Iken Village Hall – Help Us Bring It Back to Life!

Dear Iken Residents,

As many of you know, the Parish Council has been working hard, exploring ways to restore our Village Hall and bring this landmark building back into community use.

As the Iken Parish Plan confirmed, the community sees the hall as having the potential to become a real focal point for village life once again — somewhere for neighbours to meet, activities to flourish and our community to come together.

Progress on Funding

We recently met again with representatives of the Sizewell C Community Fund to explore whether they might support the restoration project.

Although our initial funding proposal was not supported in its current form, these discussions were constructive and have identified a possible way forward. There may be an opportunity to secure a smaller contribution, particularly if we can demonstrate (i) how Sizewell C construction is affecting the community and (ii) whether we can attract additional funding from other sources.

This is where we need your help!

To strengthen our case, we would really welcome hearing from you about how Sizewell C construction is affecting everyday life in Iken.

For example:

- Are you experiencing longer or more difficult journeys to Saxmundham, Leiston or elsewhere?
- Has construction traffic affected your travel, access to services or day-to-day activities?
- Have you noticed other changes or disruption that you believe are linked to the Sizewell C project?

Your experiences, however small they may seem, could help us build a stronger, evidence-based case for funding. Specific examples of how and when you have been affected would be particularly helpful.

We can then use this information to demonstrate the challenges facing our community and explore how a restored Village Hall could help strengthen village life and provide lasting benefits for residents.

Looking Ahead – A Village Hall for Everyone

Alongside our funding efforts, we are developing a practical plan to restore the hall and create a welcoming, useful and sustainable community space.

We would love to hear your ideas for how the hall might be used, whether for social gatherings, clubs, activities, talks or simply bringing neighbours together.

Chris Riggs has kindly offered to lead a Village Hall Working Group to help turn these plans into reality.

He would welcome anyone interested in contributing ideas, helping with fundraising, exploring grants or getting involved in the project. You don't need any particular expertise — just an interest in helping to make it

happen. With the enthusiasm, ideas and support of residents, we have a real opportunity to give this important village asset a new lease of life.

Looking After Our Community – Emergency Preparedness

Following the 'callout' on the village WhatsApp, the Parish Council is also helping the community explore how we can make Iken better prepared for unexpected emergencies, in line with government guidance on community resilience. This includes practical arrangements for emergency food and drinking water, with an emphasis on making sure that support is inclusive and accessible to everyone, particularly those who may need a little extra help.

It's an opportunity for us to think ahead, look out for one another and build a stronger community spirit that makes Iken such a special place.

We will be discussing this at our next Parish Council meeting and would welcome your thoughts and ideas on how best to take this forward.

We Would Love to Hear From You!

There are several ways you can help shape these initiatives:

1. **Share your experiences** of how Sizewell C construction is affecting you or your household.
2. **Tell us your ideas** for activities and facilities you would like to see in a restored Village Hall.
3. **Get involved** in the Village Hall Working Group, fundraising or other aspects of the project.
4. **Share your thoughts** on how we can make Iken better prepared and ensure everyone is supported in an emergency.

Every contribution, however small, will help us move forward.

Our next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 3rd November at 6:00 pm at Hardy's Barn.

Please do come along to share your thoughts, or email Tiffany at **ikenpc@gmail.com** with your experiences, suggestions or offers of help.

Together, we can make a real difference to the future of our village.

With best wishes,

Iken Parish Council