



Clara Vale Village Hall Association

Strategic Plan 2021

Hello to all residents of **Clara Vale** and **Stannerford Road** and welcome if you have recently moved here.

The Village Hall Committee has been busy preparing a draft strategic plan for the next 5 years to help us prioritise our work.

We are a voluntary organization reliant on income from bookings, letting our offices, fundraising activities, donations and money for capital projects raised through grant applications. Obviously, this brings some limitations but does not stop us aspiring to big improvements in our Hall and the way we do things.

Now we would really like your views, suggestions, and amendments.

We have kept the plan as succinct as possible and would really like your feedback, so if you have any questions or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact us

by email on bookings@claravale.org.uk or

drop a note through my letter box (8 East View), or

Rachel Kirkman's, Hall Manager, (17 Maryside Place), or

Val Murray's, (Norbreck on Stannerford Road)

by 2nd February if possible.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Gill Hale

Chair Clara Vale Village Hall Association

Funding and managing the Clara Vale Village Hall

Objective 1: improving the Hall's income stream; seeking out grant funding for capital projects; and managing use of the building.

- ✓ Continue to exercise rigorous scrutiny of the hall's finances, regularly monitoring all income and expenditure.
- ✓ Create and cost maintenance plan for inclusion in annual budget.
- ✓ Review marketing methods and platforms to ensure efficient use of the Village Hall and maximise income.
- ✓ Encourage villagers to sign up to the Hall's monthly standing order /individual Giving scheme.
- ✓ Encourage regular/new fundraising events and activities.
- ✓ Research funding opportunities in line with our objectives and make appropriate grant applications.
- ✓ Support our staff to manage the buildings security, fire and booking systems.
- ✓ Ensure appropriate policies are in place to cover Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Covid, equality etc.

Climate change & sustainability in Clara Vale

Objective 2: to reduce the carbon footprint of the village, aspire to a zero-carbon rated Village Hall; and promote a reduce, reuse, repurpose & recycle culture

- ✓ Explore solar and other renewable energy schemes.
- ✓ Insulating the Hall building.
- ✓ Repairing the Hall window frames either replacing glass with 'heritage' glass or similar or explore double glazing to improve insulation.
- ✓ Replace the gas fired Hall boilers and adapt heating system to use a more environmentally sustainable fuel source (eg mine water use).
- ✓ Act as a hub for a village wide heating scheme that could include the Hall.
- ✓ Facilitating villagers to take carbon reducing steps such as insulation, using solar power, heat pumps etc.
- ✓ Expanding the number of EV chargers to include 2 rapid chargers with appropriate card swipe charging software.
- ✓ Investigate EV car share schemes.
- ✓ Encouraging other low carbon forms of transport eg cycling, walking.
- ✓ Investigate the use of photo voltaic or solar panels on parts of the Village Hall roof.
- ✓ Consider affiliating to Transition Network and joining Transition West Gateshead.
- ✓ Investigate rewilding the VH grounds; purchasing poly tunnels for residents use & setting up a seed bank.

Culture and learning

Objective 3: to encourage and facilitate the growth of cultural events and individual learning within the village

- ✓ Set up a subgroup for musicians and/or visual artists within the village.
- ✓ Set up a subgroup/arrange some time/space in the Hall for the use of young people.
- ✓ Compile a seed bank in the Hall building.
- ✓ Re-establish the village Hall lending library (there is a request to shelve a corner of the kitchen for this purpose).
- ✓ Form a subgroup for senior people in the village to encourage and facilitate independent living.
- ✓ Set up a facility/register of seldom used tools (A Library of Things) to borrow for example hedge trimmers, wallpapers strippers etc.
- ✓ Organize 'Fix it' workshops & other workshops on different topics also pull together an informal skill register to facilitate.
- ✓ Facilitate online discussion workshops/meetings via Teams or Zoom whilst physical meetings are prohibited due to Covid.

Using the Village Hall Building and grounds

Objective 4: to make the Hall and grounds accessible and encourage a wide range of activity for the benefit of all users

- ✓ Making use of our new kitchen: introduce a pop-up pub (Friday/Saturday nights); in addition to the regular lunch & breakfast events introduce a pop-up internet café on a regular basis for villagers, walkers, and cyclists.
- ✓ Introduce either a pop up or permanent shop in the Hall following on from the success of the mini markets.
- ✓ Hot desking: reintroduce this resource (when the covid situation permits).
- ✓ Ensure previous commitment to installing a hearing loop is completed.
- ✓ Pull together a maintenance plan for the Hall building and Business Centre.
- ✓ Install acoustic panels in the main Hall and meeting room.
- ✓ Install appropriate blinds in Hall windows.
- ✓ When the Hall can reopen encourage our exercise, choir, Clara Talks and other classes to resume.
- ✓ Explore rewilding part of the Village Hall grounds.
- ✓ Purchase poly tunnel(s) for residents to rent growing space in.
- ✓ Ensure there is outside space for the marquee when required.
- ✓ Develop picnic area.
- ✓ Support toddler/parents in the village to improve outside space in the park /outside play areas.