

Friend of Melksham Assembly Hall

25.8.2022



http://www.fomah.org.uk/fomah_20220825.pdf

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Friend of Melksham Assembly Hall

1. Where we are now
2. What we need to be considering
3. If / how we set up a committee and organisation
4. Next Steps

1. Where we are now



Operation of hall

- * Loved Hall that is in need of some TLC or wider attention
- * Ageing user base and need to refresh; youngsters put off
- * Cost Town Council very roughly £100,000 per annum
- * Very limited volunteer input means £££ on council
- * Town Council operation cuts off funding opportunities

Council reaction and visibility

- * Council has reduced Assembly Hall Staff and ceased event booking
- * Building is in need of attention
- * Next door / attached building (Blue Pool) out of use, desire to demolish
- * Fees revised for the first time in a few years
- * Halls of this type are rarely commercial and it's about managing costs

Assembly Hall Working Group

- * Assembly Hall Working Group set up May, to look at rates for 2023
- * Working Group met 1 Aug. Widened scope to allow external input
- * Working Group changes accepted by Council Committee 22.8
- * Working Group next meets 8.9.2022

Full Council

- * Full Council met 9th August 2022 - WAS agendaed to be in secret but went public
- * All councillor committed in principle to a continuation of provision
- * Short consultation was agreed / lead by Town Clerk to find what customers want
- * Notice was given that WC are looking to progress change
- * Councillors are for the most part very leary of spending/committing money to the Hall
- * To my knowledge, no Town Councillors are heavily involved in Assembly Hall use
- * Various councillors are experienced and run Canberra, Forest Centre and Boomerang
- * Sheet (secret until meeting) handed out on costs and risks for 3 location sites

Friends – to date

* Until now, we have found it has been hard for Friends to engage with the Town Council

* We now appear to have an opening to look wider than a Town Council.

2. What we need to be considering

I am on (and chairing) the AHWG and it would be good to be able to report back user and friends responses, options, plans.

a) What future users want and what is practical

- Hall size and facilities

Stage, changing rooms, capacity, floor, bar and catering, reception, lights, sound system, loos blackouts, screen, WiFi, tables, storage

- External

Parking and access, noise levels, social locations, public transport, findability

- Price, availability, hours allowed



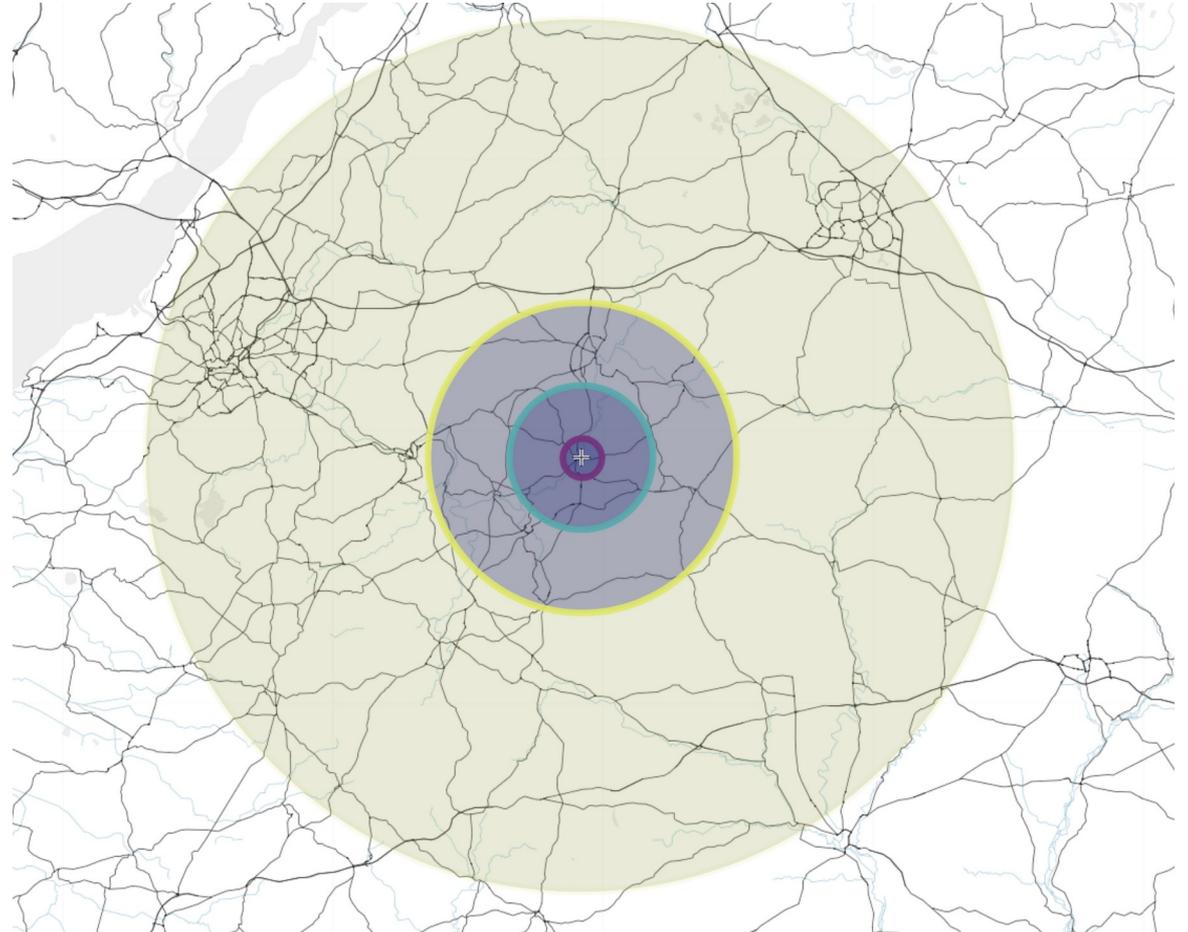
Baby showers and Christenings. Model car Club. Rock and roll. Acts and events. Weddings and wedding fayres. Big meetings. Historical association. Area board. Parties. Roller disco. Film shows. Civic ceremony. Community meals. Art society. Christmas lights. Cactus show. Classroom. Comedians. Psychics. Comicon. Hustings. Public information events. Consultations. Dog and other animal shows. Training events. Public lectures. Christmas dinner. Climatefest. Pantomime. Drama club. Concerts. Recitals. Medical and flood emergency centre. Drill hall. Discos. Auctions. Mother and toddler group. Alcoholics anonymous. Polling station. Antiques fair. Farmers market. Lego show and sale. New local act festival. Hosting Question Time / Antiques Road Show etc. Trainwest. Political meetings. Public speaking classes. Dance and music clubs. Walking football. Local company AGM venue. Jumble sales. Conventions. Evacuation hub. Melksham Pride Festival. MP Surgery. Linedancing. Dodgeball. Quiz night. Dance classes. Darts tournament. Wrestling. Boxing. Beer and Cider festival. Wakes.

b) Where future users want that provision and where is practical



c) What mechanism we might suggest to help enhance financial provision from users rather than from people who live close by.

- Specialist Grants
- Area Board and wider
- Benevolancies
- Commercial Sponsorship
- Donations in kind



d) What mechanism we use to encourage active user and community group support

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whether or not FoMAH is a starter or parent for this, or turns out to be a cousin.

e) How we encourage councillors to take a more positive view of the Assembly Hall.

Most councillors look to a combination of

- * new ideas
- * what their electors will see them doing and like them for
- * projects that are of interest to them
- * projects that do not interfere with other interests
- * projects that are easy for them and risk free

3. If / how we set up a committee and organisation

-

a) Mechanism

CIC

Membership Organisation with fees

Charity

Council branch

b) Objectives

Physical Hall?

Users?

Short term or long term or both?

c) Officer Roles

Chair

Secretary

Membership Secretary

Minute Secretary

Treasurer

Vice Chair

Technical Expert(s)

Council Liaison

Webmaster and Media

Volunteer organiser

Event organiser

4. Next Steps

- * Update for AHWG and council as a whole
- * Survey help to council
- * Investigation by committee into – all the elements
- * Date(s) of next meetings

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