

Turville Northend Village Hall

On New Year's Eve 2020, a local café ran a charity pizza event outside the Bull & Butcher in Turville which raised over £1,000 for One Can Trust. Its request to repeat the event outside the village hall in Northend met with objections from local residents which included:

- the event was a commercial event, rather than a charity event, and the beginning of a regular commercial venture at the hall;
- the need for driving/parking on Northend common;
- residents should support local permanent businesses (in Watlington) rather than pop-ups; and
- the perception that the café has had an adverse effect on residents, house prices etc. in Turville Heath.

Some aspects of these objections are not new. There have been mummings in the past about the use of the village hall by the nursery school and for social events and weddings. As a result, the trustees of the hall have to tread a fine line between their need to raise funds from the hire of the hall and the wishes of residents for peace and quiet (hence the consultation on the charity pizza event).

While the hall is currently in a good financial position (schedule 1), it is likely that it will have to use some of its current surplus to pay for repairs to the roof (£7250+) and the floor (c£1,000). Furthermore, local and community hires are currently insufficient to cover running costs so the hall relies heavily on the hire to the nursery school to balance its books. It has also benefited, from time to time, from additional sources of income, for example the Covid-related grant in 2020 and filming in 2019. If necessary, the trustees could approach residents for funds as they did for the hall's acquisition in 1960 and modernisation in 1999. There is, however, no doubt that objections to the use of the hall could both undermine its viability and the willingness of residents to provide funds.

The AGM provides an opportunity for trustees and residents to discuss these issues.

David Cairns

Chair, Turville Northend Village Hall Trustees

07747 771003

01491 638296