Open Mic sessions, for both singing artists and poetry etc... maybe even an amateur author's night, where readings of current works could be aired?
- More family friendly events
- Nothing specific
- Pantomimes
- More preloved events!
- More bands
- I have attended Masonic meetings, Melksham & District Historical Association meetings. Dinner Dances, Concerts/shows, Cinema etc, there are already diverse activities held at the Assembly Hall.
- More alternative music would be great
- More evening films
- Regular activities for teenagers and younger people (roller disco, disco, meet and greet evenings for younger and elderly of community). Dance nights for older generations of community, craft displays where local artists, crafters can display their work, singalongs using local schools to put on events where people can go along and join in, era nights (50's 60's, 70's music and dress ect), fashion shows (local people can dress up and wear their clothes raise funds for local charities), Christmas Carols (with option of tea and mince pie, slice of cake)
- Careers fair for younger people. More younger people events. Liaison with youth work organisations in the town
- More film screenings, esp those for live concerts and plays
- More food and drink events with live music.
- More regular local groups
- Why not open for teen nights once or twice a month, somewhere for teens and kids to go off the streets where they can dance and socialise. More comedians.

- More comedy and local bands
- Concerts/gigs, community events such as markets and/or small business showcases (eg maker's stalls), theatre productions (AmDram or Pro), support and community events.
- Possible local amateur arts groups putting on shows.
- Currently it has a great selection, would just like more of them.
- More live music
- New yrs eve dinner
- Keep the entertainment
- More films
- More comedians again
- Just more of the same. I do miss the comic cons that used to be held years ago.
- Like the ones offered.
- Jumble sales.
- Already like the variety, so just more of that.
- More film nights
- Different bands, comedians film club
- More films.
- More children based events
- Evening cinema, place to advertise and recruit to voluntary groups, activities to encourage use of the centre and reduce loneliness and disconnection.
- More films. Live Theatre.
- Indoor market
- They have it covered
- All sorts
- More events aimed at children and more interactive events.
- More parties throughout the year
- Used to be more childrens school things like Christmas plays
- More music acts
- Cinema showing recent (not older) films. Drama/theatre. Encouragement of a variety of local musicians and art groups
- Suitable for lots of social activities and gatherings
- Perhaps more modern cover bands, or up and coming bands
- More community events like old days, charity balls etc that have been priced out yet would bring in decent takings on the bar -shortsighted management again
- I would like to see events targeted for younger people to use the facility as well as for those of my age.
- More of the same.
- Nothing in particular
- Maybe more for children, ie Talent contest
- Roller disco
- Wedding fair, bab fair, food festival. Events and acts
- There's a great variety as it is. Maybe film club for children.

- Melksham Assembly hall is a multi use hall. It has been used for so many different events over the years. There is no need to ruin a good venue that is a big asset to our town.
- More for the youngsters...it was central to our lives when we were younger with roller skating, dances. Attracted people from other towns. Meeting place for so many youngsters
- There are already a varied selection...
- Family events. Some indoor entertainment for children
- Wedding receptions, wakes, tea dances
- More concerts, pantos and comedy acts.
- More acts such as the Queen tribute/madness tribute
- Just more...and maybe New year's eve ball.again.
- More comedy
- Not particularly.
- There is a good selection of events
- Well known acts. More events in general
- Comedy shows
- Possible youth events
- Love the dancing and comedy
- More plays, choirs, live streaming.
- Much of the same. Maybe more for the younger generation(teens) youth club.
- Folk groups or ceilidh are missing from performances . The local churches haven't used the space for a while.. is that cost or covid?
- More comedians & films
- More comedy and sports speakers
- More films. More active children's activities
- Indoor car boot sales
- Touring original bands.
- Putting councillors in the stocks so that members of the public can throw eggs and vegetables at them
- No
- No
- Maybe more exhibitions
- Pantomime
- Eli is
- No all is great
- Theatre, films
- More comedy
- ??????
- Sorry I can't think of any but letting is better than closure.
- More concerts/ screenings
- I would like to see more opportunities for new, up and coming bands to use the space to get experience, encouragement, and recognition. They all have to start somewhere and without access to facilities like the hall we will eventually find ourselves with no live bands to watch which would be a terrible shame.

- Maybe more monthly markets, ie vegan market. Give the stage over to organisations like the various drama groups, so they can have more people attend their performances.
- More
- Indoor portable lawn bowls rinks would be massive. Be sure to make them full length.
- Plays, films, educational classes, more lectures.
- Films and live shows.
- Big exhibitions like 'national quilters day', auditions for audience participation TV programmes, Radio 4's 'Sorry I haven't a Clue' audience participation event.
- More activities for kids
- Perhaps art classes and exhibitions. Dance/yoga classes. Nature talks/lectures by groups like the Wildlife Trust. Acoustic music, e.g. string quartet, chamber orchestra, wind band
- Teenager activities
- More national celebrities & groups concerts, entertainment acts etc.
- More big bands / choirs
- More live events, more community use.
- We have been to a comedy night there, which was great, and a talk, more of both would be lovely to have.
- More of the same, really
- There are plenty of different things going on
- Nothing in particular.
- If partitioned, more smaller groups might come.
- No opinion.
- Community meal
- Wider range for ages
- Could be the West Wilts version of Frome Cheese & Grain - more variety of live bands/music for all ages. More indoor markets, esp if the weather's poor
- There is some good work with bands etc. but the costs run 7 days a week ,every week, so more, much more. If your serious about making it both pay its way and be relevant to a broader part of the community other than current groups ( which are not enough both in numbers and diversity.) Company or education day time courses,, ethnic cinema or social events, craft workshops, craft fairs focused on specific craft forms , such as a weavers ? art exhibitions, including art workshops for all skill levels in several art forms, trade fairs , games fairs, games tournaments. Model railway displays, children's theatres etc, etc
- Weekend craft fayres
- More guest speakers to Meksham Town giving interesting talks/presentations etc. More live shows and showing of films.
- But more different age groups.
- Should be open all the time part could be used as a cafe and warm spot.
- I may be in to discuss another possibility.
- There is a huge range of events that happen at the Assembly Hall, something for everyone.
- Live shows, films, community events

- There are many clubs/organisations in Melksham. It would be good if some were encouraged to use the hall more.
- I hear that many things take place
- There used to be fundraising curry banquets/buffet years ago which were good
- More cinema nights in the evenings
- More for children, roller disco back, in door market monthly?
- We recently attended the polar Express as a family and enjoyed it, it would be great to have more family films with the cushions as we liked watching the film. Snuggled in our duvets
- Historically there have been first class entertainment and some very famous celebrities at the venue.
- Western dance nights / line dancing
- More mediums would be lovely

**Question 34: What would be your ideal vision for Melksham Assembly Hall in the future? (Individuals)**

- nothing its a s\*\*t hole
- Cleanliness and maybe spruced up a bit.
- The current building needs money spent on it to make it fit for purpose or perhaps now is the time for a new build either on same site or another site within the town, seemingly there are locations coming up to consider. The town needs an Assembly Hall to cater for future generations to enjoy and use.
- A more modern venue where it meets a variety of age groups and makes it more appealing for people to attend. Perhaps franchise it out and become Melkshams cheese and grain venue
- Ideal vision to keep the hall and update as necessary. I would like this to be the heart of the community. It's a great facility that needs more advertising on radio, other towns etc. We need to have a variety of functions, events that are in keeping with what people want.
- As stated earlier it needs a facelift
- Make necessary improvements. With the closure of the Blue Pool, the Assembly Hall can incorporate the BP entrance and bathroom facilities. Parking can be added where the closed pool is now. The gym area can be a side venue for smaller events. In other words, increase the size and functionality of the Assembly Hall.
- Somewhere local groups could hire for fundraising events
- Events for all types of people in Melksham both young and old.
- Maybe as the Tuesday market grows vendors can have a spot in the hall.
- As above
- To keep hosting events for the town to enjoy
- Either at the location it's at now OR River side (Cooper Tires site). Same size and facilities or a little larger. But smarted up, maintenance caught up and managed day to day by the community - CIC or similar
- An event at least once per month
- Probably a new build as I feel it is too far gone to be rescued as a building.

- For the MAH to be a popular venue for other outside the town as well as the residents of Melksham. For the hall to remain where it is. For the hall to be the pride of Melksham. For the hall to be used to its full potential. More advertising of the events on radio, local news etc.to capture a wider audience.
- More cinema and plays ,
- I have promoted shows In the Hall in the past and would hope to maybe again in the future. I would like to see the hall pay its own way and not make the loses it has been. I feel that it is possible for that to happen...I have suggested that in order to address the deficit the hall should be run by permanent volunteers as is Frome Memorial...even their bar is volunteer run...there are many retired active people with ALL the skills needed to volunteer and run the hall...perhaps keep jus a paid manager, and then run soley with volunteers...if other venues like Frome can do it, then so can we...it really should be explored.
- Not sure
- A continuation of many events organised by local people. More concerts, more fairs.
- A hall which is modern and well used
- Knock it down along with the old swimming pool. Sell the site for development and use the money gained to provide more bins around the time and empty them more regularly
- A continuation , but extended version of the current arrangements.
- Think about the price, for one person current price ok however for a couple perhaps offer a discount. More variety on the bands.
- To have the opportunity to see locally a wide choice of live music, and not have to travel to Bristol (O2 or Arena(when it opens)), or Swindon (Wyvern and Arts Centre), or Bath (Forum) or Weston Supre Mare (Playhouse) or Basingstoke(Anvil).
- Option of Tiered seating like Neeld Hall in Chippenham
- Personally I'd LOVE to have a Pineapple dance style studio with regular classes of different styles to cater for ALL ages & abilities. It's gives young people & adults a place to express themselves, builds confidence, resilience, focus & improve over all health & wellbeing.
- More family based functions
- More of the same!
- To have a large variety of live shows, ability to host local events.
- More events which are so much better supported by the local community!
- To continue to a community spaces that can be utilised by a range of groups for the widest range of events then are for the communities benefit along side it's income generating activities
- To keep it known as the assembly hall. Updated and promoted as a venue for use for lots of different activities and clubs.
- Unsure, maybe more advertising for it, reminder of what it's there for, who runs it/deals with it, or just knowledge of where to find this info.
- A venue which has more of an open aspect and is a destination venue. Have seen acts like Toyah, Martin Kemp and George Ezra in Frome and Trowbridge respectively. Need to attract similar acts to Melksham. Would like to see a venue which people are proud to have their wedding reception in. It does not look very appealing at present.

- When finances allow, it could be rebuilt within the Campus area to offer modern facilities.
- Central venue for entertainment in Wiltshire area.
- As above
- Feels and looks fine as it is. Invest to keep it as good as it is or upgrade if malmanagement team feel necessary and run fund raising events.
- To maintain it and keep it as an asset to the town. We don't have much in the way of facilities in Melksham and it would be greatly missed.
- Just to leave well alone.
- A focal point for the town's events.
- It's great as it is, lots for the community at all levels. more teen friendly events please
- Loads of comedy, dancing, Melksham events, fayres
- Have more events, parties, cinema nights, concerts, competitions, shows etc.
- Plenty of variety of entertainment and packed audiences.
- A local entertainment hub with availability for all with versatile facilities.
- "When the renovation of Melksham House is completed in late 2023/early 2024 is this not the time to evaluate the future of both community spaces? Both facilities will be competing for the same business and revenue. Should the focus be on making sure the new modern Melksham House facility thrives? When Melksham House opens should there be an inclusive plan allowing all current club/organisations, events and activities transfer to Melksham House at no increase in cost or hire charges? This would allow the assembly hall and blue pool space to be redeveloped as an open space complementing the Campus/Melksham House facility while being aware of the residents in Place Road and the parish church. There is the opportunity to create a 'park' or leisure area in the centre of Melksham. New housing would be a distraction with access issues with pedestrians and vehicle access clashing around the Town Hall area. Prior to the Blue Pool development in the 1950's this area was part of Melksham House with the pool grounds being given to the people of Melksham for leisure or community use. A part leisure area would respect the wishes of the origin transfer of use. Not building is a little radical which is possible the reason my idea will be discarded
- A place for all to use with pride
- Bring it up to date and fill it every day with locals and business to cover costs. Let the Assembly Hall become the hub of Melksham. It could be a beautiful building let's look after our Melksham heritage!
- I can't see anything to change. Please don't get rid of it!
- Keeping the community together
- The Cheese and Grain in Frome and The Komedia in Bath are similar sized venues and have earned a great reputation for live events. Melksham has the chance to emulate them if the will and backing is there to try.
- More local get togethers and more things to do
- Like it as it is
- Internally restructured with more available space for small functions, better catering facilities, tied up with the bar and not as at present, better access, and more variety for a wider range of ages. Better publicity and press coverage.
- Be as popular as the Cheese and Grain



- Maybe a better stage, otherwise I think it's fab
- A place people of all ages to enjoy
- For it to continue to remain in Melksham with updated facilities and improved current up to date events. To ensure the events appeal to all ages.
- Multi function hall that can pay for itself.
- More use and for it not to be taken away from the town
- An updated version of the existing Melksham Assembly Hall with improved frontage, kitchen and bar. New lighting, sound and tiered seating options. Updated toilets. Versatile partitioning so that various groups can use smaller areas at a reasonable cost instead of having to hire the entire venue.
- An affordable event location accessible to all
- The Assembly Hall should be available for use by all groups in Melksham at a reasonable rate. At the moment it is too expensive for many local groups to use.
- Prices of hire are high and tickets could perhaps be subsidised for pensioners etc
- To continue to provide great evening entertainment at a cost that's achievable so everyone can enjoy.
- Could add more quality tiered seating so people can easily see with tall people in front of them.
- As above but modernise the facilities and make more of the licenced bar with better access rather than being tucked into a corner and reasonably priced events.
- More modern appeal for the existing hall
- I don't know what the price of all the events are. I don't know the cost of hiring the hall either. If the hall is underside maybe the price of hiring is too much. But it could be varied according to the size of the group hiring it.
- Offering a wider range of events, not just bands and singers.
- To be available for entertainments for all ages, and for film clubs, dance clubs and private functions.
- access for all occasions
- More flexibility around how space is allocated. Eg ability to divide main hall into smaller areas as required.
- Redesign access, open up reception, bar, toilet areas. Provide means of sectioning off the main hall when full area not needed.
- Bit of update in terms of toilet facility. Managed by team who advertise events.
- Inpertyuity.
- Let more of the hundreds of new home owners coming into town know all about it. Have an open day at least every six months.
- Just an update of facilities.
- maintained and improved for the benefit of the local community.
- For it to become the hub of melksham
- A thriving, modern space that employs local people running clubs, events and entertainment & business use for local people. Making enough money to put back into the assembly hall to secure its future
- Plenty of shows. Improved seating (tiered), more advertising of events

- For it stay in same location and building, just improve access and frontage. For it to be a place that others from surrounding areas outside melksham would like to visit and bring more people into the town. Make melksham proud.
- Keep it open, but expand the programme.
- A bit of modernisation and continued venue
- I don't know what prices are but would be good to see events bringing community together, craft markets etc
- A super hub in which a wider variety of events can take place. These events will not cater to one particular demographic but will bring people of all ages etc to the assembly hall
- A much needed make over.
- To offer a safe, convenient place for my children to be able to have fun and learn in.
- More of the same with plenty of advertising and although it is probably the hardest hurdle, try to keep the hiring fees as low as possible.
- More uses during the day time.
- Something on each weekend, maybe some weekdays/evenings, reasonably priced...and much better publicised. Hopefully better supported, that might come down to price. Maybe some sort of membership/regular user discounts?
- To continue as a community asset, providing a variety of entertainment, fairs and local events. Better funding and more support from the Town Council.
- A reasonably priced venue, supported by grants, with a range of the latest audio/visual facilities that enables non-profit bodies as well as commercial entertainment organisations to communicate safely with a suitable number of guests, significantly more than any other venue in the local area.
- To remain as a community hub.
- To be supported more by late teens to say mid 20s to 30 year olds by the events be put on.
- ..
- No name change or other radical change needed. It is fit for purpose. My suggestion of one REGULARLY UPDATED & accurate website for all hall use & events, properly marketed, would increase hall usage.
- As is but more inexpensive to encourage local groups and public to use. Refurbishment without spending money on needless stuff.
- More events to keep it viable and hopefully reduce prices of live acts (although some events are reasonably priced, but there was no 1-10, or yes/sometimes/no on above!) (No point wasting money changing name)
- For it to be well promoted and maintained
- I think it should remain in a busy and popular central part of the town. I think there are several issues that need to be addressed to modernise the facilities
- A lick of paint, new chairs, a new up to date stage and sounds, enlarge the bar and update the kitchen.
- A second story for doing weddings etc. and other stuff including training workshops from Trowbridge college etc. A multi-media area with a coffee bar where people can come and use their laptops, and phones and even play games for a small fee.

- I'd like to see it modernised. It would be great to get some more famous acts on. People will come from miles around if you get it right. That would be great for the town.
- "See previous answers. Update everything. Consider future acts and capacity. Regular shows/acts that are more attractive to younger audiences. OR Turn into a local cinema.
- A reasonably priced venue hosting original musical acts and quality craft/artisan fairs. Something akin to Frome's Cheese and Grain or Chippenham's Neeld hall venues
- More live music. Prices for events and tickets would be reasonable and have better uptake if facilities were more up to par as a venue people would go to even if not for a specific act.
- To keep it much as it is
- Definitely stay but maybe when finances allow update a little
- A bright exciting venue for an entertainment event.
- Having a well supported venue with a wide range of activities with hire rates that are affordable for all groups.
- I would like to hope it stays where its always been and no unreasonably suggestion for use is turned down.
- To continue as it has been doing or improvements if possible
- Lighting and sound system kept up to date. Kept well decorated.
- A venue that competes with Frome's Cheese and Grain.
- Central hub for activities
- To get people to sit in their seats would make life much more enjoyable for the likes of me disabled.
- Variety of performances
- Just a bit of an update really.
- Relocate the facility. Melksham House was a fabulous venue. Is it possible the new building there could be used. It is off the main road but not too far, good parking.
- To supply extra of what has been mentioned. I think it could do with a revamp as it is looking a bit tired.
- An entertainment hub for the town
- Keep the hall, convert the old pool to indoor bowls. See previous suggestion
- Open day and night offering many and varied events that appeal to the rich and varied community. Affordably priced, with concessions for those who cannot afford to pay full prices. Offering a space for local people to show case their talent in addition to established national performances.
- to make the hall larger so it can host more activities for the town.
- To be brought up to date a little and for it to provide regular events day and night for a mix of age groups in the local community.
- To be the hub of the community
- More of the same they do a great job
- Regular events for a range of interests
- To continue to host a range of activities and events for the community. It would be great to have some more live acts/bands including comedians, pantomime, plays or theatre productions.

- A space for the whole community to come together to enjoy entertainment. A place for the use of community groups for different functions at a reasonable price.
- The hall stays as is but is refurbished & updated. It's got great acoustics & is fantastic for music & dance, keep fit & jumble sales, coffee mornings & movies. There's nothing to bear it anywhere in the area.
- Becoming like the pavilions or the forum in bath
- More live music and perhaps local events
- Ok as it is
- Go to music venue in local area
- More of the same. Various acts.
- A variety of events.
- To be update and used as a social hub in the day and continue to have the events/bands in the evenings
- All the talk of it closing seems like such a loss for the town in what could be a great venue. Regular cinema nights, bands, local groups, craft fairs etc with the right advertising, I can't see how it fails to be a success
- Use 5/6 days/nights a week. With a good selection of music / entertainment events in evening.
- The younger people of Melksham have nowhere locally to watch popular bands / acts. the two clubs ( Con & Lib) cater almost exclusively for the 60+ age group"
- Much as it is but with more variety.
- A place that is used for various reasons, could be a good event holder again
- Regular venue for touring bands, comedians.
- To be extended/incorporating the blue pool
- Ideally modernise the entrance, but keep it going with all the activities for the community.
- Keeping it as a community hub offering a wide selection of events for everyone to enjoy. If money were no problem it would be great to see more specialised areas eg a large hall and separate theatre with permanent tiered seating.
- Keep it run locally for local people
- If it had better seating etc for the play
- Have gigs for all genres
- To still be open for the benefit of Melksham
- For it to never close
- Raked seating would certainly help. It needs to be advertised more for both events and as a flexible venue.
- More events for the younger generation
- That the hall is used everyday by all sections of the community. Having spent a lot of money on the campus the hall now needs money spent so the growing number of Melksham residents has the sort of facilities it deserves.
- Keep it going for the town. Shame to lose it.
- To remain open and available for guests/locals and businesses
- To keep it safe and not closed down!
- Community based events, art shows, crafting events,
- N/a

- Around and accessible to all future generations
- Bigger venue
- To further develop the facilities within the building in line with previous answers in this survey to provide a suitable venue for all types of activity in what is certainly a growing town.
- Alternative music night with selection of tribute bands
- To continue as a hall that hosts live shows and films. Perhaps more speakers
- For it to be used more for community events. Used more for younger community with things based on their wants and needs. Made more financially viable for schools, groups, fundraisers to use.
- Continue as is with a little modernisation. Would be detrimental to the community to lose such a valued space!!!
- To carry on providing services for the residents of Melksham, especially as the town keeps growing
- Leave it alone for the people of Melksham. If it is costing too much, perhaps cut the wage bill at the council.
- More cinema live theatre events.
- Local, Social hub for support and company
- Stay as it is and continue to offer all that it does now
- A regular social space for all.
- Continue as an event hall, live music, films etc
- Not to lose this very vital building for the town of Melksham, Its the best venue for miles around it must continue to provide a place where the community can come together at the events being held there.
- I think it's a vision for Melksham as a whole. Everything needs rejuvenating. Maybe get the the youth of the town involved, something for them to feel proud of.
- For it to continue and grow with a range of different events.
- To remain open to serve the community
- As it is now
- Same as now just updated a little
- I'm a member of the public. It's the councils job to invest in the management of the assembly rooms to answer this question. It's a bit silly that it's being outsourced tbh
- It carries on as it is, but with a little improvement to make it more appealing to a wider audience
- To continue as it is.
- To stay where it is.
- Show more up to date movies. More tribute acts and big name comedians
- That it continues as it is, and there is investment to ensure the building is kept fully functional.
- A lot more going on
- OK as it is.
- To continue to serve the people of Melksham. Hidden gem.
- A central meeting place with lots of events at reasonable prices.
- Some updating to make it more modern but keeping the prices reasonable for customers and performers

- A active community hub. Not a profit making place. Thinking of it as a indoor park, a place to meet, to do activities and bring entertainment to the people of Melksham. Could a charge be made to people outside the area to contribute to its use, as they also benefit???
- A place residents can be proud of in the future. A fully fledged entertainment venue for all ages. Somewhere the youth want to visit for entertainment rather than the mindless vandalism on our streets.
- To bring even more opportunities for live events for the community
- More of the same as it's a hub for people to socialise
- Remain where it is with some modernisation. A wider variety of events that are affordable to the area which is therefore affordable to the customer.
- For it to continue being a place to go for quality entertainment. Somewhere for the community to get together, ie community Christmas dining
- More events taking place especially in the week days
- Keep going as the great hall it is
- The Hall should be the heart of Melksham where there is something for everyone. This is a golden opportunity for Melksham and people from surrounding villages would also want to visit.
- It needs to be twice the height for a cinema so you could show decent films at night with comfy stage seats which possibly could fold away (same height as Melksham House Hall)
- To continue to serve and be available for use by the community. A space of this nature is a valuable asset to the town
- More of the same with some modernisation
- Spruce up, community directors or similar who actually have an idea of how to run events
- A hall that is all inclusive for people of all ages.
- A full programme of concerts and events; maybe used by clubs during the day - activities to bring in a good profit.
- More events advertised
- To continue as it is, but with increased number of events
- To stay as it is
- Used more
- To be like civic hall in Trowbridge
- To carry on putting on the amazing shows as they do now.
- The hall is multi use, either during the day or evening. It caters for everything that is needed in the town.
- Hub for everyone to enjoy, used far more
- Just to be as it is
- A buzzing social venue
- "For it to stay accessible to everyone
- Maybe move to a bigger and better location for parking and more rooms"
- More use
- The same but improved. It needs to be advertised more on social media etc
- Destination for a good night out with friends



- To keep the old but modernise a little to ensure young people continue to attend through the generations.
- "New modern building
- Fit for purpose
- Open as a bar more often
- Break out rooms as space if needed"
- Just to keep it open as it is
- Investment to make it more attractive & up to date. Continue with variety of live acts. Perhaps comedy nights? Quiz nights?
- Much of the same
- As with all types of spaces like this I would like a proactive manager/team that is committed to expanding the venues potential and making it a viable venue for long into the future.
- Keep it open keep it accessible and let people enjoy it
- Maximum use. Varying events on each month. Bringing everyone together
- More dancing and community events
- Keep it going
- More live music events and some comedy events too
- Opening out foyer, extending bar to comfortable sitting lounge. Improve toilet access
- Stay the same
- It continues as the best large local venue , perhaps with reduced rates for Melksham organisations or charities ?
- Community hub during the day & events in the evenings
- Updated and a regular comedy night
- One where it is used as much as possible providing a central place for all sorts of activities in Melksham
- Rebuild with state of the art facilities and seating. Proper storage for removable items (tables etc).
- Just more community events.
- A popular music venue on the touring 'circuit' for original acts, with support spots available for local bands.
- See above
- Crèche, sure start centre, clubs, support groups etc. somewhere for everyone.
- More events more shows like Neil Sands that's one we all look forward to summer then the christmas show is amazing more like that would be great
- No comment
- Certainly its continues existence, it is a wonderful asset
- No real need to do much . Decoration inside looks ok
- To carry on providing entertainment for all ages
- To be left to run as it is
- More cultural events to rival the Pound in Corsham.
- To remain as a large venue for live music/acts, fairs and community events.
- Events every weekend.
- Keep it as it is.
- As now



- To be let for further events and activities.
- For it to continue being available as a venue for Melksham residents and others from around the area. I think the entrance should be enlarged and perhaps made to look more welcoming.
- Better facilities
- More use and better advertising.
- More events.
- More events and updated modern look
- "The hall is under used. Set up a working party to explore possibilities. Portable bowls rinks already mentioned which would be tremendously popular.
- Melksham & District have lost 10 skittle alleys. This popular game is a Friday night money spinner in the remaining venues due to the amount of beer sold. Its a big hall. Build an alley. There is plenty of room adjacent to the bar.
- Ladies also play Mondays & Tuesdays but little alcohol sold so perhaps not a good idea to cover Assembly Hall costs."
- For it to be the hub of Melksham life. For people to want to come to Melksham instead of writing us off and making jokes about how awful it must be to live here
- Utilised more
- Diversify from all music events!
- A revamped place, possibly with small hot desk working spaces and a large social space. Available to hire but prioritising events that get different sections of the community together.
- "A thriving hub for all kinds of events and community groups/classes.
- The heart of Melksham arts scene. A bit like The Pound"
- To continue to run independently as it goes now - but subsidised by the council if necessary
- Make it a community fun place to come - events, activities, etc
- Install stoweable rake-seating (like in Neeld Hall, Chippenham) which gives enhanced viewing and quick conversion for non-concert events.
- As above - more inviting entrance way and facilities
- A lively venue for a wide range of events. A hall that could be adapted for small or large events
- To be used as a community space and also by local businesses, to be promoted properly and at a reasonable charge.
- Maybe it could be modernised a bit, but I think that it should be well used rather than extremely up market and less used.
- Very much as it has been before now, with people not put of by rumours of closure or other changes.
- To stay open for business, entertainment fun and laughter
- Just stay open so Melksham has a local entertainment venue.
- It needs to be affordable for events to happen without charging silly prices, perhaps better promotion of events
- To continue to be a venue which can be used flexibly for different purposes and by different users. It would be fantastic if it could be modernised so that it was more comfortable.

- An enhanced version of what is there at the moment and general modernisation.
- Just spruce the place up and book a varied selection of acts.
- Affordable for groups to put on events
- More variety, regular events at reasonable prices
- A venue on the map. Melksham's big enough for a decent multi-purpose venue. Just needs to go beyond the usual old 'rock n roll' bands and provide for all ages. Lots going for it - large capacity, next to the Campus - just needs championing
- To keep this community space for the ever expanding population of Melksham
- To stay available for activities, but some updating of existing facilities
- "I think the inability to significantly improve the offering and the fabric of the building in the past 10 years does not give me any confidence to support its future. Vast amounts of money would be needed to be spent with the serious risk that if the venue could not be run right it would continue to cost ratepayers at an accelerating rate due to the heavy dept that would be added to its already failing balance sheet
- However, if a private entrepreneur could be offered / tempted to take a lease off the council, with a peppercorn rent ,but an agreed facility investment by the tenant.
- Or a lease that returned to the council the money it would need to invest upfront to make it attractive to a tenant over a period of 20 years with the leases running / renewable every 5 years . Eg council spend £1,000,000 tenant pays £ 50,000 per annum that's £250,000 over first and each 5 year lease. That's still a hefty £1000 a week but if the venue was tidy it may be possible. The entrepreneur will drive that business to get the results he/she forecasts"
- Update toilet, bar and kitchen
- Used to be Sunday Lunches good if they returned. Well used - plenty of facilities to suit all ages.
- More day time entertainment for seniors.
- Stay as it is. More use to local crafters.
- A great centre for the residents of Melksham to access talks/presentations/live entertainment/showing of films/venue for more local group meetings etc. More than is already available.
- Keep with the times, very good, really not much to moan about.
- It's fair as it is, but with Melksham growing so rapidly the original concept of Town Assembly Rooms has already gone.
- To still be open for events/fair/entertainment to continue.
- To be continued to be used as it is now
- More of the same
- To be used every day of the week for local clubs, events, seminars, events, concerts etc
- Upgrade where necessary and leave it alone, it's where the townspeople need it!
- Keep going
- More events aimed at all ages, it being used by more community groups - brownies, dance classes/ shows etc
- More functions

- To keep all the events they have on as people come miles as best venue by far, people come to Melksham Assembly hall from Wales and further away for the Rock and Roll ,great night
- It would be nice to include some eco aspects to the hall, like solar panels, light tunnels from the ceiling into the bar/foyer areas and tier seating. I've heard hire prices are getting too high and pushing away events like roller discos which is sad. Christmas Panto would be good.
- More top comedians.
- More things for middle aged persons to attend.
- A venue which continues to attract big names with prices aligned to the type of activity. More activities reasonably priced so accessible to the people
- A musical venue a place to put on shows
- Its always packed in there and its a lovely atmosphere

#### **Question 35: What is your gender? (Other responses – individuals)**

- wolf
- Non binary
- We are a couple, male and female
- Husband and wife filled in jointly

#### **Question 38: What is your name? (Individuals)**

#### **Question 39: Please provide your email address so we can contact you about opportunities to take part in future consultation about Melksham Assembly Hall (Individuals)**

Members of the public were asked to provide their details if they wished to be involved with future consultation about Melksham Assembly Hall. As this was an anonymous survey, names and email addresses have been sent to Melksham Town Council in a password protected file for further contact relating to the future of the hall.

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