# Community Consultation - Seend Community Facilities Questionnaire

Our Parish organisations seek your thoughts and opinions regarding our community facilities, how they are used currently and how they might be used in the future and how important they are to you and your household. **The results from this survey will be used in decision making concerning the future of your community-owned facilities, the Seend Community Centre/Club, and the Seend Lye Recreation Field.**

The 2021 National Census shows that we truly are a retirement parish. In common with most of rural England, the age profile of our community is weighted north of age 65 years. We have more people in the older age ranges than the English national average. Conversely, as we might expect, our population is well below the national English average for all age ranges 0 to 50 years. Whilst our age profile may have shifted north, the total number of people in our population has hardly changed across many decades. 320 of us live in Seend Cleeve and 780 in the remainder of the parish. Together we are the 1100 of the Parish of Seend. We are both living and working longer with more than 42% of our working population working from the 500 households we call home. Interestingly, these facts present us with an opportunity to solve this local dilemma.

**Why do we have so much difficulty in finding people to voluntarily help operate our excellent, yet seemingly undervalued, community facilities?**

Here is what we know about the present situation.

* Our excellent community facilities were not provided for us by the local authority or the Parish Council, though we must acknowledge the welcome historical support from these bodies we have had and continue to enjoy. Our recreational facilities are held in trust for our community by long-term custodians who are our wise and valued friends.
* Our Community Centre, Seend Lye Field and Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion were created through sustained voluntary work of local people to meet the needs of our local community, the Parish of Seend. It is perhaps a lesser-known fact that the WI Hall continues to play a part in serving us too.
* National social change in Britain has changed the demand for our facilities and the way we use them. Many of the Seend small clubs, societies and social activities associated with all age ranges have disappeared, whilst expanding local population in Devizes, Melksham, Trowbridge, and Westbury marginally increased user demand for our more attractive rural facilities to replace that usage lost through cultural change. Revenue from these activities, including some grant funding, allows us to remain solvent whilst keeping our facilities in fair condition. A diminishing number of unpaid volunteers are working tirelessly to generate income to keep facilities operational for the use of our community AND the many nearby individuals and user groups who do not live in our community. This may prompt you to think about any possible inequity in this changed situation. Is this aspect of the way our community facilities are run any different to say a charity shop, the British Red Cross, Wiltshire Air Ambulance etc?
* Towards the end of the last century, our Seend Community Centre came very close to closure and disposal. It was a tricky period to say the least. Some of those who worked hardest and longest to save it are no longer with us, though their names live on. With much help from the local community the ‘Seend Centre’ was upgraded and saved for us and for future generations.
* For several years, the Seend Lye Recreation Field Trustees have been defending a long-running legal battle over a claimed right-of-way across the sports field. Granting consent to the claimed right-of-way would leave the recreation field with diminished sporting utility and would devalue the community asset. The Trustees are legally bound to preserve both the utility and value of our asset. So far, the legal defence has cost many tens of thousands of pounds, this is has been a direct cash loss to our community. Such significant sums of prudently invested income, much needed for repairs and renewals and improving facilities to make them more energy efficient, might otherwise have been used for those purposes. The Trustees recognise this case has been a long-running blight on the prospects of the organisation and a possible deterrent to community involvement. The legal case is expected to be settled this year.
* Over the past 12 months several Spotlight, social media and in-person appeals have been made to the people of Seend to get involved in supporting our community facilities. Overall, the response has been truly disappointing. Apart from the Management Committee, there was just one member of the public in attendance at the 2022 Seend Lye Field AGM and many spare seats also at the Community Centre annual meeting.
* The respective Trustees and Management Committees will soon face some tough decisions that will affect the future of your community facilities. To help make these decisions we ask you now to fill out the questionnaire in the following pages, so you and your household members have an opportunity to tell the few remaining people managing our facilities what they may not know.

The questionnaire may seem lengthy, but the current situation justifies a detailed community consultation. For accuracy, firstly read all the questions before completion. Please ensure your questionnaire is completed by Friday 14th April 2023. All questionnaires will be securely destroyed once the anonymised data has been collected. Your house number/name, postcode and email address are requested to ensure you have an opportunity to respond and are not missed out. If you do not wish to complete this questionnaire, please return it, saying so and you will be removed from the follow-up list. However, your response is valued and important decisions about our community facilities WILL be made based on sufficient responses received. In the interests of community inclusion and consultation, we reserve the right to pester you if there is no response at all from your household.

Thank you for your assistance.

Trustees, Chairs and Management Committees of Seend Community Centre and Seend Lye Recreation Field. 20th March 2023

**DO YOU LIVE IN THE PARISH OF SEEND?**

Yes

No

**If you answered No, please tell us in which community you live:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**If you answered Yes, please tell us where you live in the Parish of Seend:**

**House number/name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: SN12\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**If you live in Seend, you may wish to provide us with an email address for future consultation on the subject matter and results of this questionnaire:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Thank you for participating in this important community consultation.**

**If you prefer to complete this questionnaire online, or need another hard copy of it, go to** [**www.seendlyefield.org/seend-community-survey.html**](http://www.seendlyefield.org/seend-community-survey.html)

**When your paper questionnaire is complete, please place it in the envelope provided and post it through the Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion letterbox. If you need help in doing this, please email:** [**seendlrf@gmail.com**](mailto:seendlrf@gmail.com) **and someone will arrange to collect your envelope. Alternatively, leave a voicemail request for collection by calling 01380 828970.**

**The deadline for return is Friday 14th April 2023.**

**The deadline date will allow sufficient time to collate and analyse responses and to produce a report on the results. This provides an option for the presentation of results at the annual Parish meeting at the Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 16th May 2023.**

**This section of the questionnaire seeks your views on Seend Community Centre and Club.**

1. **Have you used the Seend Community Centre/Club within the past 3 months?**

Yes (If answering Yes, please move to Question 2)

No (If answering No, please move to Question 3)

1. **If you answered yes to question 1, please tick what you used the Community Centre/Club for within the past 3 months (please tick all that apply.)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Club bar |  | Parish Council meetings |
|  | Snooker |  | Meetings with special interest groups |
|  | Short Mat Bowls |  | Nosh and Natter |
|  | Skittles – for casual recreation |  | Skittles – as part of a competitive league |
|  | Table Tennis |  | First Friday Coffee Mornings |
|  | Summer BBQs |  | Special private family functions, weddings, Christenings, funeral wakes, birthdays etc |
|  | Seend Beer Festival |  | Music for the MIND |
|  | Outdoor grass family recreation area |  | Car parking |
|  | Ad hoc meetings |  | Community entertainment events |
|  | Socialising with friends |  | Business meetings |
|  | Theatrical rehearsals |  | Band rehearsals |
|  | Annual Seend Fete & Flower Show |  | Annual Seend Pantomime |

Other (please specify)

1. **Have you ever used the Community Centre/Club?**

Yes

No (Please move on to Q6 if you answered No)

1. **If you answered yes to question 3, please tick what you used the Community Centre/Club for (please tick all that apply.)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Club bar |  | Parish Council meetings |
|  | Snooker |  | Meetings with special interest groups |
|  | Short Mat Bowls |  | Nosh and Natter |
|  | Skittles – for casual recreation |  | Skittles – as part of a competitive league |
|  | Table Tennis |  | First Friday Coffee Mornings |
|  | Summer BBQs |  | Special private family functions, weddings, Christenings, funeral wakes, birthdays etc |
|  | Seend Beer Festival |  | Music for the MIND |
|  | Outdoor grass family recreation area |  | Car parking |
|  | Ad hoc meetings |  | Community entertainment events |
|  | Socialising with friends |  | Business meetings |
|  | Theatrical rehearsals |  | Band rehearsals |
|  | Annual Seend Fete & Flower Show |  | Annual Seend Pantomime |

Other (please specify)

1. **Please now look at the boxes you ticked at questions 2 and 4. In the table below, rank your Top 5 ticked boxes in order of activity importance to you or your household, 1 being the most important**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Club bar |  | Parish Council meetings |
|  | Snooker |  | Meetings with special interest groups |
|  | Short Mat Bowls |  | Nosh and Natter |
|  | Skittles – for casual recreation |  | Skittles – as part of a competitive league |
|  | Table Tennis |  | First Friday Coffee Mornings |
|  | Summer BBQs |  | Special private family functions, weddings, Christenings, funeral wakes, birthdays etc |
|  | Seend Beer Festival |  | Music for the MIND |
|  | Outdoor grass family recreation area |  | Car parking |
|  | Ad hoc meetings |  | Community entertainment events |
|  | Socialising with friends |  | Business meetings |
|  | Theatrical rehearsals |  | Band rehearsals |
|  | Annual Seend Fee & Flower Show |  | Annual Seend Pantomime |

1. **In the last 3 years, have you attended a Seend Community Centre annual meeting?**

Yes

No

1. **In the last 3 years, have you been involved as a volunteer in the running of the Seend Community Centre/Club?**

Yes

No

1. **What do you believe is the annual operating cost of the Seend Community Centre/Club? Please tick – even if you guess.**

£10,000 to £20,000 £20,000 to £30,000

£30,000 to £40,000 £40,000 to £50,000

£50,000 to £60,000 £60,000 to £70,000

£70,000 to £80,000 £80,000 to £90,000

Over £100,000

1. **What benefits do you think Seend Community Centre/Club provides to the Seend community?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Regular social events |  | A useful place to meet |
|  | An attractive entertainment programme |  | Car parking |
|  | A licensed bar |  | Outdoor recreational space and facilities |
|  | A venue for national celebration |  | Operational space for use in the event of a community disaster |
|  | A cost-effective local community venue with a varied range of hire options |  | An attractive venue for indoor recreational sports, e.g. snooker, darts, skittles, table tennis |

Other (please specify)

1. **What benefits do you think Seend Community Centre/Club provides to the wider Wiltshire community?**

Please describe:

1. **What does Seend Community Centre/Club NOT provide for you and your household? Do you have needs that are not met by either the facilities, or by the programme of events?**

Please describe:

1. **Would you like to see the Seend Community Centre provide any of the following? (Please tick all that apply.)**

A covered outdoor pergola.

More permanent outdoor seating on the west side lawn.

Improved facilities – please use the box below to explain.

A wider range of activities – please use the box below to explain.

Office workspace for hire.

Better public access.

Other (Please specify)

**The next section of this questionnaire is about your views on Seend Lye Recreation Field (SLRF) facilities, including your use of, and views on, Seend Tennis Club, the tennis courts and the Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion.**

1. **Do you currently (within the past 12 months) use the SLRF facilities?**

Yes

No

1. **Have you ever, for any reason, used the SLRF facilities?**

Yes

No (Please move on to Q17 if you answered No)

1. **Have you ever attended a Seend Lye Recreational Field annual meeting?**

Yes

No

1. **In the past, have you ever been involved as a volunteer in the running of the Seend Lye Recreational Field?**

Yes

No

1. **What do you believe is the annual operating cost of the Seend Lye Recreation Field? Please tick – even if it is a guess.**

£10,000 to £20,000 £20,000 to £30,000

£30,000 to £40,000 £40,000 to £50,000

£50,000 to £60,000 £60,000 to £70,000

£70,000 to £80,000 £80,000 to £90,000

Over £100,000

1. **If you answered yes to Q13, please tick what you used the SLRF Pavilion facilities for within the past 12 months (please tick all that apply.)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Adult social event, quiz, celebrations, post-funeral receptions etc |  | Wiltshire Astronomical Society meeting |
|  | Children’s event, birthday party etc |  | Car parking |
|  | Seend WI event or meeting |  | A Seend Playgroup event |
|  | Warm Spaces social event |  | Outdoor recreational space and facilities |
|  | Meeting attendance, e.g. AGM |  | Wessex Fuchsia Group meeting |

Other (Please specify)

1. **If you answered yes to Q14, please tick what you used the SLRF outdoor recreational facilities for within the past 12 months (please tick all that apply.)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Football game – as part of a team in competition |  | Athletic training, outdoor exercise, including jogging |
|  | Football game – as a spectator |  | Car parking |
|  | Tennis – at the tennis court as a Tennis Club member |  | Golf driving practice |
|  | A social kickabout, or other activity with your children/friends/family |  | Outdoor recreational space and facilities |
|  | Under 12 years play area (Play park) |  | Kite or model aircraft/drone flying |
|  | Walking/exercise |  | Annual Seend Fete & Flower Show |
|  | Cricket |  | Volleyball |

Other (Please specify)

1. **Please now look at the boxes you may have ticked at both questions 18 and 19. In the table below, rank your Top 5 ticked boxes in order of personal importance to yourself or your household, 1 being the most important.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Adult social event, quiz, celebrations etc |  | Walking/exercise |
|  | Children’s event, birthday party etc |  | Wiltshire Astronomical Society meeting |
|  | Seend WI event or meeting |  | Car parking |
|  | Warm Spaces social event |  | A Seend Playgroup event |
|  | Meeting attendance, e.g. AGM |  | Outdoor recreational space and facilities |
|  | Football game – as part of a team in competition |  | Wessex Fuchsia Group meeting |
|  | Football game – as a spectator |  | Athletic training, outdoor exercise, including jogging |
|  | Tennis – at the tennis court as a Tennis Club member |  | Golf driving practice |
|  | A social kickabout, or other activity with your children/friends/family |  | Kite or model aircraft/drone flying |
|  | Under 12 years play area (Playpark) |  | Annual Seend Fete & Flower Show |

1. **What benefits do you think Seend Lye Recreation Field facilities provide to the Seend community?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Regular social events |  | A useful place to meet |
|  | An attractive entertainment programme |  | Car parking |
|  | Seend Playgroup |  | Outdoor recreational space and facilities |
|  | A village hall |  | Operational space for community disaster response |
|  | Club Tennis facilities |  | A ‘village green’ |
|  | Young children’s outdoor play facilities |  | Non-club Tennis facilities |

Other (Please specify)

1. **The Irene Usher Memorial Pavilion is 50 years old this year (2023). Historically, some measures to improve disability access/usage have been undertaken. Do you believe the Pavilion building meets your current needs in these respects?**

Yes

No (If No, use the box below to explain the deficiency and/or suggested improvement)

Other (Please specify)

1. **On page 1 of this questionnaire, we said many regular Seend Community Centre/Club and SLRF bookings serve the wider Wiltshire community to a greater extent than they serve the Seend Community. Some events are organised by people and organisations outside our community, and some generate few, if any, users from within our own community. Knowledge of the spectrum of community users convinces us that, generally, our venues are chosen because they are attractively set in an attractive rural environment, are accessible, cost effective and convenient with adequate car parking and alternative open space(s). Considering these statements, and your understanding of what skill and knowledge it might take to generate, not only the revenue but also the paid and unpaid volunteer skills and labour, to viably and safely administer and operate the facilities in a good and attractive condition, do you believe it is equitable that we continue to offer our community facilities to the wider community of Wiltshire?**

Yes No

1. **This frank and honest question is not included as a means of blackmail, or as a pin prick to your social conscience. The truth is that very soon there may be no one left who can candidly ask this question, as the next time it may be asked is at the required whole parish meeting, a prelude to the major decisions necessary concerning the future of our facilities. Would you accept the winding up of the charitable organisations charged with administering our Community Centre and Lye Field facilities, and the disposal of the community assets in accordance with their respective Charitable Constitutions, Deeds of Trust, and our community’s wishes?**

Yes No

1. **Are you?**

Female Male

1. **How old are you?**

Under 25

25 - 34

35 - 44

45 - 54

55-64

65-74

75 and over

1. **Do you have a disability?**

Yes No

1. **How many additional persons in your household are represented in the views and answers you have kindly provided for this questionnaire?**
2. **Do you wish to become actively involved in supporting one or more of your village organisations by taking up an active volunteer role?**

Yes No

If you answered Yes to Question 29, we would be very pleased to make contact with you. Please provide your contact details in the box below. Thank you.