

Plockton Village Hall Heating Project

Progress to date

The Plockton Village Hall Committee has already undertaken a great deal of work to establish what is required to improve the Village Hall heating and have used their own financial resources to do so.

Professional Advice

In 2025 the Committee contacted Business Energy Scotland, had a virtual meeting with BES and received a detailed report. This report gave the Committee some recommendations which were followed up.

Subsequently the Committee registered and completed an application form to CARES which included an outline of our project to improve the heat retention and alternative heating of the Village Hall with the ambition to move towards Net Zero.

The Committee then sought and obtained two quotations from heat pump installers (airsource1 and McInnes group) which provided both costs and the required size of equipment. Inspection of the quotations revealed different heat pump power recommendations to heat the hall.

However, the Committee realised that there was nothing to be gained by installing alternative heating systems if any heat was going to be lost through the badly insulated roof of a Village Hall originally built in 1936.

We approached two alternative architects to assist with any design recommendations and selected and invested (from the Village Hall's resources) in the services of Wittets of Broadford.

Wittets provided a current U value for the roof of 3.2 W/m²K, a very poor figure indicating that most heat is lost through the roof. They proposed a solution which would improve the U value to 0.29 W/m²K.

To ensure that the roof structure would support Wittets recommendation structural engineers were approached (Fairhurst) and this was again paid for using the Village Hall resources.

Following the visit to Plockton Fairhurst determined that additional strengthening would be required for the Village Hall roof to accommodate and support the additional insulation.

The Committee approached local builders for quotations and were given (2025) figures of £16,000 and £25,000 inclusive of VAT (references have not yet been taken up). For safety reasons redecoration after the work has been completed will require scaffolding

(and ladders) due to the five metre high roof and will cost an estimated £4,000 (subject to confirmation).

Having two alternative designs for heating the hall the committee also approached CDMM, specialist in designing suitable heating systems to determine what size equipment is required to further heat the hall. Again, the cost was absorbed by the Village Hall resources.

Following discussions between Wittets and the Highland Council, it was determined that a building warrant would be required. This has been applied for, paid for, and been issued.

Fundraising

The Committee has also approached several possible alternative funders. HIE was sympathetic we did not meet their current criteria for this phase of the project.

We have also approached William Grant Foundation and SES. Neither are able to contribute to this type of project.

The Village Hall has also had a number of fundraising events, which included a VE Day celebration and a Café Bridge competition event, specifically for the roof of the hall and have raised over £2,600.

Summary

The Village Hall Committee recognise the importance of moving towards Net Zero, reducing costs and ensuring a suitable environment for all hall users and have obtained professional advice at each stage of the project so far.

The overall project has two major stages. Improved heat retention and alternative heating measures.

The Committee has carefully considered whether to separate the project into two parts or to look at it as one complete project.

The Committee have agreed the project should be split into two parts and that insulation of the Hall roof and subsequent measurement of its impact should be determined before considering alternative possible heating solutions.

The Committee believe they have completed all preparatory work professionally and are in a position to undertake the first phase of the project with sufficient funds.