

Church Hall Open Evening on 23rd April 2018

**Report by Jane Bennett-Powell churchwarden
7.6.2018**

27 feedback forms were handed in at the end of the meeting. This was a good proportion of the number of visitors who attended. The answers offer ideas and preferences which can be considered when the PCC considers a range of companies to contact for more information and quotations.

Most were extremely positive; two expressly commended the consultation opportunity.

Some characteristics proved particularly popular, namely: a pitched roof, a traditional exterior constructed with a mixture of (natural) materials. A modern, flexible interior with light-filled rooms was favoured, lit by generous windows. A welcoming front façade and good outside space were advocated.

A few respondents specified a preference for eco-friendly materials and construction and others a modular build for speed of completion; several wanted costs to be modest, and some highlighted improved storage as a requirement. Several feedback forms called for designer- or architect-led projects. Buggy access, disability-friendly facilities and a child-centred building were mentioned several times.

Among the dislikes, a number of people cited wooden exterior/cladding, several said upstairs living accommodation, others 'lots of glass'.

Of the six companies whose designs were offered as examples which we might investigate further, Darwin Group and Huf Haus received 14 'votes' each, Scotts of Thrapston 13, TGE Escapes and Netzero 6 each, and McAvoy, one. (It should be noted that respondents could choose three they liked.) These companies were simply diverse examples and are not necessarily exhaustive.

The spreadsheet follows. From the forms, I made separate categories or characteristics, into which I then divided the comments, to which I hope to have done justice.