

# The things you said...



Many residents added comments at the bottom of the recent HCA Survey designed to canvass local opinion on the future of St Faith Hall. The survey results—which were independently analysed—showed an overwhelming majority vote backing HCA's aim to buy the freehold of the hall.

This is a balanced selection of the comments made...

**'The Church obviously has no real interest in the hall and only sees it as a capital asset. They may have a legal claim on the hall but they certainly have no moral one (or does that matter to the modern church?). They should rescind the freehold.'**

*'Perhaps the Church should read their own manual. Let the Church show that Christianity is alive and well.'*

**'I feel we as residents should have what is basically ours!'**

*'...In my young days, early teens to early thirties, our then vicar attended various functions at our village hall, giving talks and getting personally involved in theatricals etc. I also played badminton in our hall and often...would find our Vicar, sleeves rolled up, sweeping the floor clean. Why cannot the Church get involved in this manner today? Little wonder the falling, and in some cases non-existent, congregations. It seems all the Church does now is sit back and bewail its dwindling income and endeavour to extract as much money as possible from its 'flock'.*

*The Church should be seen to operate in a fair way (God's way) and accept a reasonable sum for the freehold. Then get itself involved in the community and it would benefit in kind. I am a devout Christian but*

*I have lost faith in the representatives of God.'*

**'The PCC and the CofE should and must let us have what is ours. We must fight for our hall.'**

*'Because of our personal circumstances we are unlikely to attend functions at St Faiths but we are strongly of the opinion that every community should have its own village hall under its own jurisdiction.'*

**'I do not think that the Church should force our actions if we obtain the freehold. I think the community could decide on the best option to retain this valuable asset.'**

*'I'm only sorry that we don't get to attend events more regularly at the hall, for personal reasons, but we support the HCA fully and think that the hall has been the key instrument in bringing the community together, along with the HCA. You have our complete support.'*

**'I am not sure what to think.'**

*'Tricky some of these [survey questions]. I have to take your word for it that the Church is inactive in the area, I have no personal knowledge of this.'*

**'I think the Church lack of interest is downright disgraceful.'**

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**THE PEOPLE SPEAK**  
Independent survey results show overwhelming support for HCA

THE PEOPLE of Hilltop have voted overwhelmingly in favour of securing the freehold of St Faiths hall. This is the outcome of the Community Survey 2006, commissioned by HCA to find out what the residents want to happen to their village hall. The level of the response was high. The Survey was prepared independently and has been professionally analysed. Here are the results....

**96 % SAY:** Hilltop Community Association should own the freehold of the village hall as a right because it was built by members of the community with money they raised themselves.

**96 % SAY:** The Church has little interest in the local community, not attending any events at the hall except for three times a year. This lack of support suggests that we see no longer regard the Church as protect the community's needs.

**87 % SAY:** I am convinced that the Church may wish to exploit the property as it is suitable as a building plot.

**87 % SAY:** I think the Church should rescind the freehold.

The overall consensus of the community is that: THE community value the hall as a resource. THE Church has benefited from the gift of its shared resources for many years. THE community need an independently run village hall. THE community feel the Church should not own the freehold to the community association.

The Bishop of Dover says the Church can only after 99-year lease, page 4  
HCA's Chairman explains why the community needs to buy the freehold, page 5  
How the majority voted in all 18 of the Survey questions, see insert sheet

St Faiths Hall will be sold for over this year when one of our corner windows, but recently by the children, looked all in the wrong direction as the Rev. Mr. John Allen, Vicar, stands in front of the hall and his mobile phone, they were some back on track. Our reader further was independently extra happy when he visited at the Congregation. Party people believe plus those they joined the party.

Chairman: Carl (John) Jones, B. Chairman: Peter (John) Jones, B. Chair: David (John) Jones, B. Chair: John (John) Jones, B. Chair: John (John) Jones, B.

Survey results revealed in last issue of Hilltop News

Names supplied. Some comments have been edited.