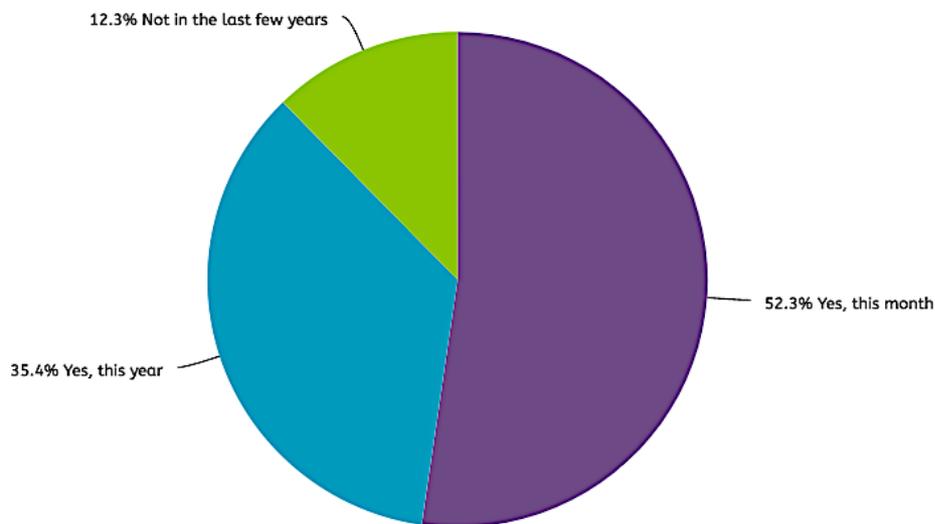


This survey of the community's views of the Commemoration Hall was set up for the beginning of July this year, distributed on paper with the July/August newsletter and made available online. Thanks to those committee members who have followed this up with various groups, we have now received a total of 66 completed returns (54 of them on paper and 12 online).

The results of this survey are presented here: the responses to questions 1, 3, 6 and 9 are summarised in chart form, while those for questions 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are listed as written without any names. No editing or selection has been carried out, and the full results of the entire survey are also available as a spreadsheet, which could be used for further analysis if needed.

We now need to consider how these views and comments should influence our plans for improving the Hall.

Q1: Have you been in the Commemoration Hall recently? (tick one)



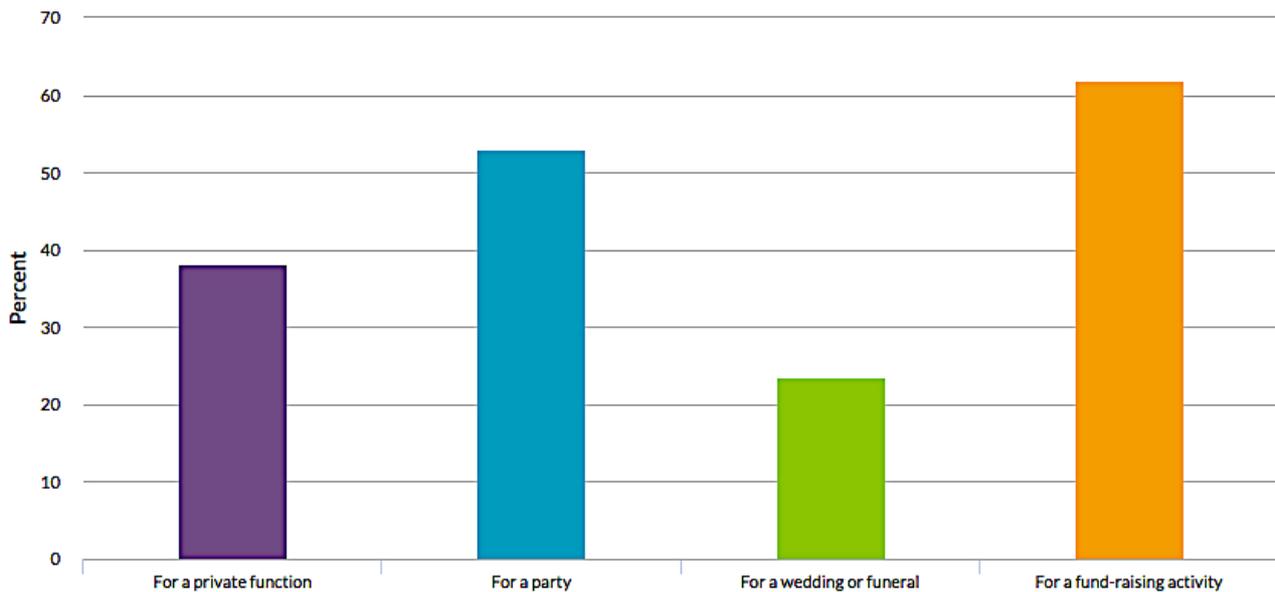
Value	Percent	Responses
Yes, this month	52.3%	34
Yes, this year	35.4%	23
Not in the last few years	12.3%	8

Totals: 65

Q2: If not, what kind of event or activity would persuade you to come inside?

- N/A I come to a number of things already.
- Demonstration nights, quality craft fairs, i.e. Xmas, spring/summer as Whitley does, dances/discos. Unfortunately any that is on is always a Saturday when I work. I would have really liked to attend the upcoming Ladycross event but a Sat! Perhaps a review night on Friday or if continued to Saturday later (afternoon or evening).
- Social events.
- Would normally go to Badders & will be back! Thinking about yoga/Tai Chi (daytime) would be good.
- Exhibitions – art/ceramics/local produce. Recitals – piano/singing/classical music.
- I have attended a couple of things, but not as often as I would like – work commitments often interfere. The Christmas wreath making evening was a real highlight in the past and if I can I would definitely attend that again and probably any similar things. The coffee morning for Cancer McMillan was also very good and I will try to attend that again. Not sure if this was the same time, but there were stalls selling homewares, retro stuff, cards etc and that was good. Perhaps Helen could have one of her wine tastings in the hall to raise some funds?
- Family party
- Ceilidh, music event, live music, 'Unthanks' ?.
- Anything for kids. Family party.
- Concerts
- Family ???
- Party, family function.
- Table tennis club
- N/A
- Social or sport activities & clubs.
- Stacking chairs uncomfortable for any length of time.
- Table tennis evenings.
- Teenage movie night? Table tennis league? Badminton league?

Q3: Have you ever booked the Hall? (tick all that apply)



Value	Percent	Responses
For a private function	38.2%	13
For a party	52.9%	18
For a wedding or funeral	23.5%	8
For a fund-raising activity	61.8%	21

Q4: If not, what facilities would make the Commemoration Hall a more attractive venue?

- Nicier loos. Better large table access. More up to date décor. A warmer/easier heating system. Easier door access to green areas.
- A cooker that you don't need a degree to use/switch on, every occasion we have had to use the kitchen (2–3 times per yr) it takes 4–5 people to work out how to use it, and last few times we have used kitchen not enough cutlery or crockery, think was either knives or forks short. No tin opener and hardly any serving spoons! Hot water boiler dangerous last time we used hall. Steam kept coming as wouldn't stop heating, hall chairman was aware but didn't stop its use! Apparently replaced now.
- Decoration up to date.
- Price to hire.
- Update interior (painting/curtains).

- More modern, up to date. Easier storage. Consider reviewing – sitting area when having a social event.
- Toilets – need upgrading. Decoration.
- Chairs out of the way rather than stacked. Notice board with activities.
- [Badminton weekly]!
- Redecoration throughout. Updating chairs & small tables.
- Toilets upgrade and redecoration in hall.
- Replastered walls painted an attractive off white: better lighting, perhaps up lighters rather than the stark white lights currently: carpet to make it less echoey, updated tables and chairs. Much nicer toilet area which matches what you can see in local facilities in Hexham/Corbridge.
- I haven't needed to book such a large space, but would definitely consider it if I do!
- Toilet improvement.
- Something in the main hall to make speakers heard, i.e. microphone system.
- Table tennis table. Easily accessible furniture. More comfortable chairs. No peach coloured paint/remove the paintings/modernise décor/wcs.
- None, I think it has good facilities – we just have not had reason to utilise it as yet.
- More welcoming outside.
- Not had a reason to hire, but the premises does appear to need a decoration inside
- Microphone in main hall.
- I would not book the hall for any "posh" event like a wedding because I have no wish to work at such an event.
- Speakers need a microphone for history club.
- Couple of table tennis tables.
- A more comfortable homely seating area with some informal seating that is akin to a sitting room (like in some cafes these days).
- Seating is important – light to move, clean, stackable for storage but COMFORTABLE!
- A licence? The pub providing event catering/mobile bar to hall events.
- The decor needs updating. De-cluttering – moving things so they are out of the way. Making the entrances more presentable. The bar needs updating.
- Better parking facilities.

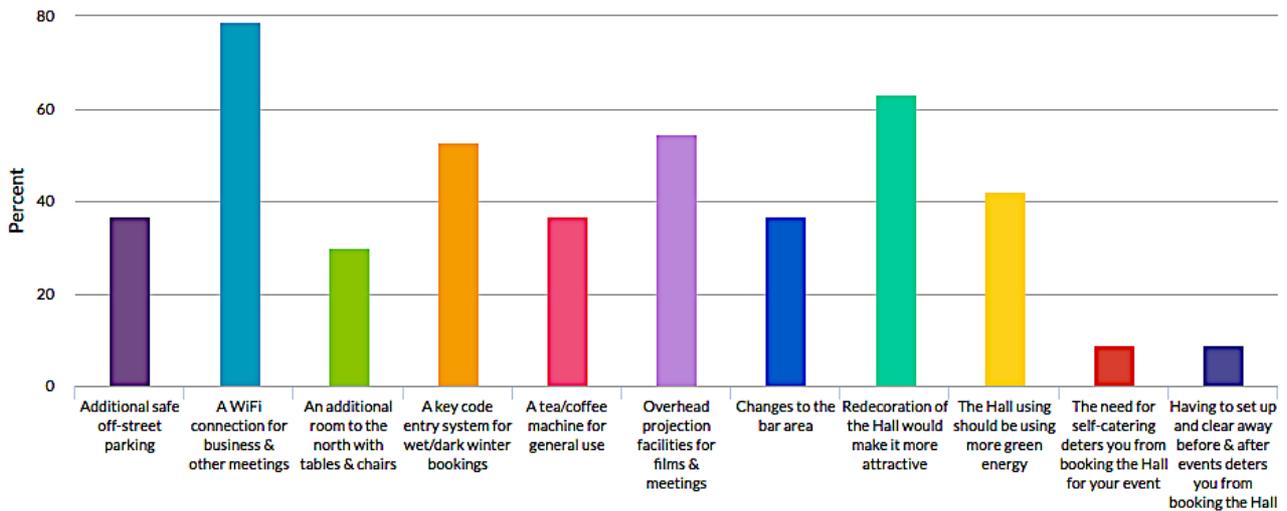
Q5: In your opinion, what should the Commemoration Hall provide for the community?

- A safe welcoming space for groups, individuals and outside organisations.
- To carry on doing what it already does well

- It should continue to offer its facilities to the Community & others as it does at present.
- An attractive, affordable large & small space, with chairs, tables, self catering, etc. for community and other events.
- It already provides enough I think
- A facility to meet and have community organisation events – just as it does now.
- A place for large groups to meet. An exhibition space. Voting facilities. Small group room as exists in Committee Room. A place for large village fundraising, celebration, Xmas, etc.
- Village "get-together" winter & summer. Ceilidh.
- A welcoming, warm, clean, well decorated venue with as much natural light as realistically possible. A quality tea/coffee/snacks vending facility. A simple and flexible easy to use hall on-line booking and payment system. A good Wi-Fi signal. A facility for private/ confidential meetings. A good standard of function facilities including toilets and possible shower. A safe place to park your car.
- A focal point, meeting place, a venue for any occasion, i.e. meeting, party, dance, club's use. Heart of the village.
- A well decorated environment that is welcoming and has a variety of facilities available
- Use ability for all ages & stages.
- A hub.
- Space for events/groups, playgroup, hire.
- Social gatherings.
- An attractive convenient venue for local use or outside events.
- Venue for parties, weddings, funeral teas, meetings, ceilidhs. Small business hub. WiFi. Fundraising events.
- A safe warm attractive space for people to use.
- A flexible space where Slaley folk can meet for a wide variety of activities – just as we do now.
- A place to meet, socialise etc. A venue for sporting and social activities as well as fund raising. It should be central to the community.
- We think it's a fantastic facility at a very reasonable price. It would be helpful to have a key safe and it would be easier to have the large tables in a more accessible place
- Just what it does already – a resource which can be booked inexpensively for private and communal events, providing a focus for the community and a familiar venue in village life.
- A pleasant meeting place for all kinds of activities.
- General community use. Multipurpose.
- Bring community together/know your neighbours/variety of events

- Unifying the community.
- Opportunity to build the community particularly for isolated people/community.
- Unified? community, young and old.
- Fun. Bringing people together.
- A meeting place for any event.
- Meeting & entertainment space; a venue for fund-raisers & village gatherings; a venue for private hire for villagers & beyond, possibly a hub for local businesses.
- space for hire & community events/clubs.
- A friendly safe place to enjoy.
- A facility for meeting, for community events, for children's parties, school events etc
- A good meeting venue.
- A place for common all parties events
- Everything the community needs.
- The Hall does provide a venue for fundraising. It also provides a library but is not open very often for lending or returning books.
- Library is a good idea, elderly enjoy being able to choose books from there while at the Hall. Visiting bowls players also used.
- Notice board for information.
- A modern venue for social and sporting events.
- Base for community based activities, meetings, clubs, wedding receptions, children's parties, etc.
- Space that is easily bookable for wide range of events.
- I am aware there are no activities for youngsters & this is a pity- but do they want such? Also I think a 'lunch club ' or similar would be good for the community if it could be considered at least once/month.
- A 'neutral ' space, i.e. not Church, not Chapel, not school nor pub. A place which welcomes all sorts and ages of people, that is well lit and WARM.
- Having lived in the Whitley Chapel area, their hall gets lots of use for leek club, table top sales, dances, music events, parties, children's parties, school shows, community shows.
- All that it currently does, clubs, venue for meetings, place for private functions.
- A place for clubs, private parties, social events, coffee mornings.
- More social occasions for everyone
- A place where groups can meet, venues for different events, parties, weddings, christenings, plays. Maybe business events. Hiring out to companies/groups for events.

Q6: What new facilities or changes are needed? (tick all that apply)



Value	Percent	Responses
Additional safe off-street parking	36.8%	21
A WiFi connection for business & other meetings	78.9%	45
An additional room to the north with tables & chairs	29.8%	17
A key code entry system for wet/dark winter bookings	52.6%	30
A tea/coffee machine for general use	36.8%	21
Overhead projection facilities for films & meetings	54.4%	31
Changes to the bar area	36.8%	21
Redecoration of the Hall would make it more attractive	63.2%	36
The Hall using should be using more green energy	42.1%	24
The need for self-catering deters you from booking the Hall for your event	8.8%	5
Having to set up and clear away before & after events deters you from booking the Hall	8.8%	5

Q7: Please add any other suggestions or comments below:

- More green energy – only if economical with respect to capital investment. You should re-assess the use & storage of redundant Play group equipment. Perhaps extend the overhead stage lighting.
- It is a nuisance having to move chairs in & out of tight bathroom corridors, but it is not a deterrent in any way. The Kitchen functions well 7 is always immaculately clean. The hall is good!

- A Notice Board outside. I see a lot of events happening and I often feel they should be a notice board to see whats coming in the following days, weeks etc The bar area could be opened to the main hall area?
- WiFi would be handy on occasions, and may prove a positive feature for encouraging bookings
- None of the above – it's good as its is.
- Redecoration in hall a high priority. More modern/plainer paper/fabrics. Kitchen is fine & can be used as a bar. Storage area for tables down the steps is VERY awkward to access.
- More comfortable seats. Plastic stackers are awful. Improve acoustics – voices & sound echoes into roof area of high room. Improve storage facilities for tables & chairs. Lifting up and down stairs is not ideal.
- Off–street parking would be a great benefit to both users of the hall and passing motorists. If a strip of land directly behind the hall could be made available it would allow safe parking on all sides of the hall and a safe driving one way system in and out.
- Upgrading/decorating bar area. Neutral colour walls & plain curtains so you could accessorise / decorate your own party without clashing with patterned curtains & walls. No community events! Quality craft fairs, dances, etc. Xmas fairs. Individual clubs have events/meetings and unfortunately when things are on (Ladycross Art Show July 15th) always a Saturday which I work. Perhaps a preview night on the Friday? Leek Show used to go on until 7 then auction so I would call after work. Now all finished by 4! Better advertising of what's coming up, perhaps a notice board outside. Often miss events that do happen.
- Better storage ,this may need some kind of extension or reordering of the internal space.
- Careful about green energy cost.
- Parking is bad.
- Shouldn't be targeted for meetings. Access better behind bar for bar staff, but not important– just tidying up. Self catering – good reason to use it. Better/easier instructions to use kitchen.
- Safe and easily accessible storage for tables etc would be great. Not everyone is strong or old enough to lift tables up & down stairs.
- Better storage for play equipment & tables.
- Safe play area outside.
- An additional room would make it easier at ceilidhs etc. to add more space for dancing.
- WiFi a must if we want to attract youth. Once a week community hairdresser? Maybe we should market the space more effectively? Do people know what is available? Would an events company know that the hall is available for instance for weddings/christenings/funerals catering? e.g. the caterers at Snods Edge, etc.

- We're almost on the right lines! Careful additions would make it even better and earn us more income, but I'd not want to see it so changed that it excluded the vital range of activities that now go on and for which it was intended
- The toilet area needs upgrading. Better facilities for children play area.
- The above would be useful but not essential.
- Updating the décor. Pleasanter toilet facilities.
- Engaging differing communities, local farmers & incoming people. Parish Hall steeplechase.
- Links to catering/deals with outside caterers. Summer events for kids during holidays.
- Breakfast morning- community breakfast.
- Self-catering is the attraction. We're just wondering if it could be a hub for the groups of walkers & cyclists that visit the village, with parking, toilets, etc. We realise that this means manpower but it's just a thought.
- Online booking system.
- An information board on the outside to show what facilities are available, with contacts.
- Lower the kerbstones on the east side of main road.
- The storage of tables and chairs is a "pain " to set up – is a silly place to store them – help is needed.
- For people who do not work & see others on a daily basis the Hall provides a meeting venue where local news can be discussed.
- Need a key fob when people on holiday – I have to go down & let people in- don't like.
- Remove glass screen inside door? Fit a folding wall in main hall to give flexible space e.g. 1/3, 2/3
- PA system for physical activities requiring music. Warm environment during winter months for yoga.
- Better direct access to the outside from the hall onto grass for functions in good weather.
- Make it easier to book, e.g. online, and pay online. I think £10/hour is very reasonable – we use it for badminton.
- Could you have focus groups for different age groups to see if they can come up with activities they feel their peers would support in the village?
- Is it possible to ask some caterers to visit and comment on any improvements that could be made, or suggest really successful village halls worth visiting for inspiration?
- Bringing the benefits of the three community owned assets together will make them all stronger. For instance, a teenage/child related movie night where pizza

can be pre-ordered from the pub at the such sets up a stall? with drinks & confectionery.

- There are too many chairs in the meeting room that are big and awkward to move and stack. It's more like a furniture depository. It makes the space unusable for small gatherings unless the big chairs are moved into the main hall.
- Weekly lunches for the community. Provide facilities for walkers, B&B people, etc.

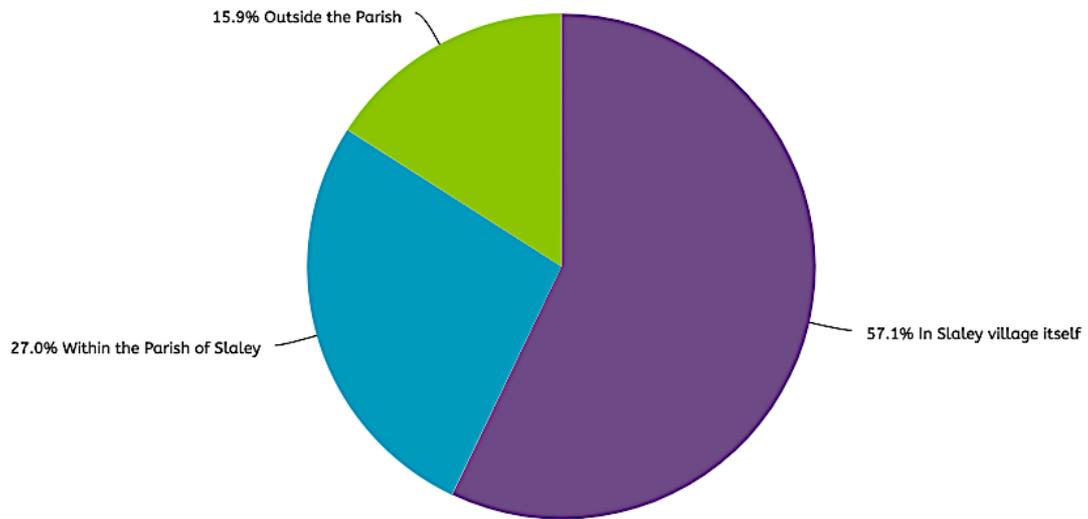
Q8: Is there anything else, negative or positive, that you feel would help our discussions?

- Could the entrance area be improved – i.e. more books. It is very cramped when visitors queue and pay entrance charges. What is the purpose of the inner door and panel? Could they be removed to enlarge area?
- The "library" & noticeboard are good community assets. Parking on the road is fine; green spaces are more important & better than tarmac. Also being able to rent dishes, cutlery is useful. Maybe more Keys should be around, i.e. with the vicar.
- While having financial reserves are necessary, I don't like to see money sitting in a bank and not being used to benefit the venue – it has been most encouraging to see a lot of work taking place recently
- It would be easier to set out tables & chairs if they were on the same level as the hall.
- Better projection facilities for visiting speakers etc. The plants at the front look nice in spring but less so later – bit weedy. Re green energy – solar panels to south side (roadside) of roof or a small turbine would be controversial. The newly decorated entrance area is now much nicer.
- The availability of Wi-Fi for any building used by the public for pleasure or business is an absolute "must have" and without it is a definite "turn off" for most people under 50 years of age. I attended the recent Art/Craft/Café event at the hall and overheard a sale being lost because of the lack of Wi-Fi connection and I'm sure there would be more than one. Not much of an incentive to attend the next event! The opportunity to be able to book the hall on-line would be a distinct advantage as it would allow potential users to view over a period of months what days and times were already booked or available for booking. They would simply make their booking commitment there and then and also pay for their booking on-line (credit/debit card) by way of a deposit and the balance by an agreed date or by paying in full. This is a standard system used for booking a game of golf, squash, an Hotel or holiday cottage.
- Having booked the hall for a YFC entertainment show the last 2 years we couldn't get sound system out because locked in Film Club cupboard, so had to track down Michael Elphick for key. This year it didn't work, had to improvise at last minute when someone had to go and get a CD player. Key holders need keys to cupboards, etc. Hall always cold for meetings, usually finished by time heating kicks in unless a keyholder organising events that can go in early to switch heating on. When trying to access tables & chairs it's a constant battle with the toddlers mats and ride-in car. Could a rack or similar be put in to keep mats in place?

Shouldn't be so hard to access. I hope this doesn't sound all negative but I think with a few small changes not all costing the earth the hall could be much more appealing and easier to use for what is a great asset to the village.

- I feel the interior decoration may deter people from hiring the hall.
- Rates low – discounted for locals. Weddings – encourage – package link with Rose & Crown.
- Just change setup so functions work better for bar + food + entertainment.
- Is there any marketing for the hall? Could it be advertised more widely? Walking groups/events/parties etc. Advert in the shop?
- Fliers, cards, posters with a list of what's available – I can't remember myself about how many plates/cups etc. there are – what there is to cook by ..., maybe that's on the website. So aim people by marketing @ the website.
- Is the intention to use some of the profits from the shop to fund improvements in the hall, like they do in Humshaugh? Their facilities are really impressive!
- A valuable building for the community but still feels like an early 20th century abode. Needs to be brought into the 21st century.
- We have attended all kinds of events at the hall for the past 25 years, and (thanks to occasional refurbishments which proceed from time to time when funds allow) it seems entirely fit for purpose.
- It is a shame that there is no toddler group in the village anymore. I know that this is not the fault of the hall but more people volunteering to do it but just thought worth a mention as I think it would be well attended.
- A good asset to the village.
- Change lock on outside door (very hard to turn).
- What is the purpose of those big heavy chairs in the committee room?
- Generally people want to live in Slaley, however they do not want to attend the village hall or be involved with keeping country activities alive.
- Stack chairs in hut behind hall – too many below in toilet section.
- Picnic benches out on grass for use at summer functions?
- While on holiday in Austria/Germany many parks/villages had outside weather-proof bookcases allowing locals to swap books. The Commemoration Hall has many books– maybe having a similar bookcase outside the shop would open up these books.
- Try to involve more people in village & surrounding areas.

Q9: Where do you live?



Value		Percent	Responses
In Slaley village itself		57.1%	36
Within the Parish of Slaley		27.0%	17
Outside the Parish		15.9%	10
			Totals: 63