

Consultation Response Report

VRG Community Meeting Room Community Consultation - October 2021

Report Prepared by Libi Newell, VRG Project Development Officer.

Summary

This report provides the results of the Community Consultation carried out within the Carron Valley and District Community Council Area (CV&DCC) in September – October 2021 to understand community opinion on a proposed Community Meeting Room at the Community Woodland Site. The Consultation was carried out by Valley Renewables Group (VRG) the development trust for the region by their Project Development Officer. All materials for the consultation including a Draft Business Plan for the proposed Community Meeting Room can be found within the projects pages of valleyrenewables.co.uk

Overview of Results

81% (69 count) of respondents were in favour of progressing with the proposed Community Meeting Room, 19% (16 count) of respondents were not in favour of progressing with the proposed Community Meeting Room. Approximately 31% (85 count) of eligible Carron Valley and District Community residents responded to the consultation, this is considered a good level of response for community consultations and considered a valid representation.

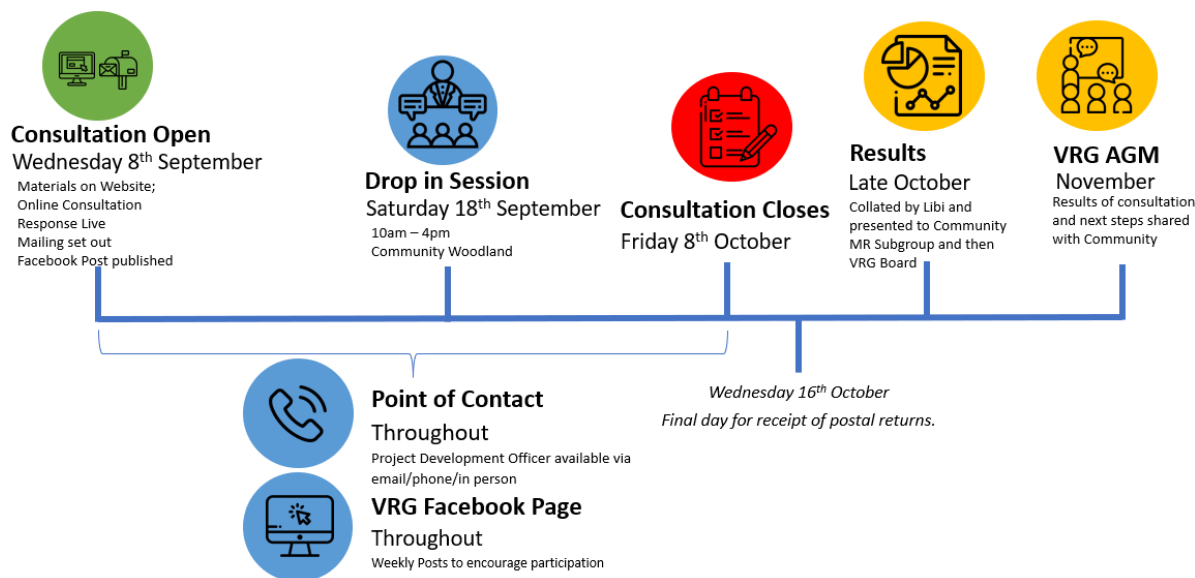
Consultation Methodology

The consultation was carried out between 8th September and 8th October and was open to all residents aged 16 and over within the Carron Valley and District Community Council area. It was designed and managed by an impartial party, Libi Newell, Valley Renewable Group's (VRG) Project Development Officer, who lives outwith the region.

Residents of the Community Mailing list were posted consultation materials including two consultation responses per household and a stamped address envelope for their return. Acknowledging that not all eligible households are on the Community Mailing List information was also posted on social media and individuals, particularly VRG Directors actively encouraged their neighbours to respond to the consultation or to get in touch to request response forms if they had not received any. Each response form contained a Unique Serial Number to ensure there were no duplicates in responses, these numbers were allocated at random and not recorded, anonymity of the responses was preserved throughout the consultation. 272 response forms were initially sent out to 151 addresses on the mailing list. A further 11 forms and Unique Serial Numbers were requested by residents who were not on the mailing list.

Residents could return their response either through post or online via a Google Forms link, both methods required the unique serial number, which could only be used once. Eight residents chose to submit their response online. While the official final date for responses was published as 8th October, with an expected postal cut off date of 13th October, responses received via post were accepted until 19th October to ensure all those that wished to respond had the opportunity to.

The following diagram illustrates the consultation timeline:



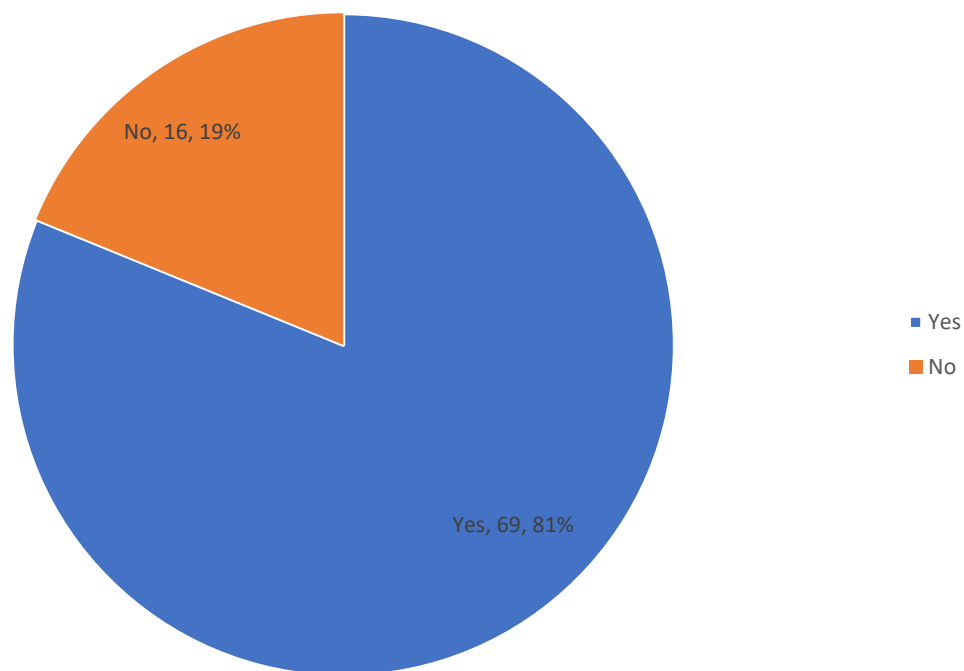
The following activities and materials were developed and actioned for the consultation:

Newsletter Article	Website Project Page
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of project and notification of upcoming consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary with Outline of Consultation Process Consultation Summary Questions & Answers Draft Business Plan in full with appendixes
Mailing to all Households	Drop In Session
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover Letter Consultation Document Questions & Answers Survey (two copies, information on online survey or receiving more) SAE for return of survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am – 4pm Saturday 18th September At Community Woodland PDO and members of the Community Base Sub-Group Area will be marked out and printed plans available
Point of Contact	Social Media
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projectofficer@valleyrenewbles.co.uk 07584373127 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Facebook Posts linking to information encouraging participation in the consultation process

Consultation Responses by Question

Please note all figures are rounded to the nearest percentage point throughout

1. Should our community proceed with a Community Meeting Room at the Community Woodland site?



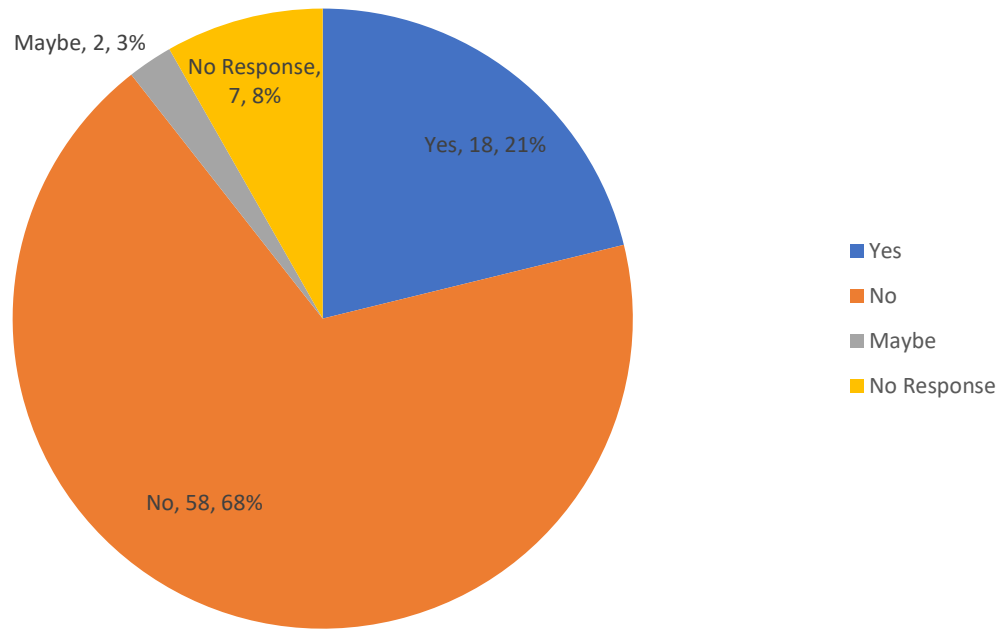
2. Please provide any comments you wish to make on the Community Meeting Room project (open ended).

51% (43 count) of respondents provided an answer to this question. 34 (79%) of these answers were in favour of the proposal. 9 (21%) raised specific concerns on the proposal. The comments provided can be found in full in Appendix A. For reporting purposes, they have been categorised below. Please note some comments raised more than one point and so are represented in more than one category.

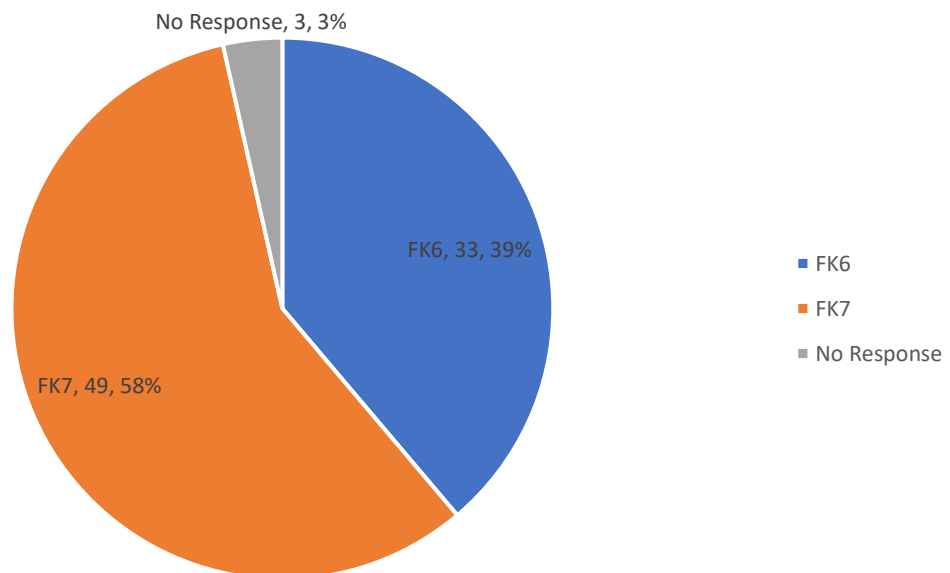
Type of Comment	Category of comment	Number of Comments Mentioned in
In favour of proposal	Advice on design/detail or offer of support	15
	Positive regarding value of meeting place for neighbours/social groups/families & children	9
	General Positive Comment	7
	Good use of community money	3
	Improvement on previous plan	2
Concerns Raised	Concern on cost/spend of money	4
	Concern over value to whole community given distances	4
	Concern over Vandalism	3
	Concern over draft Business Plan	1

3. If the project progresses, would you be interested in being part of the management group taking the project forward and / or would you have any skills you would be willing to use to support the project?

A 'Maybe' response has reported here following specific information provided on responses

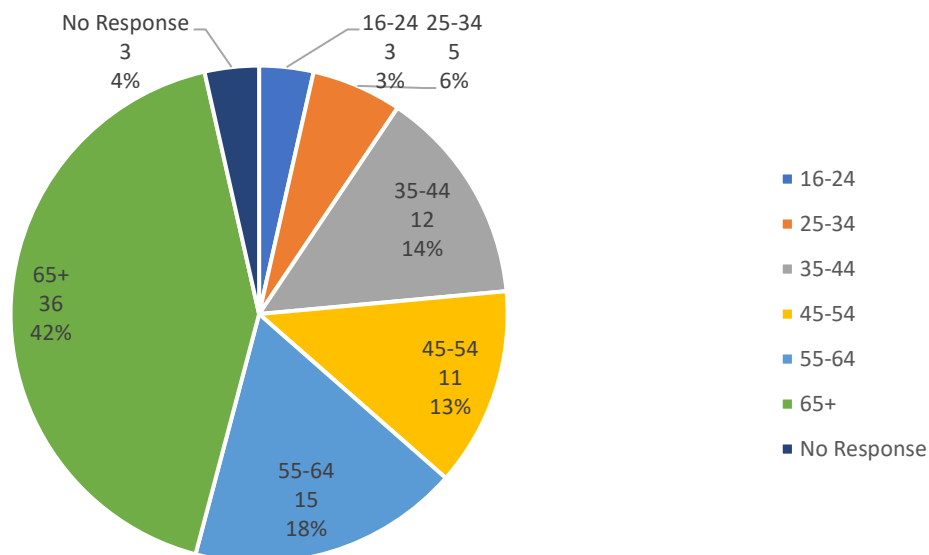


4. Which area of the region do you live in?



Question 1 Response by Respondent Location			
	Overall (85 count)	FK6 (33 count)	FK7 (49 count)
Yes	81%	79%	88%
No	19%	21%	12%

5. Which of the following age groups do you fall into?



Question 1 Response by Respondent Age							
	Overall (85 count)	16-24 (3 count)	25-34 (5 count)	34-44 (12 count)	45-54 (11 count)	55-64 (15 count)	65+ (36 count)
Yes	81%	67%	60%	83%	73%	87%	92%
No	19%	33%	40%	17%	27%	13%	8%

Analysis of Responses

The consultation has returned a clear significant response in favour of the proposed Community Meeting Room project progressing. 81% of respondents want it to progress with proposal, 19% do not want to.

Volume of Respondents

Research has shown that for social issues a response rate of approximately 20% can be expected from community consultations, with 5%-30% the common return rate¹. Some local government organisations are known to target a 25% response rate from their residents and anecdotal advice sought from a professional statistician has confirmed above a 25/30% rate to be considered a good return within community consultation exercises. Face to Face surveys provided higher response rates, however due to anonymity this was not possible for this consultation.

272 individuals over the age of 16 were reported living within the Carron Valley and District region in the [2011 Census](#). It is noted that this information is not up to date, however due to a lack of other reliable

¹ https://khub.net/web/planningadvisoryservicepas/forum/-/message_boards/message/6225978;
<https://www.customerthermometer.com/customer-surveys/average-survey-response-rate/>

source on current population figures the 2011 census is used for the purposes of this report. **The response of 85 individuals from an eligible population of 272 equates to 31% of the population responding to the consultation.**

283 response forms were sent (via email and post) to residents of the region. There was a return rate of 30%. This return rate has not been used as the core response rate for this consultation as, as mentioned in Consultation Methodology, two response forms were automatically sent to all households, many of which will have only required one. Therefore, the number of consultation forms sent out is not considered a clear indicator of the number of eligible respondents. Further it is the view the eligible population that this consultation aims to understand (rather than number of forms sent) and so it is the proportion of all the eligible population that the response rate is reported on. That said, the very close proximity between the rate of forms returned (30%) and the response rate from the eligible population based on the 2011 census (31%) does support the validity of the reported response rate.

Expectations from interested parties of an exceptionally high (above 50%) response rate were perceived during the planning process of this consultation. However, it is not felt that a higher rate than that which was achieved was likely whilst retaining anonymity, the efforts of all concerned were considerable in securing the significant 31% of the community response rate achieved. With consideration to best practice within community surveys the 31% response from the community provides a robust consultation with viable results.

Location and Age of Respondents

Across both two postcode areas of the region (FK7 which is closer to Stirling and FK6, which is closer to Denny, and encompasses the proposed site), respondents were shown to be clearly in favour of the proposal, with a slight increase in the proportion of those in favour in the FK7 region. The 58% FK7 and 39% FK6 split in respondents across the region (with 3% abstaining from answering) is believed to represent a fair spread of the population of the region and does not raise any concerns in the analysis of the results of the consultation.

Likewise, all age groups were shown to be in favour of the proposal. No statistically significant trend was noted regarding age and Question 1 response. Although the proportion of those in favour of the proposal increased with age, the number of responses of some age groups limit the analysis of this. While weighted heavily toward the 65+ category (42%) the age range of respondents is believed to be as expected for the demographic of the location and general trends within age of likely respondents for community consultations. The spread of age range does not raise any concerns in the analysis of the results. Although future consultation exercises in the region should seek to further engage the younger (under 34) population. Overall, the responses are considered to be a fair representation of the community.

Additional Comments (question 2 answers)

The high proportion of additional comments (51 % of respondents) is an indication of the interest the project raises within the community. 40% (34 count) of respondents left a positive comment including noting the value of a place for neighbours, families and children to meet, and advice and input including specific recommendations for catering facilities. 11% (9 count) of respondents noted specific concerns with the proposed project which included the value of the project for those at the further side of the region, and the use and volume of money for the project. All comments can be found should be read in full by those involved with taking the project forward and it is recommended that specific ideas, requests, and concerns are discussed and answered by the subgroup as the project progresses.

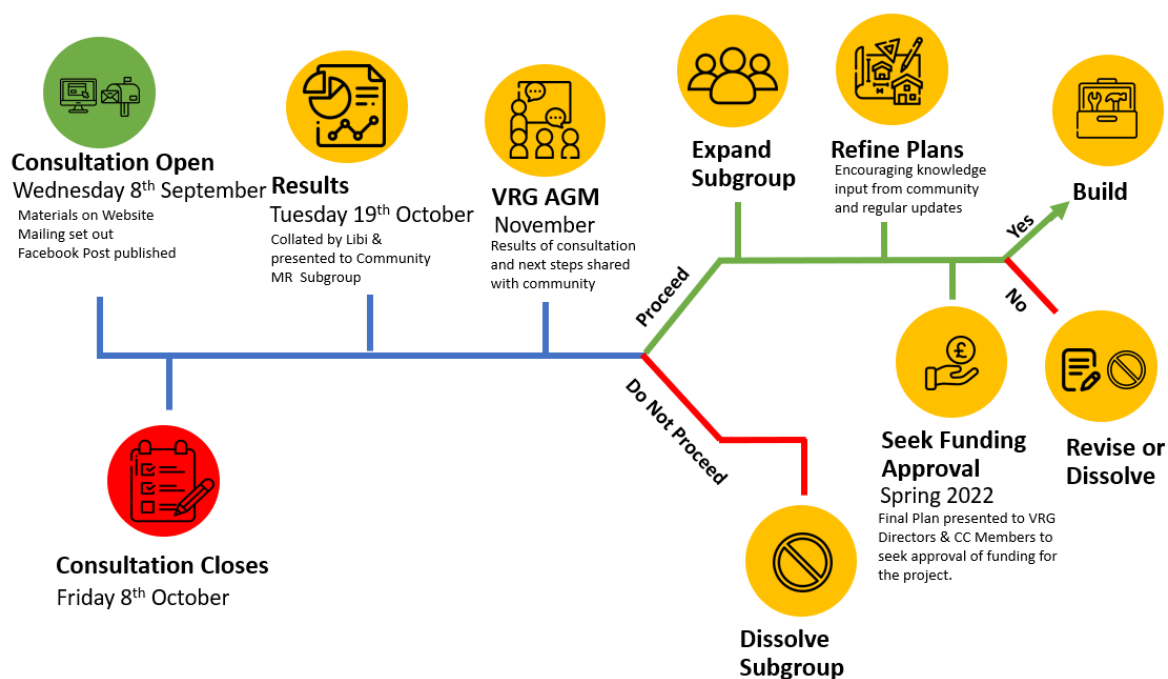
Conclusion

Approximately 31% (85 count) of eligible Carron Valley and District Community residents responded to the consultation. 81% (69 count) of respondents were in favour of progressing with the proposed Community Meeting Room, 19% (16 count) of respondents were not in favour of progressing with the proposed Community Meeting Room. The methodology of the consultation and its results are considered to provide a valid representation of the community's opinion.

Recommendations for Next Steps

It is recommended that this consultation be approved by VRG and CV&DCC as robust, and its results valid. It is hoped any disappointment due to previous expectations of response rate has been reassured with the information shared above and that with this consideration the response rate received is acknowledged as providing a valuable and credible consultation result.

With a significant majority of respondents (81%) in favour of the plans progressing it is recommended that VRG and the CV&DCC proceed with the proposed plans, following the steps outlined within the consultation briefing, detailed in the diagram below:



It is recommended that those involved in furthering the project review all responses to Question 2 below and that specific ideas, requests, and concerns are discussed and answered by the subgroup as the project processes.

Lastly it is recommended that the expanded Community Meeting Room Subgroup and VRG develop, agree and follow a clear milestones in reporting and community input while refining plans ahead of seeking funding approval.

Appendix A: Consultation Responses Questions 1 and 2 in Full

Answers to Questions 3,4 and 5 have been kept out of this appendix to preserve anonymity.

1. Should our community proceed with a

2. Please provide any comments you wish to make on the Community Meeting Room project

Community Meeting Room at the Community Woodland site?	
Yes	have visited the site and approve of the design and requirement for this project
Yes	
Yes	I think the community should opt for the fully bought in/converted option. It may cost more BUT will be up and running withing a much shorter period of time
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	We have nothing up here to go see our neighbours
Yes	Somewhere nice to and meet my neighbours
Yes	I feel that I am unlikely to use this facility, however it appears to be a nice idea to me, particularly for families and children living closer to the site
Yes	A FANTASTIC resource for the community
Yes	A community meeting room would an invaluable resource for everyone within the community: a focal point for young and old alike.
Yes	Wifi is an essential for the meeting room. Installation and running costs should be added to the business plan. There should be an exit plan and funding if the room becomes and burden rather than a benefit to the community
No	I wish to acknowledge the huge amount of time and effort (not to mention cost) that has already gone into this project, but I really question the viability of such a meeting room. What usage will there REALLY be for it? We are a widespread, far flung community, and a large proportion of it will see no purpose in travelling to the meeting room.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	An excellent idea. Go for it! If it proves too small, it will prove the need for something bigger. If it isn't use it can be sold. If it's just right, we keep it. I don't see any downside here!
Yes	An excellent idea, especially leveraging restricted funds which we otherwise struggle to spend.
Yes	
Yes	

Yes	
No	
No	
Yes	I think the community needs something like this and the smaller size is more suitable
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	I.T. Access. Adequate space for social distancing
Yes	This is a much more feasible and manageable option than the previous large/expensive project.
Yes	A tangible lasting legacy - good way of spending windfarm money
No	A huge amount of money
No	1. It appears to cost an awful lot of money. 2. As someone with experience of in community clubs - I don't think the building would be large enough.
No	This is a delinquent waste of community money - we are not all close enough to extract the proposed benefits. Expand the Grant Scheme!!
No	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Carron Valley area lacks a base to hold meetings, activities and social groups this opportunity would be a great asset
Yes	
Yes	Good idea to start small with potential for development if wanted in future. Will allow more use of the woodland site.
Yes	I think it may prove an enlightened move well into the future as perhaps younger people move in. Though I quite understand that some move in precisely not to be disturbed! It will need to be as versatile as possible and a proper working kitchen is essential
Yes	There are some compelling reasons to develop a community meeting room. There are restricted funds accumulating which should be spent for the benefit of the community and the various activities a meeting room would enable, from parent and toddler classes to lunch clubs for the elderly. If it is to be done, it would be a false economy to do half a job. It must include a full catering kitchen meeting H&S standards. This would mean to meeting room could be accessed by more groups for more varied activities. A bench with a plug for a kettle and microwave would not be acceptable for group for young children and not suitable for a lunch club for the elderly or disabled. A full stainless steel kitchen, with secure storage for equipment, a hand washing sink and two catering sinks (washing up and prep) are essential. There are many businesses sadly going out of business, so some equipment

	might be bought second-hand, as long as it is safety checked!. So yes, to project, with proper fore thought to maximising flexibility.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
No	Target for Vandalism
Yes	There should be a clear business case and operational plan for the management of the building. The funding arrangements should be clear at the outset. The draft plans look comprehensive however it would be good to see who wants to use the building
Yes	Open plan kitchen facilities for breadmaking, preserving, cocktail making, curry making classes. Lots of potential to use the space for courses too in order to create sustainable change and invigorate projects.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	It would be good if it would be a fibre broadband hub
Yes	
Yes	Seems like a great idea so long as those against don't try to undermine its viability
No	Who monitor and actions abuse of the site? Lack of disabled access and facilities. Spends community money on vanity project. Where is the demand for a facility. Proposal reads like it's a 'nice to have' rather than a defined need.
Yes	Excellent idea, likely to be well used by community. Some Thoughts: 1. Access should be easy or people wont use it - simple booking (e.g. online), keypad access, no need to obtain key from offsite. 2. Would like to see expanded kitchen facilities for group food prep, cooking classes etc. more likely to be used if catering facilities good - proper bean to cup coffee (no instant!). 3. I consider solar panels essential for environmental sustainability and reducing running costs. 5. Security needs careful consideration to avoid vandalism. 5. Either build option is fine but people are busy so full build might be best
Yes	Great idea - thank you
No	Last survey, overwhelming majority of community did not care enough to return survey. Small minority in favour, even smaller minority against. Number in business plan do not add up. Numbers in narrative not consistent with table. Age category below misses out 35-44 age range
No	

No	
No	
Yes	If there is to be a kitchen, I have my NVQ level 1&2 in catering so I can help in the running of this and I can also assist in the sourcing of kitchen appliances and work benches via Facebook, ebay and other. So it would be cost effective.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Hope it is accessible
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	Would be useful to have catering facilities
Yes	Useful to have facility to bring community together
No	Personally I feel it would be an invitation for uninvited people for vandalism, hanging out setting fire to, there fore I think the money would be utilised better with grants for the whole community
No	
Yes	Nearly 40 years ago when we first moved into the valley we were involved in the running of the old school hall. As we are now a wee bit older we don't want to commit ourselves at this moment but that could change
No	It is my understanding that wind farm money is for the benefit of the whole community. I cannot see how building a community meeting room at the extreme end of the community will serve us all. In addition we are trying to encourage people to consider their impact on the environment and driving 10 miles to a meeting room doesn't sit within that principle. Finally I see no evidence in your business plan of any comparator, somewhere where a similar project has worked. Communities will naturally come together for common purposes and I would much rather see money spent on projects that encourage this type of local interaction. For fairness across the community will you build a meeting room in the other parts of the council area
Yes	Great for our community to have this facility
Yes	This will be of benefit to our community and give us a place to meet and discuss matter concerning our locality
Yes	Only supported if sustainable both functionally and financially in long term
Yes	Support in principle if recommended by VRG directors. Unlikely to use the centre myself
Yes	I feel this would be beneficial as long as a variety of activities are held in the meeting room to ensure lots of people are able to use it. Would also be good to allow the community to hire it to host their own events

Yes	
Yes	