

RPC4/Buildings
16 October 2026



Public Consultation Report – The Romanby Pavilion

Proposal for a New Community Hub

INTRODUCTION

Romanby Parish Council has been seeking the views of local residents, businesses, and community groups on a proposal to develop a new community hub **in the current sports pavilion/Parish office building at the Ainderby Road Leisure ground (ARLG)**, to be known as ***The Romanby Pavilion***. The current sports pavilion section of the building (not the Parish Office), opened in the year 2000, and is no longer used as designed (although the outside toilets are very well-utilised). Sports teams do not make use of the building and changing rooms/shower facilities, and a large part of the structure is essentially dormant.

We have conducted a public consultation with residents, businesses and community groups between June-September 2026 to get detailed views on the viability and appetite for such a community facility before any additional work is undertaken. This report presents both the perceived scope of the proposal along with the results of the consultation, which has now closed.

The Vision for The Romanby Pavilion

The proposed Pavilion would serve as a multi-purpose, inclusive, and sustainable community hub, providing:

- A central space for gatherings, classes, and celebrations
- Opportunities for residents and families to use the space for gatherings and celebrations

- A venue for local voluntary groups
- Facilities (including the wider ARLG facilities) that support both physical and mental wellbeing
- A flexible venue that can adapt to future community needs.

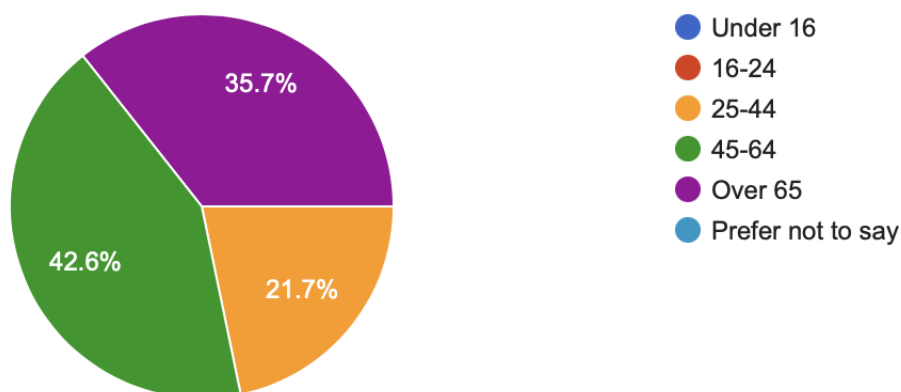
PUBLIC CONSULTATION – SURVEY FINDINGS

Executive Summary

- **High Community Support:** There is **overwhelming public backing** for developing The Romanby Pavilion into a multi-use community hub.
- **Response Volume:** The consultation was engaged with online over 5K times and captured approximately **140 detailed responses** between June and September 2026.
- **Core Takeaway:** The vast majority of participants rated their support at **4 or 5 out of 5**, showing a clear mandate to move forward with the project.

Respondent Profile

- **Local Residency:** Over **95% of respondents** identified as residents of Romanby.
- **Age Demographics:** Engagement was heavily driven by mature demographics. The **45–64** and **Over 65** age groups represent the vast majority of participants.



- **Key Stakeholders:** Input was received from many local groups, including **Northallerton Town FC, Romanby WI** and **Northallerton Cricket Club**.

Overall Support for the Proposal

Respondents rated their support on a scale of 1 (Strongly Against) to 5 (Strongly Support).

- **Sentiment Trend:** Ratings are densely packed at the top of the scale (4 and 5 – 82.6%). Isolated negative ratings (1 or 2 – 5.2%) were extremely rare.
- **Key Motivation:** Open-ended comments emphasize a strong community desire to **bring residents together**, address winter isolation, and modernise an underutilised asset. Detailed responses are at [Annex A](#).

Facilities and Features Priority

When asked to rank the importance of specific potential facilities, respondents identified the following priorities:

Facility / Feature	Priority Level	Community Response Notes
Accessible Toilets & Changing Rooms	High	Deemed critical for inclusivity and sports use.
Main Hall	High	Required for larger events and group activities.
Kitchenette / Café Area	High	Seen as vital for social interaction and refreshments.
Energy Efficient Construction	High	Strongly supported to keep future running costs low.
Small Meeting / Activity Room	Medium	Supported for smaller classes and club meetings.
Storage for Community Groups	Medium	Noted as useful, though received some "Not Important" votes.

Specific Concerns & Mitigations

Concern A: Noise Disruption

- **Community Feedback:** Nearby residents expressed concern over late-night noise, parties, and general disruption from evening events.
- **Proposed Mitigations:**
 - Install premium **acoustic insulation and double-glazing** during construction.
 - Enforce **strict operational timings and curfews** (e.g., no events beyond 9pm) built into standard hire contracts.

Concern B: Traffic and Parking Pressure

- **Community Feedback:** Respondents highlighted existing congestion issues on **Ainderby Road** and feared the hub would worsen parking shortages.
- **Proposed Mitigations:**
 - Maximise and **clearly line-mark the parking layout** at the ARLG site.
 - Integrate **secure bicycle storage** to encourage local walking/cycling.
 - Implement an **event-deconfliction calendar** to ensure large pavilion events do not clash with peak football or cricket match days.

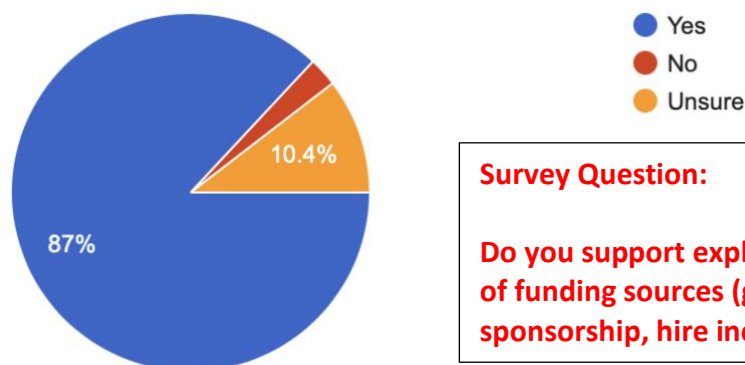
Concern C: Financial Sustainability & Tax Burden

- **Community Feedback:** Some residents worried that long-term maintenance costs will fall on local taxpayers if the hub becomes unprofitable.
- **Proposed Mitigations:**
 - Prioritise the **energy-efficient features** requested by the public to permanently lower utility overheads.
 - Establish a robust business plan where **hire fees cover routine operations**, keeping the asset self-sustaining.

Funding and Affordability

As the building exists already, funding is only required for internal building conversions and alterations, which will hopefully keep costs reduced. The Parish Council is exploring a combination of possible funding sources, and no commitments will be made without clear financial resource strategies.

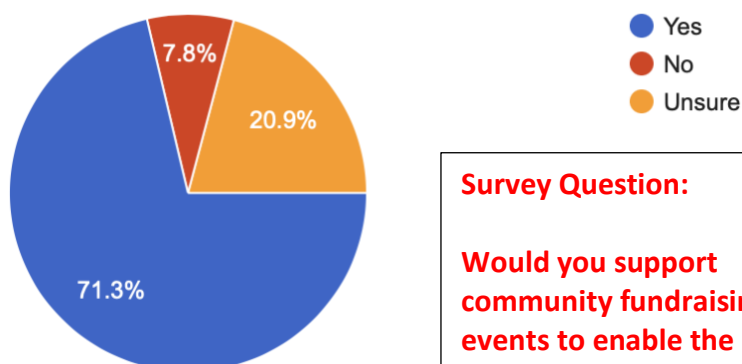
- **Mixed Funding Strategy:** There is **decisive public approval (87%)** for combining external grants, commercial sponsorships, and regular hire income.



Survey Question:

Do you support exploring a mix of funding sources (grants, sponsorship, hire income)?

- **Fundraising Events:** While the majority voted "Yes" to community fundraising events, a notable portion responded as "**Unsure.**" This indicates residents want to see concrete event concepts and clear financial targets before fully pledging their time or money.



Survey Question:

Would you support community fundraising events to enable the project?

What Happens Next?

Following this consultation period, RPC will now proceed to the next stage of the project, which will entail:

- Internal building design options to be worked up, with resident involvement (public meeting sessions) and designs will then be refined, with a down select to a preferred solution.
- Building control/planning permission issues will be pursued/investigated/resolved.
- Detailed costings will then be produced once a final design is agreed and permission(s) to proceed have been given.
- Funding streams for the project will be identified and confirmed – **only** at this point would RPC consider moving ahead with building work.

Conclusion

Now that the public consultation has confirmed the support and consensus for the initiative, we will take the project forward with continued resident engagement and involvement. The aim will be to fund the project without direct precept cost to residents through grants and/or long-term government loans.

The Romanby Pavilion represents a significant opportunity to strengthen community life and provide a versatile, modern space that serves Romanby residents of all ages.

<signed electronically>

Stuart Bradnam
Chairman
Romanby Parish Council

16 October 2026

Annex:

A. Public Consultation survey responses to the question “Do you support the idea of developing the Romanby Pavilion as a community hub?”

ANNEX A TO
PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT
DATED OCTOBER 2026

Public Consultation survey responses to the question “Do you support the idea of developing the Romanby Pavilion as a community hub?”

It will provide additional space for community groups

Provide a facility for the public's benefit to offer the opportunity to improve and develop the community spirit.

The facilities and groups are underused during the week

Community spaces are massively important, especially now.

It will be an excellent venue for the local community to use. Located in an ideal setting with outdoor space and parking.

I am for anything that prevents loneliness in old age and mental health issues.

Brings the local community together

Anything to bring community spirit together.

I support the use of existing buildings for the good if the community

Potentially a useful community facility

It would be nice to have a local venue rather than having to go all the way into town. Would be lovely to develop Romanby as a community in its own right. Would help to reduce loneliness.

This will provide a great space for families - classes, sport activities, celebrations etc.

It would depend on the business/ activity.

There are insufficient activities for local residents

As my husband and I age we increasingly appreciate place to meet others and attend events that are local to use

I believe it would be a great asset to Romanby.

A bonus for residents, especially the elderly!

It must be in residents' best interests to have the potential for meetings, events, functions etc within the parish rather than having to travel into Northallerton - as long as the current use for changing rooms and the Parish Office isn't lost.

Would be a great facility for all ages and could create a warm space should this be required for Romanby residents

It would be good to have a place as the WI hall gets so booked up now

We need strong communities

Community hubs are excellent for the local community

I feel good utilisation of the space and it will benefit so many people.

Good for the community

This can only enhance the strength of the community in Romanby

I think it would be a useful addition to facilities and services in Romanby but am unsure how it would operate and what would be involved.

I think it's a positive idea, just needs to be used effectively.

I think it's a great idea

Anything that helps the community is a good thing

Developing a resource that helps strengthen the community is a positive thing

A community hub for families will be great

I have lived in Romanby (presently Brompton), but we still use the park regularly, so improvement to facilities is always a good idea

A shared community space in Romanby will help develop belonging and develop understanding and support.

Would be really good to have a community space for classes, meetings, parties etc attached to open space for children to play safely

All community opportunities are a good thing

I am not sure that there is the need for a further community space in the village

Let NTJFC use it for match days as a cafe / snack shop / toilets / changing facilities

I think it's a good idea but a bit out of the way for most residents

Sounds like an excellent idea

I think it will be a great asset to the community enabling people/organisations to have use of more facilities

I have 2 children, and they would benefit from this

Yes as long as it brings a benefit to the people of Romanby and doesn't impact the ability for grassroots football at the park

A wonderful idea! Great for many local clubs or groups to use as well as private functions eg. children's parties or funeral wakes, etc. Hopefully the cost to hire will be competitive and reasonable too.