

## Community Venues Network Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022

Chair: Kevin Sawers, Community Buildings and Enterprise Officer, Action Hampshire  
Co-Chair: Mary Robinson, Community Development Manager, BVA



The meeting was attended by 10 participants representing 6 community venues in the borough as well as a regular user and a representative from Basingstoke & Deane borough Council.

Kevin introduced the session by explaining the relationship of Action Hampshire and BVA, and his role specifically as Community Buildings and Enterprise Officer.

After participant introductions, the first section of the session was led by Kevin. The themes of the session were how to get more people involved in supporting managing the organisations and how to make people aware of the existence of the building and what happened in it. The topics included finding and retaining volunteers (trustees and other roles), keeping volunteers involved, marketing to potential hirers and advertising events taking place at your building.

Discussions were held on individual venues successes and how the successes had been achieved.

Other topics/themes discussed were:

**Charging for venue hire:** The discussion centered on how much to charge for venue hire, who hires the venues and checking that the hirer meets the charity objectives of the Community Association.

**Maintenance:** difficulties in finding contractors to undertake maintenance work, particularly if specialists are needed due to the building being listed.

**Quality Assessments:** Whether village halls/community association would be interested in the reintroduction of the Hallmark Scheme, which is a free and nationally recognised quality assurance scheme designed for community buildings that was developed by ACRE.. Action Hampshire investigating the formal scheme.

**Training:** Venues identifying what training requirements that they may have. First Aid, Safeguarding (Adults and Young People) and training in the use of defibrillators were identified.

**CSR projects:** Discussion as to whether any venues had any projects that companies could assist them with. It was identified that skillshare or offers of professional help/input pro-bono would be valuable.

Issues raised:

**Electricity costs:** Going sky high. Looking for support from people to give advice on how to be more effective. Depending on the arrangements with the individual building e.g. if it is shared, affects what can be achieved. Deals for cheaper electricity have become an issue in the last 6 months

**Cleaners:** there was a discussion on cleaning and whether it is better to have a cleaning

company, employ someone or have volunteers.

**Actions being taken forward:** Guidance notes from Kevin's session to be issued to attendees