

Buxhall Bar at The Village Hall

As the village currently does not have a pub and knowing that the Village Hall is the only communal facility in the village, I decided to work towards achieving what other nearby villages have undertaken when their pub has closed, a pub night in the Village Hall. A monthly event where quality meals at affordable prices accompany beer, wine and cider at competitive prices for both individuals and families where all will be welcome but with an emphasis on people living in the village.

I have visited and enjoyed the hospitality at Brettenham, Hitcham and Rickinghall Village Halls and witnessed the achievement villagers have made and the improved community spirit created.

I have therefore successfully lobbied the Village Hall Committee to apply for and obtain an alcohol licence for the hall, which has now been granted. A trial was conducted in August 2021 under a temporary licence which I obtained where an outside bar was operated alongside the visiting pizza van. Over 70 people attended the majority from the village but also customers from the village glamping site who were delighted to be able to have a meal nearby in pleasant surroundings which was within walking distance. Due to the cost of the temporary licence and purchase of disposable glasses only a very small profit was made which was returned to the village hall for the purchase of outdoor light bulbs.

It is anticipated that through my contacts in the hospitality sector, alcohol can be purchased by me at a discounted rate and then sold on at the bar alongside a substantial food offering so that a small profit can be made to assist in enhancing the Village Hall facilities.

The Village Hall committee have given me permission to purchase unbreakable glasses which are safe to use in an environment where there are children and people of reduced vision. The initial cost for these glasses will be in the region of £200. They are durable and last for at least 12 months with frequent use. This will significantly reduce set up costs.

Alcohol at this stage, will be purchased shortly in advance of each event and where possible, local suppliers will be used. No alcohol at this time will be stored at the Village Hall.

A continuation of last years trail will take place on:

Friday 27th May

Friday 24th June

Friday 24th July

On each of these occasions, a bar will run alongside the pizza van with seating available both inside and outside the hall. Free tea and coffee will be available so that villagers who may choose not to purchase pizza or alcohol can still meet and socialise.

After the completion of the above trial, I am prepared to submit a report to both the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council so that informed decisions can be made on how this concept can progress.

Neil A

26th April 2022