GLENLIVET HALL SURVEY

Summary of Survey Findings

October 2022



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Glenlivet & Inveravon Development Officer

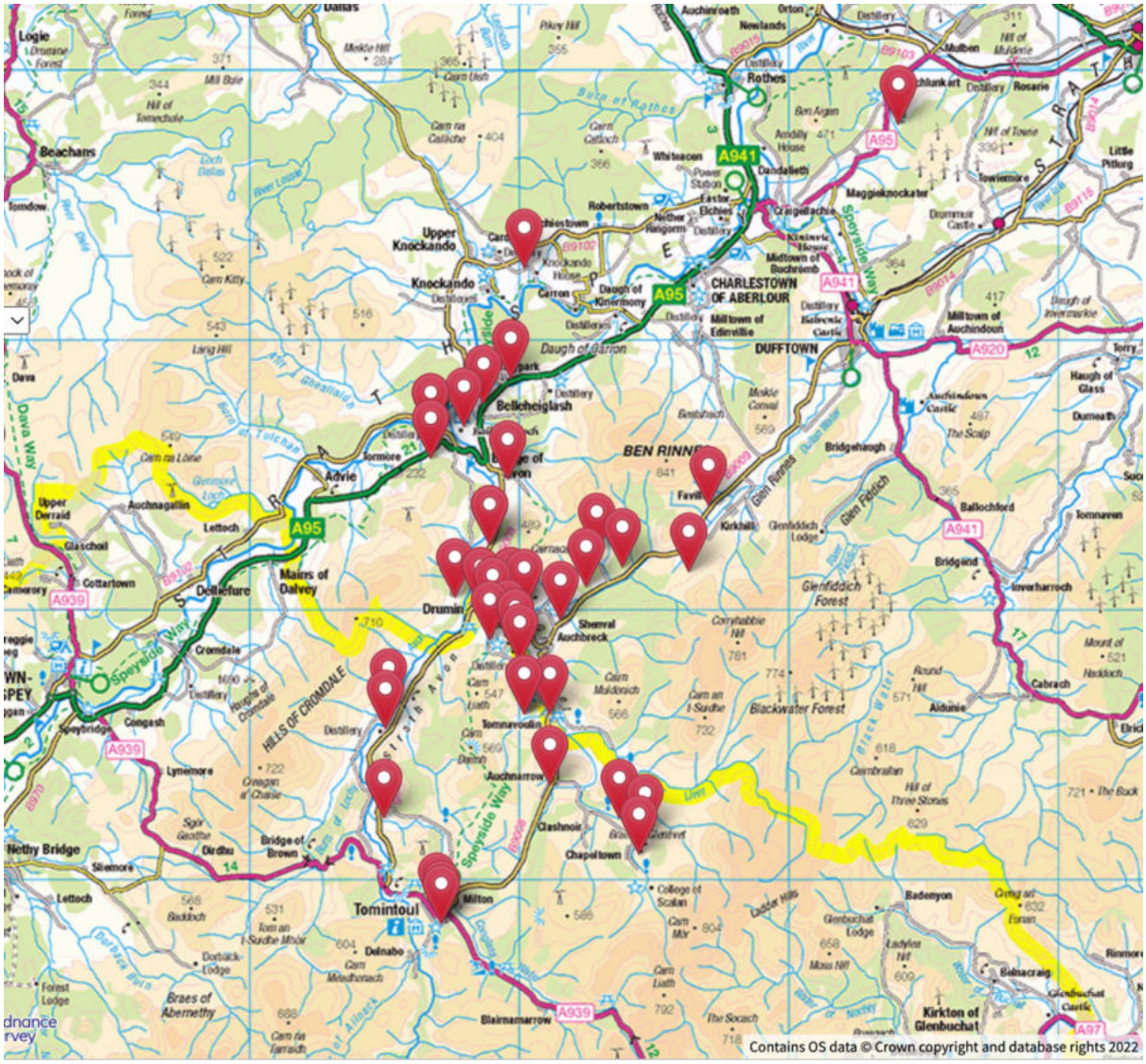
Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust

Summary of Glenlivet Hall Survey Findings

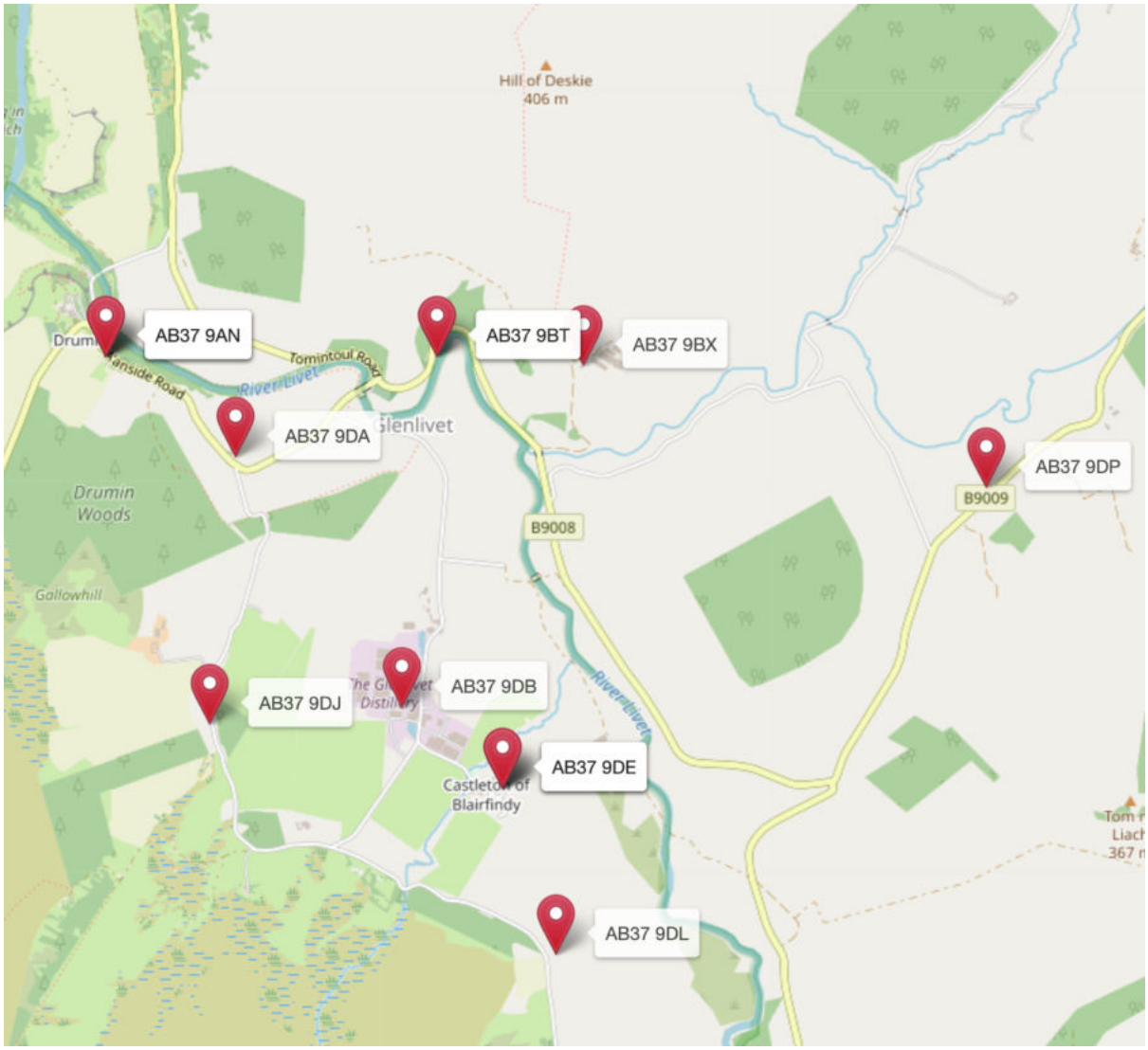
Survey respondents

A total of 66 people responded to the Glenlivet Hall survey between 29 August and 23 September 2022. The survey was available to complete online and via paper copy. Paper copies were available from and returned to either Ballindalloch Post Office & Shop or the refurbished community telephone kiosk outside Glenlivet Hall. Fifty-two surveys were completed online, and 14 paper copies returned.

Most respondents are from the Glenlivet and Inveravon area with 58 from the AB37 9 postcode sector, this includes 7 responses from Tomintoul and Kirkmichael postcodes.



Of those 58 responses from the Glenlivet & Inveravon area, 16 are from the postcode units AB37 9BX, AB37 9BT, AB37 9DA, AB37 9DE, AB37 9DB, AB37 9AN, AB37 9DL, AB37 9DP, and AB37 9DJ surrounding the hall site.

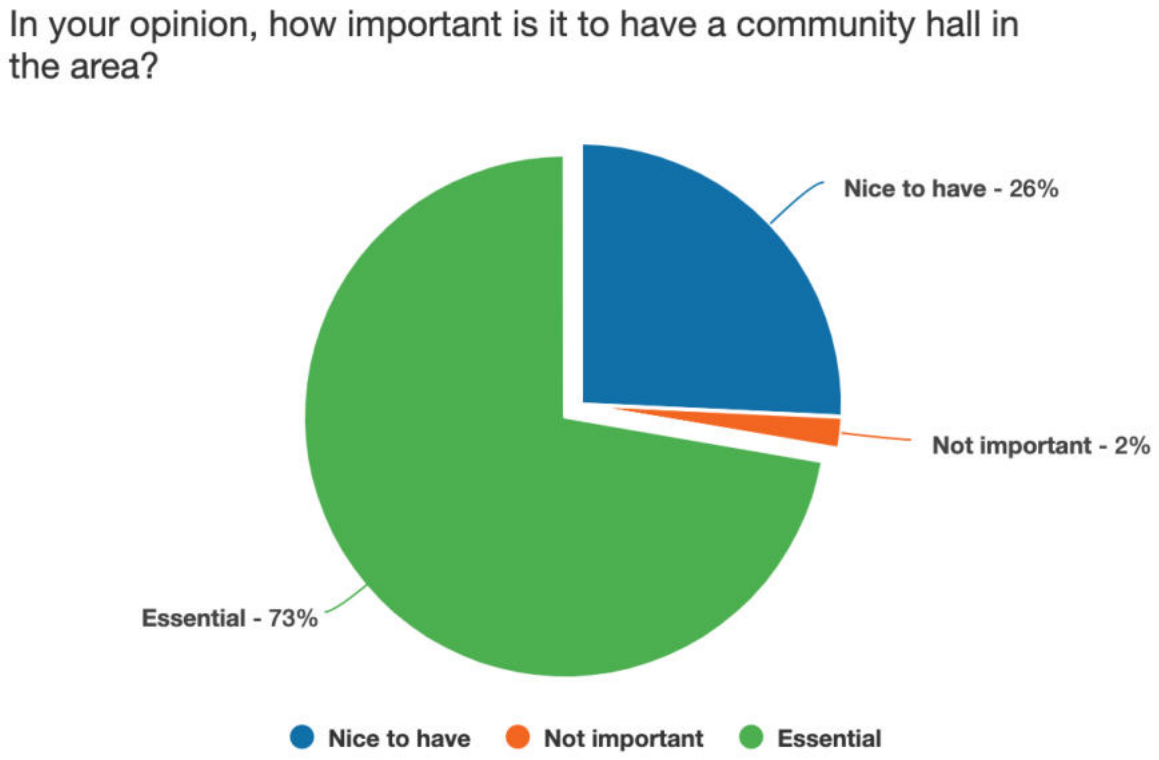


A further 7 responses came from respondents outside of the Glenlivet and Inveravon area – Glenrinnes (3), Craigellachie (1), Knockando (1), Elgin (1), and Newport (1).

Importance of the hall

Ninety-eight percent of respondents value having a community hall in the area and say it is either essential to them or nice to have.

Most respondents (73%) say that having a community hall is essential to them, and 26% of respondents say that it is nice to have. Only 1 person responded that it is not important to them.



Fourteen respondents commented on this question. Comments emphasize the importance of the hall as a 'central' community space and its role in fostering community connection and social cohesion.

- *"To foster and nurture a sense of community essential to the mental health of many."*
- *"The whole life of a rural or remote community should revolve around its village/community hall."*
- *"There needs to be a nexus at which people can gather to socialise as well for information to be disseminated and opinions understood."*
- *"The hall is an important community asset and a means to bring the community together, especially a rural neighbourhood as Glenlivet."*
- *"The hall is often the heart of the community and especially in a rural setting. Events, social and educational can be accommodated. People can meet and restore friendships or make new friendships."*
- *"If the character and feeling of community is to be retained, it is essential in this day and age to have a community hall to bring the population together otherwise with cars, supermarket shopping, TV and home deliveries people just don't connect in the same fashion anymore."*
- *"As our community is very rural and spread out it is essential for us to have a centre for all generations to use - morning, afternoon and evening. Winter as well as summer."*

Concerns were raised by 2 respondents around the impact that community apathy and potential disagreements could have on the ability for a hall project to move forward.

- *"there is a significant degree of apathy within the community where 'The first to complain and the last to support' rule often applies."*
- *"Everything has to be agreed by so many factions…it's ok to talk but what do the trustees think..are they willing to move things on apace…no good throwing money at a lame duck."*

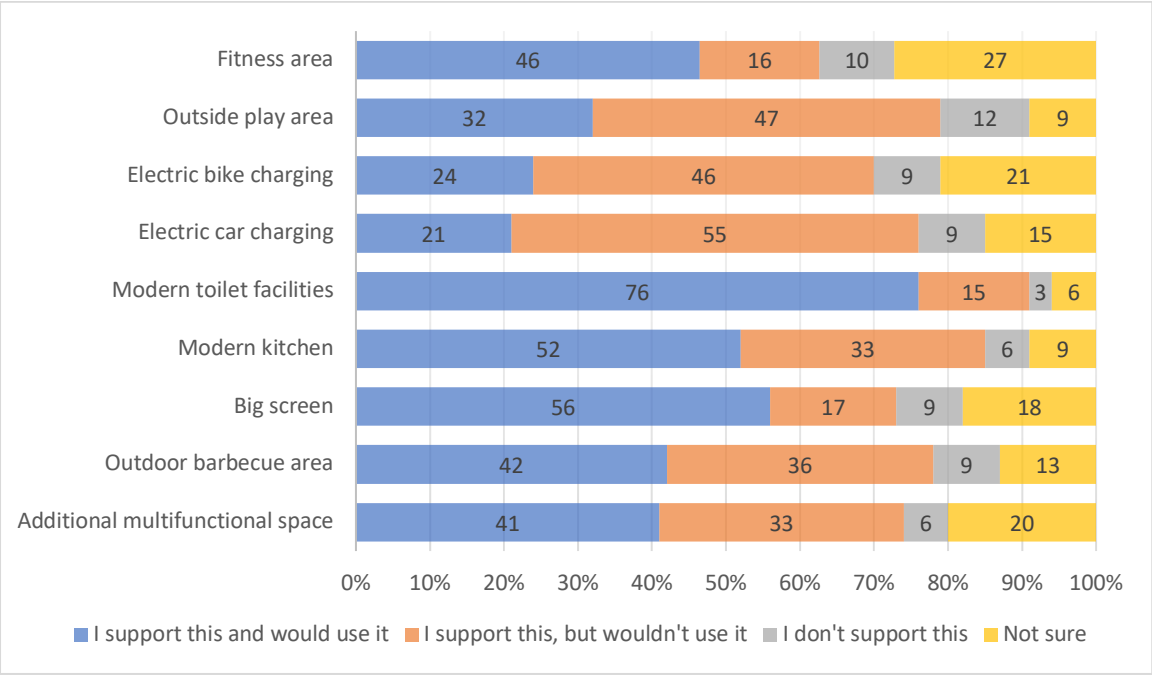
Facilities and uses of the hall

Respondents were given a list of facilities and were invited to select the activities they or their family support and/or would use.

There was a high level of support with over 2 respondents out of 3 (67%) expressing support for all the ideas listed. A fitness area received slightly lower levels of support (62%).

The 5 most popular ideas in the survey are modern toilet facilities, modern kitchen, outside play area, new outdoor barbecue area, and electric car charging. Over 75% of respondents support these facilities, although feedback is more mixed in terms of their using the facilities. Over 1 out of 2 respondents (50%) said they would use modern toilet and modern kitchen facilities themselves. This dropped to 42 % of respondents indicating they would use a barbecue area, 32% indicating they would use an outside play area and 21% indicating they would use a new electric car charging point. The latter 3 facilities would also cater to visitors, whose views are not reflected in this survey.

Please tell us how you would feel about these potential changes to the Hall:



Comments on facilities

Fifteen people commented on this question. Many of the comments expanded on the facilities listed above and underlined the importance of having multifunctional facilities which catered to a variety of needs for the hall's long-term sustainability.

- *"If we could use the hall to bring the disparate community together by getting multiple age groups to use the hall, to have isolated residents whether elderly, families with young children, carers supported or people new to the area."*

- *"Having multi-functional facilities will enable the hall to be more widely utilised and ultimately more sustainable in the long term."*

The needs of young people were highlighted as a key consideration:

- *"never has been anything in the Glenlivet area for children and young people - invest in the area's future generations with a playground and shelter canopy for play/picnics/lazy warm weather days. Give the local young people somewhere to socialise."*

- *"What do the young people need? …a stage, theatre, music, amp equipment for them to rehearse, free charging, using of internet for broadcasting their work, stories, music, dance. That's who need to be informing for future needs…not the ones who won't be here to use it."*

Additional facilities proposed but only mentioned once here include internet café with access to printing also selling essential items e.g., milk, eggs, butter etc; café providing a meeting place for a variety of individuals and groups; solar panels; tarmac front entrance to improve disabled access; more appropriate storage area; a gym; and reinstating the bar as a community pub.

- *"An upgrade to the facilities would be good but still stay within the character of the building"*

- *"We do not have an electric car, but if we did, it would be great to have more charging stations. Because the infrastructure for electric cars is not established in Scotland, we did not purchase one. More charging stations are needed everywhere."*

- *"Reinstating the bar as a community pub run as a business as it has proved it can be profitable."*

- *"Not keen on fixed equipment."*

Employing a member of staff was suggested by two respondents to alleviate some of the burden on volunteers of running the hall.

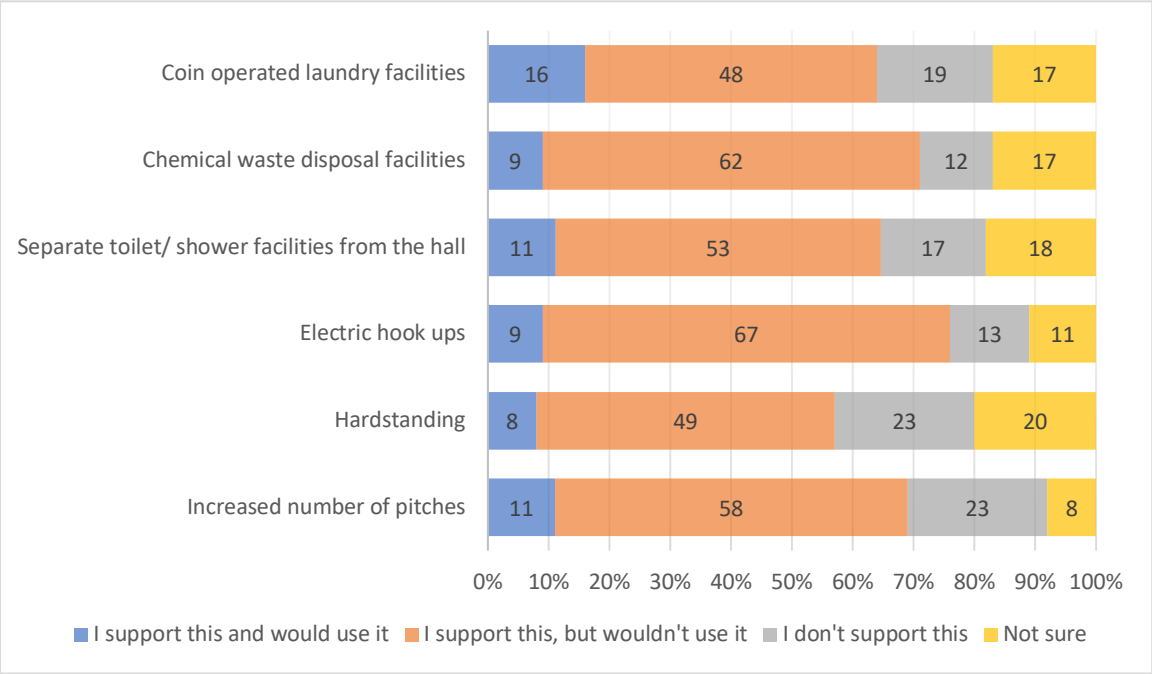
- *"It is also essential that a caretaker is appointed and is responsible for the cleanliness, maintenance, bookings of hall & camping site."*

- *"Consider wind farm money being used to fund two people, part time, based at Development Trust, who act as treasurer and as secretary, for ALL small organisations in the area for whom getting the turn out is a problem and who say this would help them."*

Caravan site

It is unsurprising, given caravan facilities cater largely to visitors, to find most respondents indicated they would support facilities, but wouldn't use them. Respondents did indicate in their comments that visiting friends and family would however use the site.

Please tell us how you would feel about these potential changes to the caravan site:



The top 3 potential changes to the caravan site, with support from over 2 out of 3 respondents (67%), were electric hook ups (76%), chemical waste disposal facilities (71%), and an increased number of pitches (69%). There was least support and more unsure responses for hardstanding (43%).

Comments on facilities

Thirteen respondents commented on this question, expressing the view that any increase in pitch size and/or other changes to the site should be commensurate with the location and meet an identified need.

- *"Too many pitches would spoil the environment and might be too noisy."*
- *"... a few extra pitches would be suitable but not a conversion to a major campsite, I maybe wrongly feel that camper vans bring very little financial gain to the local area as many tend to keep everything in the van, shop at major supermarkets rather than use local supplies, a decent charge for overnight parking with facilities would be required."*
- *"... I'd rather that we had formal designated spaces with facilities in the area to discourage wild camping."*
- *"The electric hook-ups are essential with modern caravans, which usually have their own showers and toilet aboard. Also, chemical waste facility encourages a longer stay. Where can they top up their water tanks? A Toilet block would need to be near to the caravans.*

They wouldn't want to trek over a wet field. Also, if there is a wedding happening those people wouldn't want campers using the hall toilets and shower. The two need to be apart."

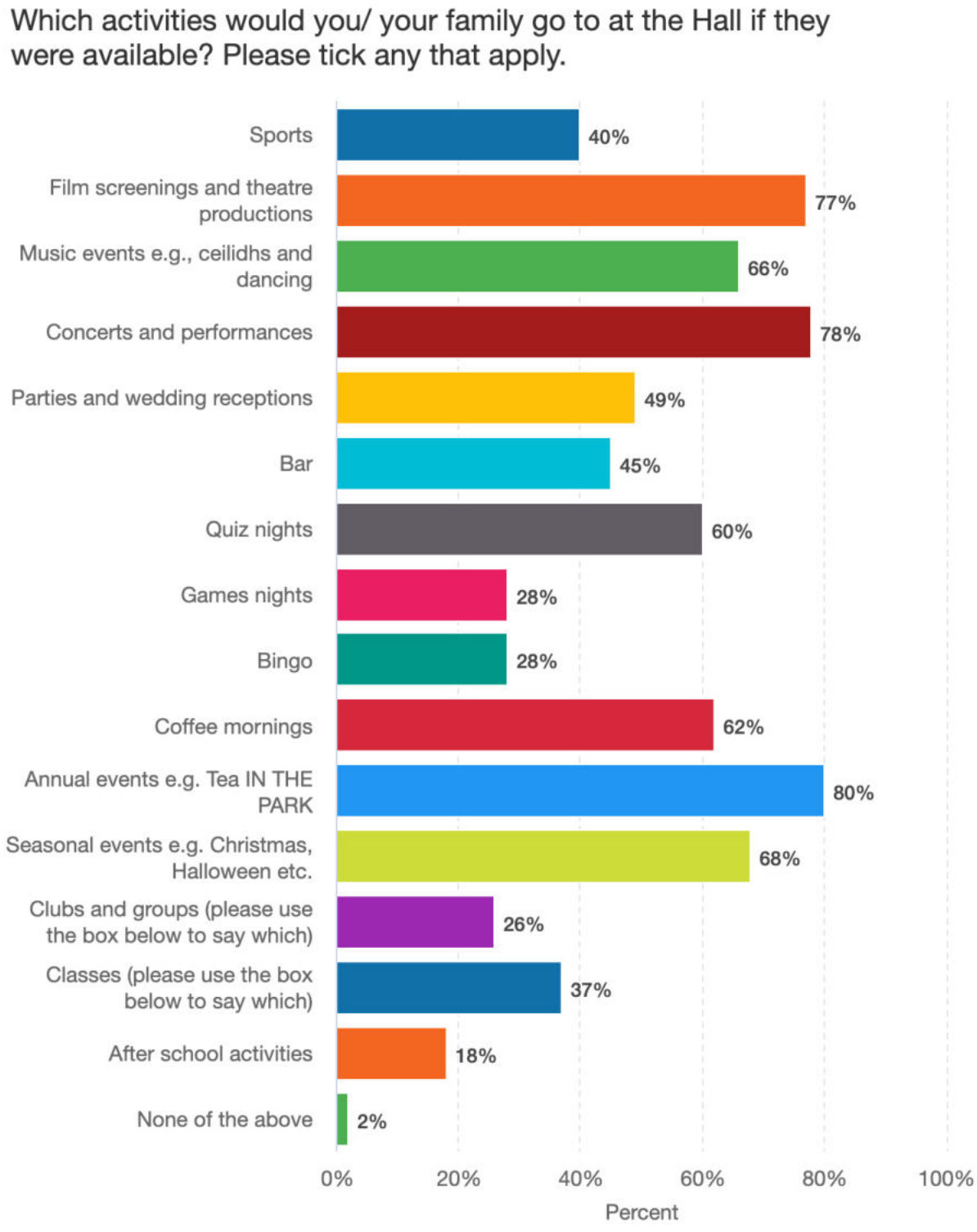
One respondent suggested the need for more '*innovative*' facilities:

- *"Will this be suitable for all year round? Will there be a cafe, place for evening meals and a meeting place for locals and campers alike? Solar and wind systems to charge appliances for free for locals and tourists? The given suggestions are all more of the same...we need innovation and will to move it all forward. Make it exciting not same old same old."*

Other facilities mentioned here once included: security cameras to deter vandals; a bar/cafe to attract visitors with entertainment at weekends; and WIFI. In addition, one respondent highlighted that email communication could be improved between the hall and prospective bookings.

Activities at the hall

Respondents were invited to select the activities they or their family would attend at the hall. They were able to select as many options as they wanted. Ninety-eight percent of respondents say they or their families would attend at least one activity at the hall. One respondent said they would not attend any activities listed and did not support any of the potential hall or caravan site changes in previous questions.



The 5 most popular activities are events involving large gatherings. Around 3 respondents out of 4 said they would attend annual events (80%), concerts and performances (79%), film screenings and theatre productions (77%); and around 2 out of 3 would attend seasonal events (68%), and music events e.g., ceilidhs and dancing (66%). A big screen, although not in the top 5 facilities selected by respondents in a previous question, also had high support (73%).

About 1 respondent out of 2 say they or their families would attend coffee mornings (62%), quiz nights (60%), and parties and wedding receptions (50%).

In addition, 37% of respondents or their families would attend classes at the hall. When asked to specify which classes they would attend the most frequent suggestion was for yoga (15 respondents). The need for indoor space for sports and fitness activities was underlined with further class suggestions of badminton (4), bowls (5), dance (5), exercise (3), Pilates (2), and tennis/ table tennis (2). Responses to this and the previous question on facilities would suggest that whilst indoor space for sports and fitness activities is desired a 'fixed' fitness area/ exercise space is not.

Three respondents asked for more diversity in relation to the type of music and dance activities on offer and that consideration be given to other genres in addition to the more traditional ceilidh or music night.

"Please expand to include other genres of music. The area has a large diversity of music tastes that do not include ceilidhs and (presumed) Scottish dancing - although Jimmy Shand is actually popular among modern young people. However, it's the same old that only specific members of the Glenlivet community attends…"

The need for an indoor meeting space for various activities, classes, and clubs was mentioned by 14 respondents. Suggestions included games such as chess, bridge and darts; education/ workshops/ training/ talks on a variety of topics including first aid, digital literacy, energy saving, rural policing; finances, careers, cookery, arts and craft, local history, and repair workshops.

- *"…Lots of crafter's at TITP might be willing to run a class. IT for older people to learn how to use a Smart Phone, or a laptop or Kindle. After school activities perhaps to include Gaming for youngsters."*
- *"Would be interesting to know if there are any people in the community who are interested to run clubs, people who are skilled in instructing people in games, sports, crafting."*
- *"Community members can be invited to share their experiences and knowledge for workshops."*

Specific clubs and user groups identified included Men's Shed, book club, youth club, 'lunch' club for the elderly, scouts, guides, Duke of Edinburgh and Young Farmers groups.

- *"For locals it is a place for meeting up. Look at the success of TITP. That is what locals need. A café that is open from 10 am to 4 pm. That could be utilised by charities. Quarriers need a local place for unpaid carers to meet up and chat. We need somewhere for people with dementia can go with their family, enabling them to socialize. A place for young mothers to chat whilst the toddlers play in a softball pit. Knitting//Crafting and Nattering Club for lonely people. The small room is far too small to do anything with and needs to be extended. This would then open a greater potential. The list is endless!"*

Factors stopping people from using the hall

Thirty-eight respondents commented on what stopped them from using the hall. Three people commented that nothing stopped them. However, the most common reason cited was due to the lack of activities and events on offer or those that were on offer having limited audience appeal (13).

- *"Lack of interesting events and old-fashioned attitudes. A committee that's stuck in the past with outdated views and not forward thinking."*
- *"There is nothing of interest nothing new and innovative…it just gets boring"*
- *"Because nothing changes. There is a tendency to produce and provide entertainment to/for specific age groups which captures little of the imagination for the rest of us."*

Additional factors commented on included: people being busy and/or a lack of activities in the evening or weekend (6); poor communication about what was on (5); user comfort/ cold (3); energy costs related to hall hire (3); poor facilities/ not user friendly (2); hall being closed (2); distance (4); and concerns related to Covid (1).

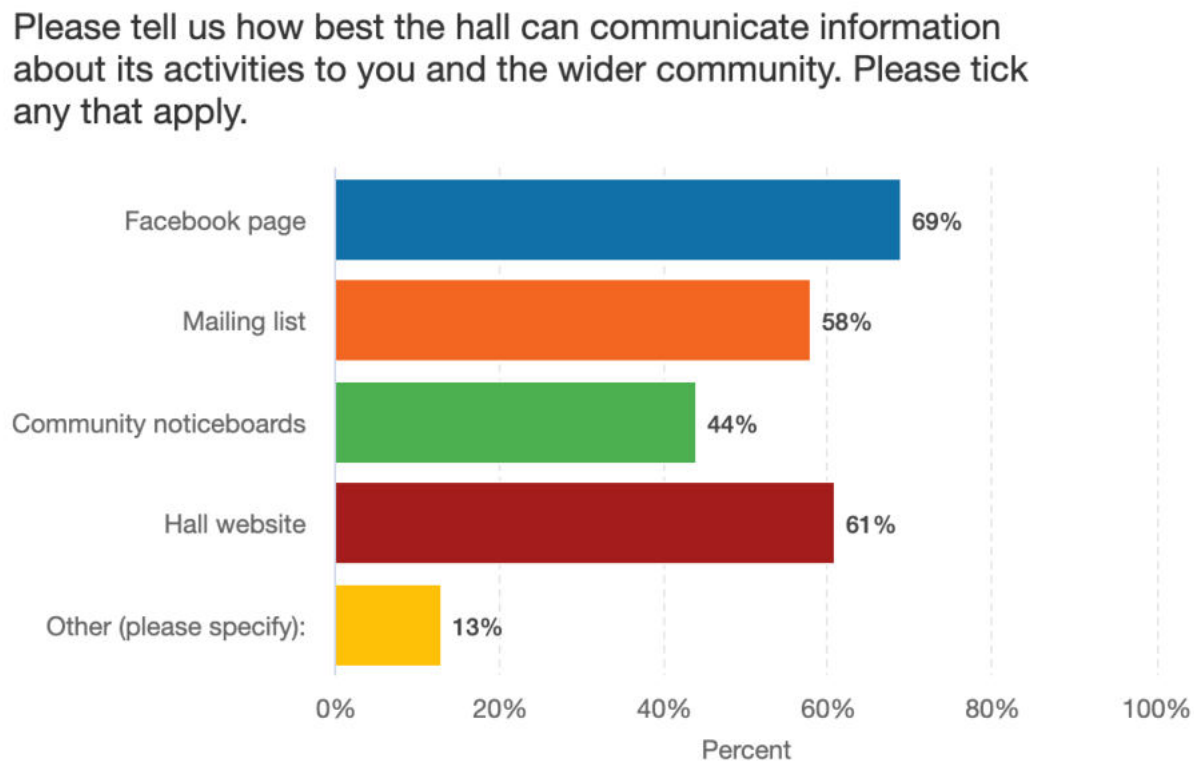
- *"Lack of info about what is going on, apart from T in Park, have no idea what is going on there, if anything."*
- *"I do use the hall but it is cold in winter and it is quite a distance - 15 mile round trip."*
- *"Price of electricity for hall hire."*
- *"Lack of activities and facilities. Limited communication and access on what is on offer at the hall. Mixed welcome."*
- *"The hall is in need for a refurbishment. Uncomfortable seating. A modern interior offering comfortable seating. Kitchen needs expanding. Stage needs lighting and repairing. It's people that make the place so an entertainment committee would be good, made up of all age groups. There are plenty of bands entertainers who could be booked. Blinds rather than curtains. The panelled walls could be professionally painted cream to lift the interior. The bar is small. It could do with cheering up and choice of drinks extended."*
- *"…the inside space needs to be more flexible, and more easily and quickly heated."*

Communicating with the wider community

Sixty-four respondents answered this question, 44 (69%) of whom selected a Facebook page as the best way in which the hall could communicate information with them. Followed in popularity by a Hall website selected by 39 respondents (61%) and mailing list selected by 37 respondents (58%). Although less popular, community noticeboards appear to be a popular method of communication for a significant minority of respondents (28).

Eight respondents selected 'other' specifying the following: THISTLEdown, libraries, post office, shops, email, Twitter, any internet, a noticeboard visible from the road which could be digital/ solar powered, and use of all routes.

A mix therefore of traditional (i.e., posters on noticeboards etc.,) and digital (i.e., social media, website, and email list etc.,) would be most effective and have the widest reach.



Other comments and suggestions made regarding communication include:

- *"The whole community needs to be reminded the hall is for everyone. Events for youngsters is a priority."*

Additional comments:

Some respondents gave their opinion on the development of the hall beyond the scope of the above question. These include:

- *"Fully support a play area for children at the hall. Swings, shutes etc".*

- *“Have two school children on the committee. Boy and girl. Also, two old age pensioners, male and female, for their ideas, but not associated with the clubs. Don't ask, invite them personally face to face.”*

- *“When the hall is refurbished more people will make use of and therefore word of mouth will inform of events etc. Glenlivet is a great place to live and the hall is at the centre.”*

- *“The sustainable and ongoing use of Glenlivet Hall is similar to others in the area eg Braes Hall and the Green Hall - not enough volunteers with enough time and energy to take care of these community facilities. The answer always seems to be to get more volunteers but in this sparely populated area people are already too busy with family or other commitments. Why not get a wind farm-funded small group of Hall- keepers who are shared across the Halls, with decent 3-year employment terms, co-funded by local businesses eg the Distilleries.”*

- *“Consider making this a pick-up point for deliveries, may lead to people staying a while. Monitor situation re energy costs this winter, if an issue consider opening up, in which case open up facilities for teas, volunteers making cakes (give donation), food bank (a bit like a mini low level low effort ‘tea in the park’ but for locals). Hopefully it won’t come to this.”*

- *“For events a shuttle bus could be considered.”*

- *“Any improvements need to ensure the hall can be net zero carbon in terms of its embodied and operational carbon. The existing hall requires a deep retrofit to assist with this.”*

- *“If you are going change…change…do not do more of the same old….change is great be modern and no peoples ideas of how they see their future needs being met.”*

- *“Do more with it. Throw opens the doors more often, do 'bring your own' days, car boot sales, book bands from different music genres, DJs, open mic nights, comedy nights, storytellers, support groups etc, etc.”*