

Submission by Charnwood House Community Management Association

Survey Results

28 Questionnaires completed

Online Total – 5

Written Total – 23

22 Respondents gave comments

9 Respondents would be interested in becoming a supporter or member

11 Respondents would prefer not to become a member or supporter

8 Respondents provided other alternatives e.g. be kept informed; provide further input or not sure

24 Respondents are Hitchin residents 3 from surrounding villages and 1 other

27 Respondents declared they or members of their household are members of local groups or clubs

In response to the question on ability to secure suitable premises for their club or activity

Always able – 6 Usually – 9 With Difficulty – 6 Never- 2 35
There were 5 non-respondents to this question

The criteria ranking for the most important aspects of suitable premises for consideration is:

(The responses to always have been used as the primary ranking order. The Sometimes and Never responses are not ordered in order of importance)

CRITERIA	ALWAYS	SOMETIMES	NEVER
Location	22	2	
Cost	21	4	
Availability	19	2	
Access	16	4	
Size	15	9	
Facilities/Equipment	12	10	2
Storage	10	4	8

Comments

22 respondents provided comments, 7 did not. The online survey comments are more substantial than the street survey. The comments are listed below. No qualitative analysis has been done as yet.

1. I am a member of local Friends of the Earth who have regular meeting room at nearby Quaker House. However I still feel that Charnwood House should be made available for

groups like this as it would help maintain and improve a local community feel in Hitchin. I work on some youth projects during the daytime and often require such spaces to teach, though not always in Hitchin!

2. We think Charnwood House would be a fantastic asset to Hitchin to use in the similar way to the Hub in Letchworth. Although we don't have to find locations for the groups we belong to, I am sure many people would use it if it was available at a reasonable cost.
3. I am a committee member of the Hitchin Art Club (which will be 71 years old this year). We have for a great number of years traditionally held our Annual Exhibition in Hitchin Museum, apart for the last three years due to it being closed we have had to use the British Schools Museum and twice the Letchworth Arts Centre.; We are getting very negative response from the Museum people regarding pour return as they creating an image of not wanting local clubs in their new museum and would prefer famous exhibitors from London. We are feeling very let down by NHDC and its lack of interest in local people and clubs.; Therefore we would be very interested in the use of the original museum, not just for our Annual Exhibition bur also for our weekly meetings.
4. I have recently become a member of HAC but, so far, have just enjoyed their company and kindness, meaning I have not been involved in the finding of premises on any level. ; That being said I believe Charnwood House could be a real asset for all the local community being both a lovely building and so central to Hitchin. I am sure many diverse projects could benefit from the use of this facility, given the chance. With the seemingly never-ending demise of other community spaces in the area, e.g. Bancroft Hall, it makes the use of Charnwood even more important to local residents.
5. Hitchin Art Club need a space for their Annual Exhibitions (used to be in the museum) and for other meetings/exhibitions. Charnwood is potentially an ideal venue.
6. Base for community volunteer groups - access to computer facilities for these and meeting rooms for small (5-15) groups.

7. Permanent base for volunteer groups in Hitchin - even if not used for meetings- central reference/information point will be valuable
8. Bridge Club, W.I.
9. General use for clubs, societies, re-establish registry, council services office
10. Art Classes
11. With refurbishment it would be useful for all meetings, exhibitions etc.
12. As a community centre
13. Should be for public benefit e.g. citizens advice etc.
14. Hitchin Historical Society uses Church House/Orpheus Choir uses Benslow and Tielhouse St. Baptist Church
15. Hitchin Society
16. For use of Hitchin and surrounding area residents
17. Community Centre for all sections of the community
18. Community workshop like the man's shed project
19. Community Use

Should be community usage, including small groups who do not want / need a regular weekly booking

Must be kept as given to Hitchin by the Moss family