

COLINSBURGH TOWN HALL REGENERATION

Community Survey – Full Analysis

Evidence of Community Support for RCGF Stage 2

Survey: 25 August–30 September 2026 | Final responses: 120 | Households approached: 340

1. Executive summary

Colinsburgh Community Trust undertook a community survey to establish the level of support for the proposed renovation and regeneration of Colinsburgh Town Hall, understand current use and barriers to use, identify priorities for investment, and establish demand for future activities.

The survey was distributed to 340 households across Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar and was also promoted to people who use the Town Hall but live outside the two villages. This reflects the Hall's actual catchment, which extends beyond the immediate residential community through activities including the community cinema, Food Hub/Café, events, clubs and other activities.

The final survey received 120 responses, a response rate of 35.3% of the 340 households directly approached. The results provide very strong evidence of community and user support for renovation.

- 119 of 120 respondents (99.2%) support or strongly support renovation; 98 (81.7%) strongly support it.
- No respondent opposed or strongly opposed the renovation.
- 119 of 120 respondents (99.2%) consider it very or extremely important that the Hall remains available for community use; 102 (85.0%) consider this extremely important.
- 82 of 120 respondents (68.3%) say they would use the Hall more or much more often if it were renovated, warmer, more attractive and more energy efficient.
- 29 respondents gave a home location outside Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar, demonstrating engagement from the Hall's wider catchment.
- The main barriers identified are cold in winter and lack of parking (49 each), followed by the tired appearance of the building (40), cost of heating (31) and decoration (30).

2. Purpose and methodology

The consultation was designed as a voluntary community survey rather than a statistically controlled opinion poll. It asked about current use, satisfaction, barriers, improvement priorities, desired activities, the importance of retaining the Hall for community use, overall support for renovation and likely changes in use following renovation.

The survey closed on 30 September 2026. The analysis in this report is based on the final export containing 120 completed responses. Multiple-choice questions allowing more than one selection are reported as counts of respondents selecting each option; therefore percentages for those questions do not sum to 100%.

3. Scale and reach

Measure	Result
Households directly approached	340
Completed responses	120
Response rate	35.3%
Location given as Colinsburgh/Kilconquhar	91
Location given outside Colinsburgh/Kilconquhar	29
Identified as resident	95

The 29 respondents giving locations outside Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar should not be treated as irrelevant or non-representative responses. The Trust deliberately wanted to hear from the wider Town Hall user community. The Hall attracts people from surrounding communities through the community cinema, Food Hub/Café and other activities. Their responses therefore help demonstrate the wider catchment and benefit of the facility.

4. Respondent age profile

Age group	Responses	%
Under 16	1	0.8%
16–24	0	0.0%
25–44	23	19.2%
45–64	51	42.5%
65–74	31	25.8%
75+	13	10.8%
Prefer not to say	1	0.8%

The final survey contains no responses from the 16–24 age group. The Trust actively encouraged additional responses from this group through the weekly reminders, but none were received.

The absence of 16–24 responses should be acknowledged as a limitation of the consultation rather than interpreted as evidence that this age group does not support the project. The Trust's review of local Census information indicates that there may be approximately 30–50 people aged 16–24 in the local area. Even at the upper end of that estimate, this is a relatively small population from which to obtain voluntary survey responses.

There are several plausible reasons why no one in this age group responded: the survey was primarily distributed through households and existing community networks; some people aged 16–24 may be away at university or working elsewhere; younger adults may be less engaged with the organisations and activities currently centred on the Hall; and a voluntary survey about a community building may naturally attract people who already have a stronger connection to it. These are possible explanations, not findings established by the survey itself.

The zero response from this cohort means that the survey cannot provide direct evidence of 16–24-year-olds' views. It does not, however, materially affect the overall evidence of support from the respondents who did participate. It would be useful for the Trust to continue engaging this age group through targeted future activity or a short youth-focused consultation, particularly because youth activities were among the more frequently selected desired future uses.

5. Current use of the Town Hall

Frequency	Responses	%
Weekly	50	41.7%
Monthly	10	8.3%
Several times each year	43	35.8%
Once a year or less	11	9.2%
Never	6	5.0%

93 respondents (77.5%) use the Hall weekly, monthly or several times each year. Current uses most frequently identified were community events (85), Community Café/Food Hub (63), music or entertainment (34), clubs or societies (25), exercise/wellbeing activities (19), children's activities (18) and meetings (13).

6. Satisfaction with the existing Hall

Satisfaction	Responses	%
Very satisfied	20	16.7%
Satisfied	53	44.2%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	34	28.3%
Dissatisfied	10	8.3%

Very dissatisfied	3	2.5%
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73 respondents (60.8%) were satisfied or very satisfied with the Hall overall, while 13 (10.8%) were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. The relatively large neutral group indicates that the consultation captured people with a range of experiences rather than only respondents who were strongly positive about the existing facility.

7. Barriers affecting enjoyment or use

Barrier	Responses	% of 120
Too cold in winter	49	40.8%
Lack of parking	49	40.8%
Building looks tired	40	33.3%
Too expensive to heat	31	25.8%
Decoration	30	25.0%
Nothing	27	22.5%
Toilets	21	17.5%
Damp or poor condition	18	15.0%
Poor accessibility to anterooms	9	7.5%
Kitchen facilities	7	5.8%
Lighting	7	5.8%
Not enough storage	7	5.8%

The results show a clear concentration of concern around warmth, energy costs, physical condition and the appearance of the building. These findings provide direct community evidence for the proposed renovation and energy-efficiency measures.

8. Priorities for improvement

Improvement	Critical	Very important	Important	Important+	%
Better heating	28	38	36	102	85.0%
Reduced energy costs	37	44	23	104	86.7%
Improved insulation	29	41	30	100	83.3%
Repairs walls	31	31	36	98	81.7%
New decoration	12	27	45	84	70.0%
Wooden floor	8	27	42	77	64.2%
Accessibility	15	19	37	71	59.2%
Drainage	14	17	22	53	44.2%
Storage	5	15	26	46	38.3%

The strongest priorities are reduced energy costs, better heating, improved insulation and repairs to walls and plaster. The pattern is consistent with the barriers identified above: respondents are asking for investment that improves comfort, energy performance and the physical condition of the building, rather than simply cosmetic enhancement.

9. Activities people would like to see more of

Potential activity	Responses	%
Local produce market	72	60.0%
Music events	56	46.7%
Community Café	51	42.5%
Cinema nights	47	39.2%
Community celebrations	47	39.2%
Arts and crafts	46	38.3%
Youth activities	44	36.7%
Exercise/fitness classes	42	35.0%

Talks and lectures	36	30.0%
Food and cooking activities	26	21.7%
Older people's activities	25	20.8%
Heritage exhibitions	24	20.0%
Theatre	20	16.7%
Digital skills	12	10.0%
Other educational activities	9	7.5%
Co-working space	3	2.5%
Business events	3	2.5%

The results demonstrate demand for a broad mix of social, cultural, recreational, educational, wellbeing and community activities. The findings also support the Trust's intention to strengthen existing activities while creating opportunities for new uses.

10. Why respondents consider renovation important

Reason	Responses	%
It is the heart of the village	85	70.8%
It supports local clubs and organisations	66	55.0%
It protects an important historic building	60	50.0%
It provides a warm community space	47	39.2%
It reduces loneliness and isolation	43	35.8%
It benefits children and young people	23	19.2%
It supports older residents	16	13.3%
It improves the appearance of the village	9	7.5%
It helps tackle climate change through improved energy efficiency	5	4.2%
It attracts visitors	4	3.3%

The strongest response was that the Hall is the 'heart of the village', followed by its role in supporting local clubs and organisations and protecting an important historic building. The findings therefore show that the building is valued for its community function as well as its physical and historic character.

11. Importance of retaining the Hall for community use

Response	Responses	%
Extremely important	102	85.0%
Very important	17	14.2%
Fairly important	1	0.8%

119 of 120 respondents (99.2%) regard retaining the Town Hall for community use as very or extremely important. No respondent selected one of the lower importance categories.

12. Overall support for renovation

Response	Responses	%
Strongly support	98	81.7%
Support	21	17.5%
Neither support nor oppose	1	0.8%
Oppose	0	0.0%
Strongly oppose	0	0.0%

The consultation therefore records 119 of 120 respondents (99.2%) supporting or strongly supporting the proposed renovation, with no recorded opposition.

13. Expected increase in use following renovation

Response	Responses	%
Much more often	33	27.5%
More often	49	40.8%
About the same	30	25.0%
Not sure	8	6.7%

82 respondents (68.3%) say they would use the Hall more or much more often if it were renovated and made warmer, more attractive and more energy efficient. This provides evidence of potential additional demand arising from the investment.

14. Qualitative comments

The free-text responses reinforce the quantitative findings. Respondents describe the Hall as a place where people meet, socialise, participate in activities and maintain community connections. Comments also identify warmth, heating, parking, toilets, seating, appearance, accessibility, storage and facilities as areas for improvement.

Several comments refer specifically to the community cinema and other community activities. Other suggestions include repair workshops, pub/community evenings, gardening or sustainable-living activities, a gym, early-years provision and events celebrating local history. These comments reinforce the view that the Hall has potential to support a broad programme of community activity.

15. Community reach and RCGF relevance

For an RCGF Stage 2 application, the survey provides evidence across four connected areas: community demand, identified need, existing use and future benefit.

Community demand: 99.2% of respondents support or strongly support renovation.

Need: Cold, heating costs, building condition and appearance are among the most frequently identified barriers.

Existing use: The Hall is already used regularly for community events, the Food Hub/Café, music, clubs, wellbeing and children's activities.

Future benefit: 68.3% say they would use the Hall more or much more often after renovation, while respondents identify a wide range of additional activities they would like to see.

The consultation therefore supports a clear project logic: investment is responding to an existing community facility with identified physical and energy-related problems; the problems are restricting use; the community supports addressing them; and respondents identify significant potential for increased and diversified use following renovation.

16. Limitations and interpretation

The survey is a voluntary consultation and should not be described as a statistically controlled opinion poll. The respondent profile is weighted towards older age groups and contains no responses from people aged 16–24. The Trust actively sought additional responses from 16–24-year-olds through weekly reminders, but none were received.

The absence of 16–24 responses is best presented transparently as a limitation and an engagement gap, not as evidence of a lack of support. Given the relatively small estimated local population in this age group and the voluntary,

household/community-network-based nature of the survey, a zero response is possible without implying a particular attitude. Future youth engagement would provide a useful complementary source of evidence.

The inclusion of respondents from outside Colinsburgh and Kilconquhar should be regarded positively. The Trust deliberately wanted to hear from the wider Hall user base, and the responses demonstrate that the facility serves a catchment beyond its immediate residential area.

The school survey was designed specifically for P4–P7 pupils because Colinsburgh Primary School is a significant user of the Town Hall for weekly PE, music lessons, school performances, events and other activities.

These responses provide a useful complementary perspective to the main community survey. They should not be combined statistically with the 120 adult/community responses because they came from a different population and used a child-focused questionnaire.

The school survey received 14 usable responses. Most respondents use the Hall every week (8) or several times each term (4), confirming that these children have direct experience of the building.

17. P4–P7 School Survey – Children’s Views

School survey finding	Responses
Usable P4–P7 responses	14
Use the Hall every week	8
Use it several times each term	4
Consider keeping the Hall for school/community use very important	11
Consider it quite important	2
Not sure	1

The children’s responses strongly reinforce the adult survey’s findings about the Hall’s role as a community and school facility. Eleven of the 14 pupils described retaining the Hall for school and community use as ‘very important’, two as ‘quite important’ and one was unsure.

The most frequently selected improvements were better toilets (12), an improved stage/performance area (10), warmer conditions/heating (9 combined responses selecting ‘make it warmer in winter’ or ‘improve the heating’), better provision for sports and activities (4), and more comfortable seating (4). The pupils’ comments also repeatedly mentioned the condition of the floor/stage, including concerns about nails and splinters.

The pupils also identified a range of future uses, including more sports such as netball and basketball, clubs, baking, bowling, performances and games. A particularly strong recurring idea was a ‘cosy corner’ with beanbags, books, pillows, sofas and/or comfortable lighting. Some pupils suggested a sensory room or other quiet/chill-out space.

The responses provide particularly useful qualitative evidence that children value the Hall because it is large, local to the school, provides space and resources for PE and other activities, and provides a venue for performances, celebrations and clubs. The children’s survey therefore strengthens the case that the Town Hall has an important role in supporting children and young people, alongside its wider community role.

Because the school survey is small and was completed by 14 pupils rather than the whole P4–P7 population, it should be presented as complementary qualitative evidence rather than as a statistically representative survey of all pupils. Nevertheless, the consistency between the children’s responses and the main community survey is noteworthy.

18. Conclusion

The final survey provides strong evidence of community support for the proposed renovation of Colinsburgh Town Hall. The evidence is not limited to a single question about support: it shows that respondents value the Hall, identify clear problems with its current condition and comfort, support investment in energy efficiency and physical improvement, want a broader range of activities and expect renovation to encourage greater use.

The headline results are particularly clear: 119 of 120 respondents support or strongly support renovation; 119 consider continued community availability very or extremely important; and 82 say they would use the Hall more or much more often after renovation.

The consultation therefore provides a strong body of evidence for inclusion in the RCGF Stage 2 application, demonstrating community support for the proposed investment and a clear relationship between the proposed works, identified community needs and future community benefit.

The survey should also be viewed as one component of the wider evidence base for the project, alongside the Hall's established pattern of use, existing community activities, the Trust's management experience, building condition information and the wider regeneration objectives for Colinsburgh.

Source: Colinsburgh Community Trust, Community Survey final export, 120 responses, survey closed 30 September 2026.