

The future of Great Canfield Village Hall.

MEETING on **Thursday 22nd JUNE 8 p.m.** at the Village Hall.

In a 2008 survey of Canfield residents, 93% of the 215 respondents thought that the Village Hall was “an important asset for the village”.

The Hall is owned by the Parochial Church Council (the “PCC”) and in 2008 the PCC approached the Parish Council for assistance as it was finding the Hall onerous to run and maintain. The Great Canfield Community Trust (GCCT), an independent charity, was subsequently formed to preserve the Hall for the benefit of the village.

The Trust took a short-term lease of the Hall which expires in November 2020.

Through a variety of well-attended and enjoyable social events and grants, the GCCT has successfully raised enough money to fund significant refurbishment work including: a new well-equipped kitchen, redecoration, renovation of the floor, new blinds, replacement chairs & tables and improvements to the car park.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped organize or support these events. It's also been encouraging to see the hall now being used more for private functions and rentals ranging from band practice and bridge to a popular weekly yoga class.

The Trust, supported by the Parish Council, is considering taking a long lease, say 25 years, in order to safeguard the Hall's future and to allow for further important improvements. That process would need to start soon.

However, to undertake such a commitment, the GCCT needs to be sure that residents truly want to keep the Hall, and that its medium and long-term management and necessary programme of fund-raising events are sustainable.

This means people willing to serve on the committees, to act as Trustees when present trustees retire, and to organize and support events. If there are not enough people willing to lend their time in these ways, its future becomes very uncertain. The GCCT cannot sensibly renew the lease and the Hall will revert to the PCC.

If you might be prepared to contribute some of your time to preserve the use of the Hall, by becoming a Trustee or a member of the management or events committees, or want to show your support for the retention of the hall and share in the discussions about its future please come to the Meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your views.

WINE & NIBBLES