

## Rural York REPF Funding Research

Feasibility Study April 2024



### **Investment Priority 2: Supporting Rural Communities:**

Intervention 2.2: capital grant funding for investment in capacity-building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.

### **Approach:**

- 1) Engagement: building positive relationships across the area leading to better support and connections
- 2) Establishing need: gaining a clear understanding of the current priorities which this funding could support
- 3) Next steps: co-producing the application process for the 23/24 REPF funding programme.



## Feasibility study

### Key Findings April 2024

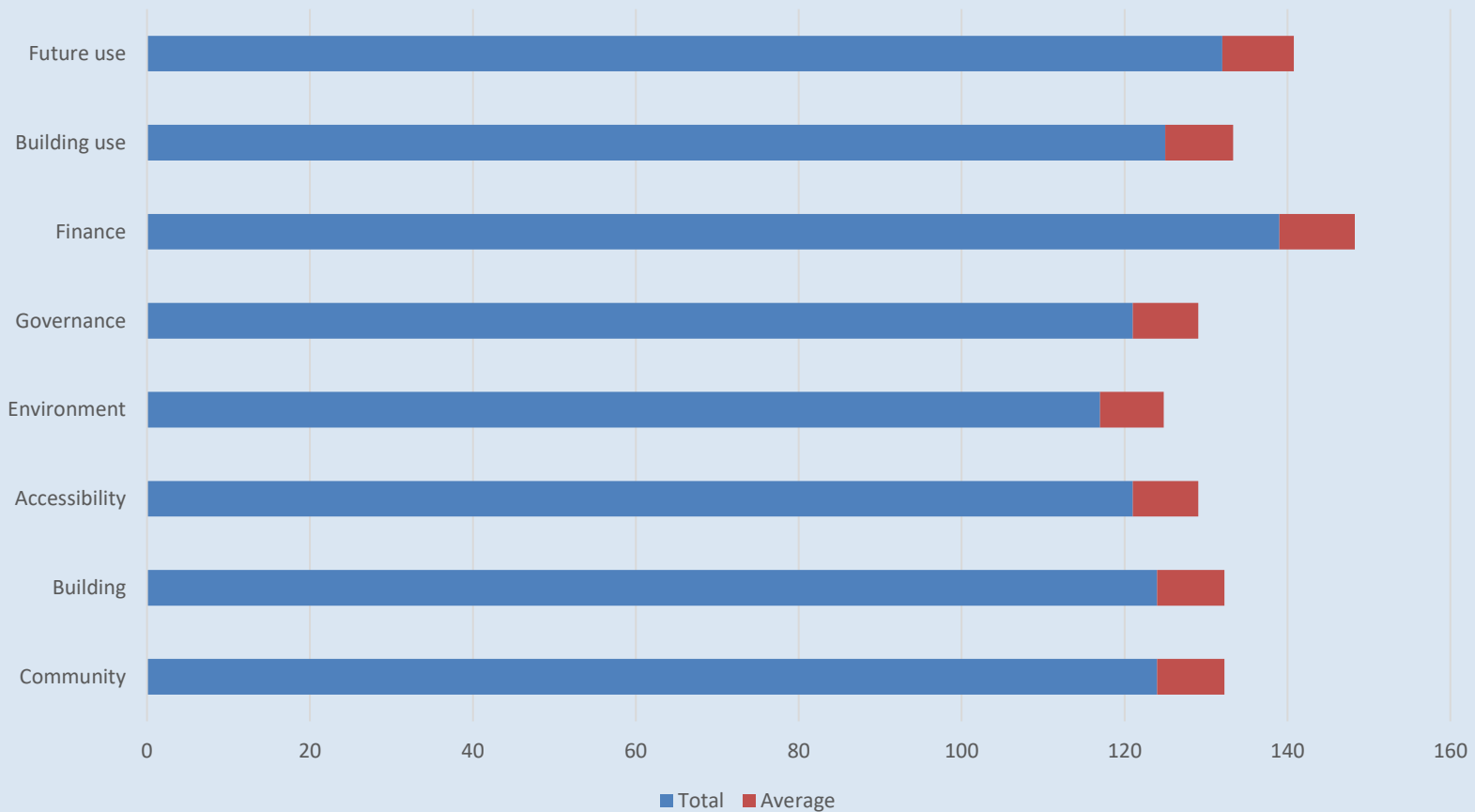
- 33 community buildings contacted with surveys
- 16 responses (linked to ACRE survey questions)
- 10 visits arranged (2 completed)
- Priorities:
  1. Finance
  2. Future use
  3. Building use

Community	Building	Accessibility	Environment	Governance	Finance	Building use	Future use
124	124	121	117	121	139	125	132

# Feasibility study

## Key priorities identified :

Responses





## Feasibility study

### Support needs

Need	%
digital	13%
decarbonisation	47%
community engagement	47%
funding	87%
health & wellbeing	13%
volunteering	13%
trustees and governance	7%
funding applications	7%
measuring impact	7%



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# Rural York REPF Funding Research

Askham Bryan Village Hall April 2024

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# Askham Bryan Village Hall

Main Street, Askham Bryan, York, YO23 3QU

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Askham Bryan is a village of around 618 people which benefits from proximity to York and Askham Bryan College. It became a Conservation Area in 1980.

The village hall is around 71sqm, built originally in 1893. Today the building consists of five rooms including a main hall, rear hall, kitchen, storeroom, and toilets.

It is owned by the registered CIO of Askham Bryan Village Hall. They have 12 trustees.

Current activities include art and yoga groups, Rainbows and Brownies, WI events, private hire (primarily birthdays, weddings, and funerals), and monthly coffee mornings.



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# Village Hall capital works

## Recent and current priorities

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Over recent years, work has included:

- Decarbonisation work: in 2019 the ceilings were insulated with 250mm thickness of mineral wool.
- Building maintenance: the pointing and flashing of the roof was recently repaired, as well as maintenance work to the guttering.
- General refurbishment: the kitchen was recently refurbished and the flooring in the rear hall was recently replaced.

The impact of this is improved energy efficiency of the hall, improved longevity of the historic building, and positive feedback from the community while using the venue.

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# Village Hall capital works

## Ambitions and the needs of the community

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In the future, the hall would like to:

- Invest in a more energy efficient heating system (upgrading from electric night storage heaters.)
- Upgrade their digital services (e.g., set up Wi-Fi on the premises, invest in on-site tech equipment like a TV and projector, and upgrade their over-the-phone booking system to a more accessible online portal).
- The impact of this would be to increase the usage of the hall, lower their operation costs (especially their energy bills), make the booking system more accessible to the community, and improve the sustainability of their organisation.



# Askham Bryan Village Hall

## In summary

### Hall specifics:

- The hall needs improvements to its heating system and wall insulation.
- Funding needed for decarbonisation work: both for a feasibility study and subsequent capital projects (e.g. a heat pump).
- The trustees need impartial advice on decarbonisation options. They also need training and support in digital upskilling and trustee recruitment—specifically in recruiting younger trustees, to ensure longevity for the charity.



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# The Rufforth Institute

Wetherby Road, Rufforth, York YO23 3QB

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Rufforth is a small village of less than 1000 people with few local amenities.

The village hall is around 220sqm, built during the First World War. Today the building consists of a main hall, a large well-appointed kitchen, cloakroom, toilets, and outside a large storeroom and children's play area.

It is owned by The Rufforth Institute. There are 8 trustees, including 3 fairly recently added younger trustees.

The community use the hall for local activities such as children's parties, WI, wakes, weddings, yoga classes etc and is used by for parish council meetings and as a polling station.



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# The Rufforth Institute capital works

## Recent and current priorities

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Over recent years, work has included:

- General refurbishment due to the rebuilding of the end wall which was demolished in a road accident and paid for by insurance. The insurance from the accident also covered the redecoration and replacement of the flooring.
- Requests for funding have been historically successful which paid for the recent upgrade of the toilets. They hold community fundraising events to supplement their income from hall hiring fees linking them with other local projects, and next door is the only village shop and café which is leased from them.

The impact of this is a well presented and maintained facility.

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# Village Hall capital works

## Ambitions and the needs of the community

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In the future, the hall would like to:

- Locate the original 1920 Indenture governing document so the title deeds can be registered with the Land Registry (currently ongoing).
- The valued village pub is currently closed so until such a time that it is re-opened the Village Hall on occasion would like to continue to operate a pop-up pub.

The impact of this would be:

- Having long term security of ownership of the property and being able to maintain community activity in the absence of other facilities.

# The Rufforth Institute

## In summary



Trustee comments:

“It is a friendly hall, and people respect that”

Community First Yorkshire comments:

“This hall is vital to keep the community spirit alive ”

Hall specifics:

- The hall will need some attention to the roof and playground in the next few years
- No immediate need for funding
- The trustees need legal guidance to locate the title deeds
- The community needs access to services and facilities

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# Feasibility study

## Initial findings

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- Good response from community buildings looking to improve their valued facilities and services
- Non-capital priorities include funding, governance and community engagement
- Capital priorities focus on decarbonisation and future use, inc cost savings
- Support needs do not always correlate with building needs
- Project work almost exclusively around refurbishment
- Investment in governance likely to improve capital outcomes
- Digital skills and decarbonisation information would increase capacity and improve focus for funding applications.

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# Feasibility study

## Next steps

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- 7 more visits by 2<sup>nd</sup> May
- Collation of visit feedback to identify thematic and local priorities
- Consideration of REPF outcomes, funding and eligibility criteria leading to co-production of community building fund.
- Feedback to participants
- Report to City of York Council



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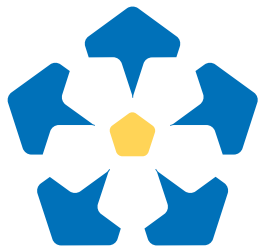
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