



**HUON VALLEY
COUNCIL**



Summary of Community Engagement Geeveston Town Hall

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Geeveston Town Hall

Summary of Community Engagement

Publication Date: [Council Meeting Date]

Council Resolution: [Resolution No.]

Contact Details:

Huon Valley Council

Phone: (03) 6264 0300

Email: hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au

Post: Huon Valley Council

PO Box 210

HUONVILLE TAS 7109

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This community engagement was conducted at the “Collaborate Level” in accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Framework.

For the purposes of the engagement, feedback was invited by the following methods;

- Stage One - discussion paper and survey
- Stage Two - community workshops
- Stage Three - discussion paper and survey

Community received notification via email and the Council eNewsletter. A total of 4,659 recipients received the eNewsletter over the engagement period.

This report summarises feedback received throughout the engagement process. A total of 154 responses to the request for feedback were received via the survey. One resident emailed their thoughts which did not relate directly to survey. This is included in appendix 1

Copies of each of the responses received are included in Appendix 1 of this report.

2. BACKGROUND

This community engagement was conducted at the “Collaborate Level” in accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Framework.

The Geeveston Town Hall Company (GTHco) operates the Geeveston Town Hall and Council, as a tenant operated the Visitor Information Service. In April 2020 Council resolved to withdraw as a tenant from the Geeveston Town Hall.

At the May 2020 Council meeting the Council resolved that Community Engagement would be undertaking at the ‘Collaborate’ Level and that the GTHco Board have the term extended to June 2021.

SGS Economics were retained by Council to assist with analysing the survey results and conducting the community workshops.

The findings of the surveys and community workshop were presented at a Council Workshop on 13 October 2020.

Community members were invited to share their thoughts and ideas about the 2015 vision for the Town Hall, the management model, current and future use, new ideas, why they visit and how often and volunteering at the Town Hall. The survey also provided community members with an opportunity to be kept ‘up-to-date’ on this project by including their email address.

The techniques included are outlined in the below table.

Engagement Technique	Date	Reach
Huon Valley Council Website – Community Engagement ‘Have Your Say’ page	5 June 2020 – 28 September 2020	1026 page views
Survey Monkey	5 June 2020 – 28 September 2020	154 online surveys completed
Written Submission	18 June 2020	1 submission
Workshops	22 July 2020	57 community members
Public Exhibition	24 September 2020 26 September 2020	3 attended 15 attended
Facebook	5 June 2020 – 28 September 2020	11,185 people reached 827 engaged with post
Council eNewsletter	Emailed on: 10 June 2020 22 June 2020 26 June 2020 03 July 2020 15 July 2020 (workshop) 10 September 2020 21 September 2020 25 September 2020	Emailed to: 586 587 576 589 586 581 578 576
Community Noticeboards	5 June 2020 – 28 September 2020	12 noticeboards

3. ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

Community members have volunteered considerable time to consider the project and provide feedback. It is acknowledged that due to opposing and diverse community views, there will be some community members who will disagree with the outcomes of this engagement project.

Key themes from the surveys and workshops have been analysed by the project team and are presented in this feedback report.

As indicated in the Summary to this Report a total of 154 responses have been received to the request for feedback during the engagement period.

The feedback received made a number of suggestions and all the feedback has been listed within the appendix associated with the survey’s and workshops.

Stage One – discussion paper and survey (appendix one)

The community were asked a series of questions and space was provided to leave comments.

The survey questions covered the following areas:

- The 2015 Vision as outlined in the Summit Strategy Report
- Types of management model
- Current and future uses of the building

- New idea suggestions
- Reasons to visit the Town Hall and the frequency
- Volunteering at the Town Hall

Stage Two – community workshops (appendix two)

Three community workshops were held on Wednesday 22 July 2020 and SGS Economics were engaged to facilitate these workshops. Council aimed to inform the community of the survey findings and explore the future of the Geeveston Town Hall.

Workshop participants focused on the following key questions:

- How the current model could be adapted (if needed) without Council running the Visitor Information Centre?
- How the preferred management model indicated in the Community Survey would work and how the Board of management arrangements currently work?
- If Council are successful in grant funding for the installation of a lift – what opportunities would this bring?

Stage Three (Final Check-in) – discussion paper and survey (appendix three)

The community were provided with a discussion paper which outlined the survey findings and workshop conclusions.

The aim of the survey was to gauge from the community the following:

- Did they agree with the survey and workshop findings that the management of the Geeveston Town Hall should be community led?
- Did they agree that the Council role, as the land/building owners should not have a representative on the management committee/board of the Geeveston Town Hall?
- Did they agree that the Geeveston Town Hall should be a community hub for events, artisans, community space and retail?
- Did they agree that Council should call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for a community-based management model for the operation and lease of the Geeveston Town Hall?
- Did they have any further comments?

Public Exhibition

The survey was displayed at the Geeveston Town Hall as part of stage three.

Two on-site meetings were conducted by Council staff on Thursday 24 September and Saturday 26 September.

Whilst Thursday was quiet, Saturday proved to be popular with approximately 15 community members dropping in to discuss various aspects of the project.

Stage Four – Council workshop

The survey and workshop findings were presented to Councillors at a Council workshop on 13 October 2020.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Key findings of the engagement were as follows:

- 33% of respondents visited the Geeveston Town Hall monthly over the past 2 years
- 73.84% of survey respondents felt that the 2015 vision for the Geeveston Town Hall is still the same vision in 2020
- Geeveston Town Hall should be managed by a Community led organisation with skill-based volunteers, with an arrangement created between Council and the organisation which ensure the model has a long term tenure
- Events for local and tourism purposes that encourage development of community enterprise, creativity and connection was still highly regarded as the highest priority of the 2015 Geeveston Town Hall Business Plan
- The Geeveston Town Hall should become a central community hub that continues to capture tourism
- The Hall should generate revenue to manage the expenses of operations
- The installation of a lift to the upper level would improve accessibility use of the upstairs area for interactive use such as displays, exhibitions, events and functions such as displays, exhibitions, events, and functions

Appendix 1

STAGE ONE:

Discussion paper and Survey Results

The engagement aimed to:

- Check in with the community regarding the 2015 vision for the Geeveston Town Hall and find out if the community still agrees with this vision.
- Facilitate discussions with the community about the management structure of the Geeveston Town Hall.
- Re imagine the vacant space within the Geeveston Town Hall; and
- Facilitate discussions with the community about how the Geeveston Town Hall can become not only a tourist destination but also a vibrant community hub.



Have Your Say Geeveston Town Hall

Discussion Paper



www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/haveyoursay





The purpose of this Discussion Paper is to collaborate with community and stakeholders on the future of the Geeveston Town Hall.

Following its decision to close the Visitor Information Centre, the Huon Valley Council is committed to undertaking community engagement on the Geeveston Town Hall.

The engagement aims to:

- Check in with the community regarding the 2015 vision for the Geeveston Town Hall and find out if the community still agrees with this vision;
- Facilitate discussions with the community about the management structure of the Geeveston Town Hall;
- Re imagine the vacant spaces within the Geeveston Town Hall; and
- Facilitate discussions with the community about how the Geeveston Town Hall can become not only a tourist destination but also a vibrant community hub.

BACKGROUND

In 2015, following consultation with the community by Summit Strategy, the vision behind the Geeveston Town Hall model was as follows:

To regenerate the strategic purpose and use of the Geeveston Town Hall as a building of regional significance, that will be sustainably run as a community asset, to create a balance of economic and community value that is sympathetic and respectful of the region's history and its natural competitive strengths and inspires a future of collaboration and industry diversity.

The Geeveston Town Hall Company (GTHCo) was established in 2016 following extensive community engagement and entered into a lease agreement with Huon Valley Council for the Town Hall. The Board has successfully leased areas within the Hall to a number of tenants. The Council's Visitor Centre has also occupied space within the Hall. The Board has leased areas to local artists who exhibit within the main hall and the local history group (upstairs) for exhibitions, and allows community groups to utilise the main hall area for meetings.

The Board has established the very popular Twilight Feast which occurs on the first Thursday evening of each month and is a major funding event for GTHCo.

In 2019, following the February Council meeting it was resolved that a review of the management structure of the GTHCo be undertaken. The management structure review was being considered taking into account the review being undertaken of the Visitor Centres operated by Council.



At the April 2020 Council meeting, Council made the decision to withdraw the Visitor Information Services from the Geeveston Town Hall. As the GTHCo's tenants rely on the operation of the Visitor Centre as their retail arm of their activities within the Hall, the GTHCo Board is actively seeking an alternative solution to continue the provision of retail services at the Geeveston Town Hall. This is happening while Council undertakes engagement with the community on the future use and management of the Geeveston Town Hall.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Council will openly consult with the community and stakeholders at the Collaborate level. This level is identified in the Council's Community Engagement Framework 19.017/18* and aims to:

Work with the public throughout the process to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

The Council is seeking the community's input and desires for the future management and vision for the Geeveston Town Hall. Council will team up with SGS Economics & Planning to engage with the community on all aspects of the Town Hall. All community views are welcome and encouraged.

On conclusion of the engagement, the Project Team will analyse the community feedback and recommend to Council a response.

PROCESS

This engagement will involve a number of steps to enable Council to collaborate with the community along the way.

This process will involve:

- **Survey** – the survey will be open for 4 weeks, with feedback prepared for the community workshops.
- **Community workshops** – SGS will facilitate interactive community workshops where the survey results will be presented.
- **Public exhibition** – present the findings from the first survey and workshops to the community and engage the community on the themes and proposed actions.
- **Council Workshop** – Councillors will be presented with the engagement findings and draft recommendations.
- **Council Meeting** – a Council Report will be presented at a Council Meeting with the final recommendations.

CONTACT US

For more info

Community Engagement Officer
Phone: (03) 6264 0300
hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au

In person

Huon Valley Council Customer Service Centre
40 Main Street, Huonville

By mail

Huon Valley Council
PO Box 210,
Huonville, Tasmania 7109

For more community engagement projects visit:

www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/haveyoursay



Have Your Say Geeveston Town Hall Questions and Feedback

Please read the discussion paper for background and process.

To assist the Council, we are seeking your feedback on the following:

1. Do you feel that the Geeveston Town Hall vision completed in 2015 is still the same vision in 2020?

- Yes
 No – if no, why not?

2. How do you think the Geeveston Town Hall should be managed? (select one only)

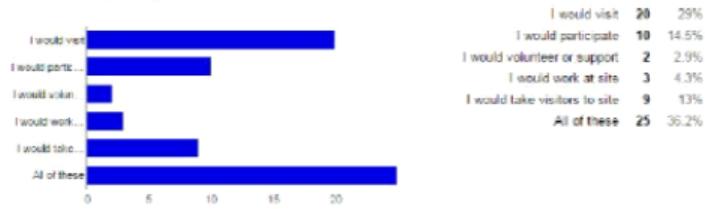
- Not-for-profit organisation
 Community association
 Business (private)
 Other

3. Below are the survey results as they appeared in the 2015 Geeveston Town Hall Business Plan.

Gallery/Exhibition space [Would you use]



Events space [Would you use]



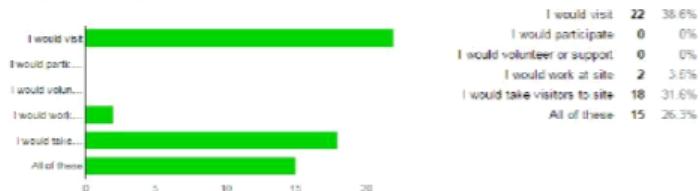
Museum [Would you use]



Visitor Information Centre [Would you use]



Cafe [Would you use]



Do you think these responses are still relevant?

Please rate your priority of the following from 1–5 with 1 being the lowest priority and 5 being the highest priority

- Gallery/exhibition space to house exhibitions from local and Tasmanian artists and craft designers, with potentially significant curated exhibitions into the future.
- Events for local and tourism purposes that encourage development of community enterprise, creativity and connection.
- Museum for cultural and heritage presentation and interpretation of the region.
- Visitor information that provides clear interpretation of the region through maps and brochures.
- Retail space and café for the sale of local and artisan products.

4. Do you have any new ideas or suggestions you would like to see included at the Geeveston Town Hall?

- Yes: _____
 No

5. Please tell us what you use the area of Geeveston for:

- Tourism
 Recreation (i.e. Bike riding, walking, dog exercise)
 Retail/Business
 Community
 Other: _____

6. Do you visit the Geeveston Town Hall?

- Yes – if yes, please tick why:
 Social i.e. community event/group
 Volunteering i.e. green jacket
 Visitor information
 Purchase gifts
 Other: _____
 No

7. How frequently have you visited the Geeveston Town Hall in past 2 years?

- Weekly
 Monthly
 3–4 times per year
 Annually

8. Do you volunteer at the Geeveston Town Hall currently?

- Yes
 No

9. Would you be interested in volunteering at the Geeveston Town Hall in the future?

- Yes – if yes, please supply your contact details:

 No

10. Are you a Huon Valley resident?

- Yes – if yes, please supply your suburb: _____

11. Are you a visitor?

Yes – if yes, please supply postcode: _____

Thank you for completing this survey. If you would like to be kept up to date with this project, please complete your details below.

Name: _____

Email: _____

The close date for this survey is 5pm Sunday 5 July 2020.

HOW TO SUBMIT

In person

Huon Valley Council Customer Service Centre 40 Main Street, Huonville

Mail it to

Huon Valley Council PO Box 210, Huonville, Tasmania 7109

Complete this survey online

www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/haveyoursay

For more info

Community Engagement Officer

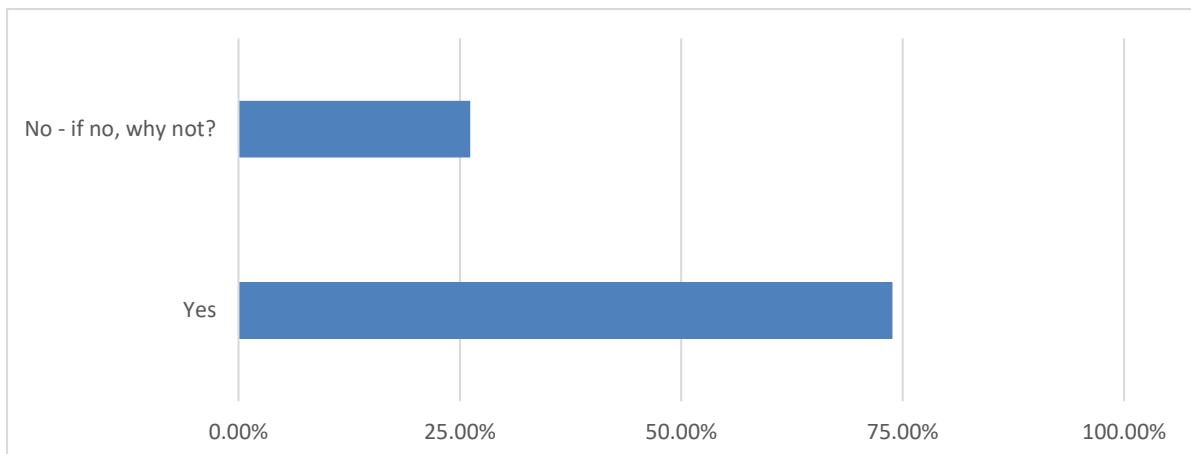
Phone: (03) 6264 0300

hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au

Survey Results

Question One: Do you feel that the Geeveston Town Hall vision completed in 2015 is still the same vision in 2020?

Of the 107 community members that responded 73.84% (79) felt that the 2015 vision was still the same and 26.17% (28) felt that it was not the same. 30 community members left comments to this question and they are listed below.



Comments

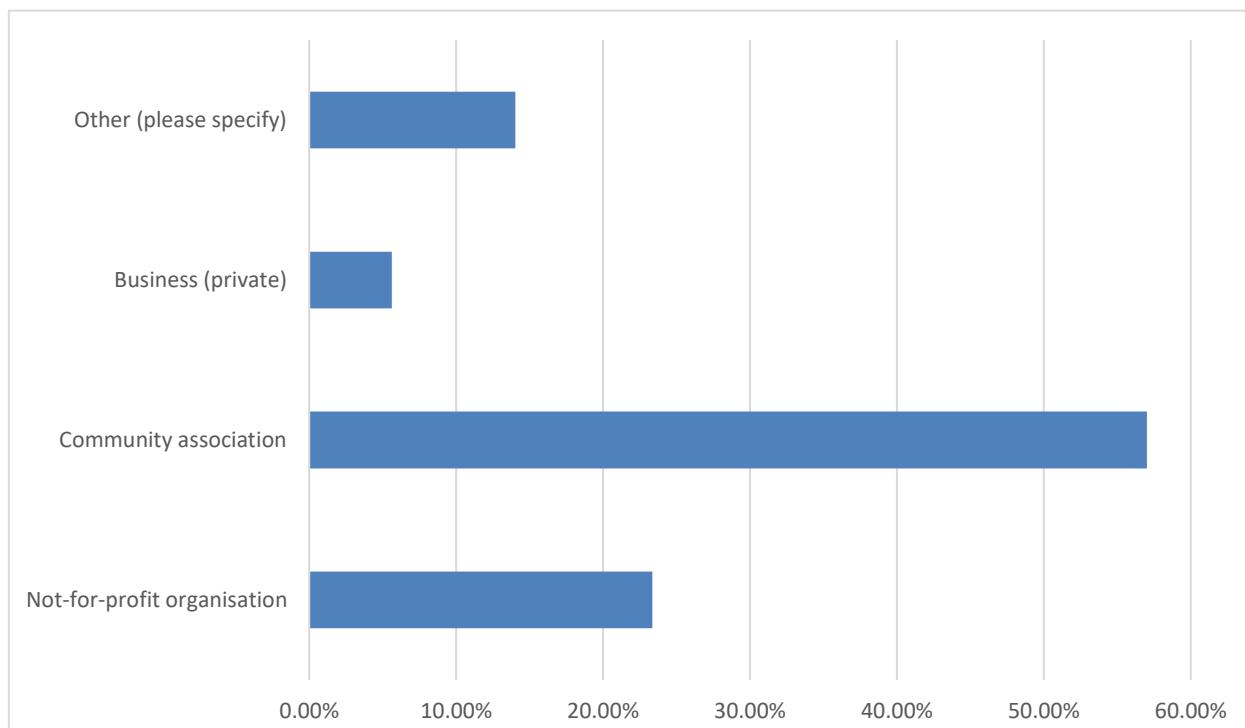
- There is more community activity now with new people in the area.
- The removal of the Visitor Centre component, change in tourism market
- Mainly same vision - Due to COVID needs to be tailored to meet new needs of travellers, visitors
- We have been through this all before! Stop mucking around.
- HVC is planning on changing - "to regenerate the strategic purpose and use as a building of regional significance
- I personally feel the centre needs to be used for wider purposes. Such as local produce, fruit, veg, eggs. I do not see the shop selling enough local homewares and art to justify this as the main purpose. I even think a community restaurant would be good.
- The economic climate has significantly changed. Without the support of council and the almost certainty of vastly reduced tourism for the next few years the economic viability of any endeavour will be challenged.
- Closing of information centre
- Quite frankly I do not understand and have no sympathy for the recent actions by the Huon Valley Council. There is an old adage, "if it's not broken don't fix it". More apt in this case would be " if it's not broken don't break it."
- Without Council support the centre can't survive from income from local artists. Geeveston is a tourist town and the Info Centre helped to cement that and encourage visitors to the area which supported local artists. A full circle.
- The town hall is at the heart of the village and should be used to support the community, local businesses and attract visitors
- I believe the space had become more than this. It had become a great spot for tourists and the glue of bringing the community together every month.
- Not aware of the background, but it's a whole new world.
- The strategic purpose has already been established. The Council (both elected and employed) have been unable to stick to a consistent management plan consequently has wasted considerable financial and council personnel resources. Furthermore, this regrettable situation has compounded the distress of the Geeveston community and the staff affected by fires and more recently the pandemic
- Covid19 and withdrawal of funding by Huon Council

- The town still need/want it a social hub, visitors still want information - you can change the name but you won't stop people asking the same questions.
- It is unclear how the operator of the commercial arm of the Centre will accommodate community activities such as exhibitions, concerts etc.
- Don't know. Not familiar with the vision, but a lot has changed in the Valley in the past 5 years
- by closing the information centre, council is undermining its value to the community.
- we had a long consultation previously with ambitious plans drawn up to adapt the building...money spent...what happened to all that. Is hvc council still looking at working towards those big picture grand plans? Has hvc been applying for grants and federal money to implement the plans it already has?
- With Australia in a recession, lack of visitors due to COVID is highly unlikely Grants will be available to facilitate such a project.
- The statement from 2016 is adequate. Shame that lack of funding to complete all elements of the initial report have not been forthcoming. Were the visions in the initial report fulfilled? Did the Mayor assist with vision or canvass for funding to improve or add elements, upgrade and maintain facilities or to try and keep aspects alive
- The withdrawal of the Visitors Centre component removes an attraction for Tourists to the Centre, which then leads to less Tourists coming into Geeveston. This has obvious flow on effects to the local businesses, and artists within the Centre.
- Of course, it is... the "vision" is a verbose, four-lined sentence containing multiple cliched catchphrases. Obviously by closing the Visitor Centre it's not making any contribution to "economic" value or inspiring any "diversity" in industry
- I don't believe closing the visitor information supports any industry or the future of the region.
- The current use of the space already achieved these goals. It is a space that reflects the natural beauty of the area, encourages local artists and gives them a platform for selling, it is an unbiased visitors information centre.
- Possibly not. The original vision is very unclear except for recognising the significant historical value of the building.
- Relied on council's visitor centre.
- I believe that since the Geeveston feast has been going. More people especially locals are using the facilities.
- Vision is strong but post Coro virus new challenges evident

Question Two: How do you think the Geeveston Town Hall should be managed? (select one only)

There was an overwhelming response from the community that the Geeveston Town Hall should be managed by the community with 57.01% (61) selecting Community Association and 23.36% (25) selecting Not-for-profit whilst only 5.61% (6) selected Business (private).

Of the 107 respondents 14.02% (15) selected 'Other' Some of this response related to the level of understanding of the difference between a 'Not-for-Profit' and a Community Association. (A 'Not-for-Profit' can be a business). Comments to this question are listed below.



Comments

- What is the difference btw not for profit and community association? DO NOT PRIVATISE. You have not made it clear what the diff btw the top two would be ultimately
- An Artist's Co-op venture
- Council
- Why can't I tick nor-for-profit, then give the reasons why I think that? You seem to have rigged it so no one can have a real say on this point!!!! I think it should be not-for-profit - as it was before council interfered 18 months ago. NO private operator will ever have the community at heart - as already publicly stated - the bottom line is their only concern. They will fill it with the usual imported souvenirs to make a buck & all the little local makers/producers will lose the support they have been getting.
- Don't really care if it's a community association or a not for profit but it should be
- Managed in a way that facilitates the wellbeing of the community and supports local businesses. That means making sure that hire spaces are accessible (financial and flexible terms) and that the decisions around longer term use should be guided by the needs of the regions small and establishing or recovering businesses (most likely tourism at this point but that may change)
- what is the difference between "not for profit" and "community association. It should be managed together with the visitor information centre as both of them draw people into the town. Not privately.

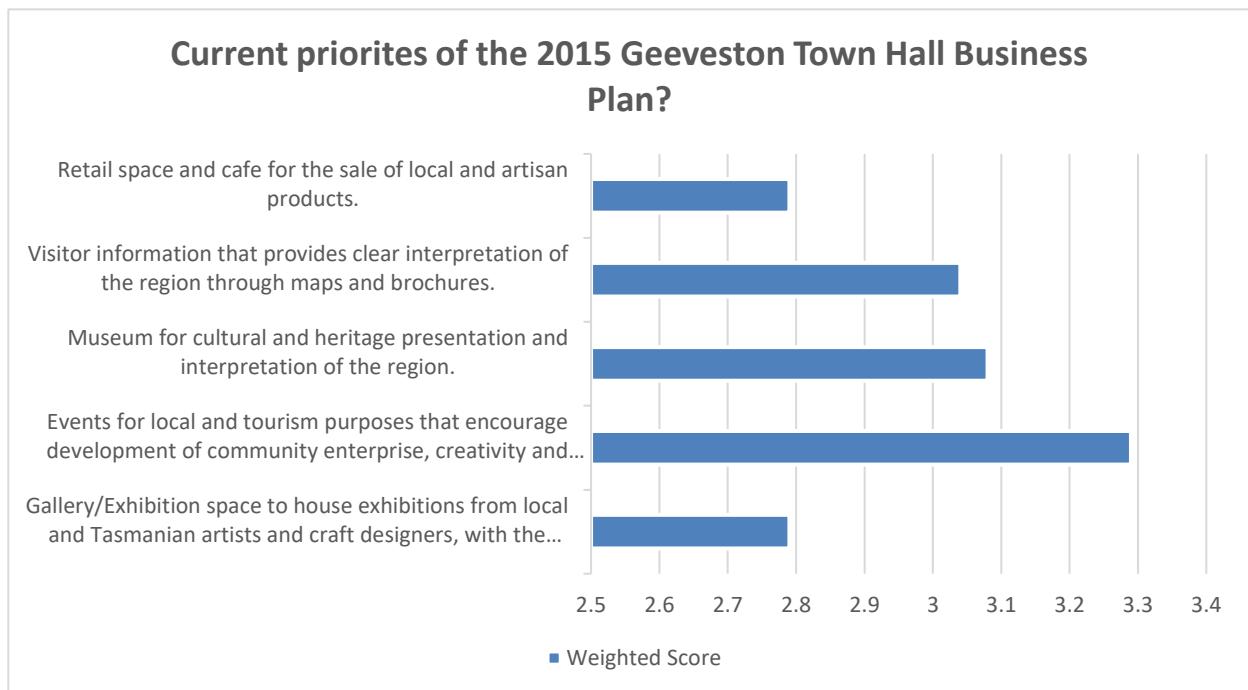
- However, it is managed it should remain a community hvc owned asset with community input
- a mix of community association and business (private), providing business retail doesn't compete with existing businesses in the town.
- This is an important community centre which should be managed by the council and also financially supported by the council. This is where our rates should be allocated
- Council should be running it.
- As a Not for profit organisation but utilising private enterprise as support in maintaining this vision
- Not sure
- These questions are poorly structured. Much more clarity is needed to make an informed decision.
- Council funded
- Local Government

Question Three: Below are the survey results as they appeared in the 2015 Geeveston Town Hall Business Plan. (refer pages 13 and 14 of appendix 1)

Do you think these responses are still relevant? (Please rate your priority of the following from 1–5 with 1 being the lowest priority and 5 being the highest priority)

The community were asked to rank the following 5 priorities in the order that they thought was most important. This score was weighted, and the final results are listed below from highest to lowest.

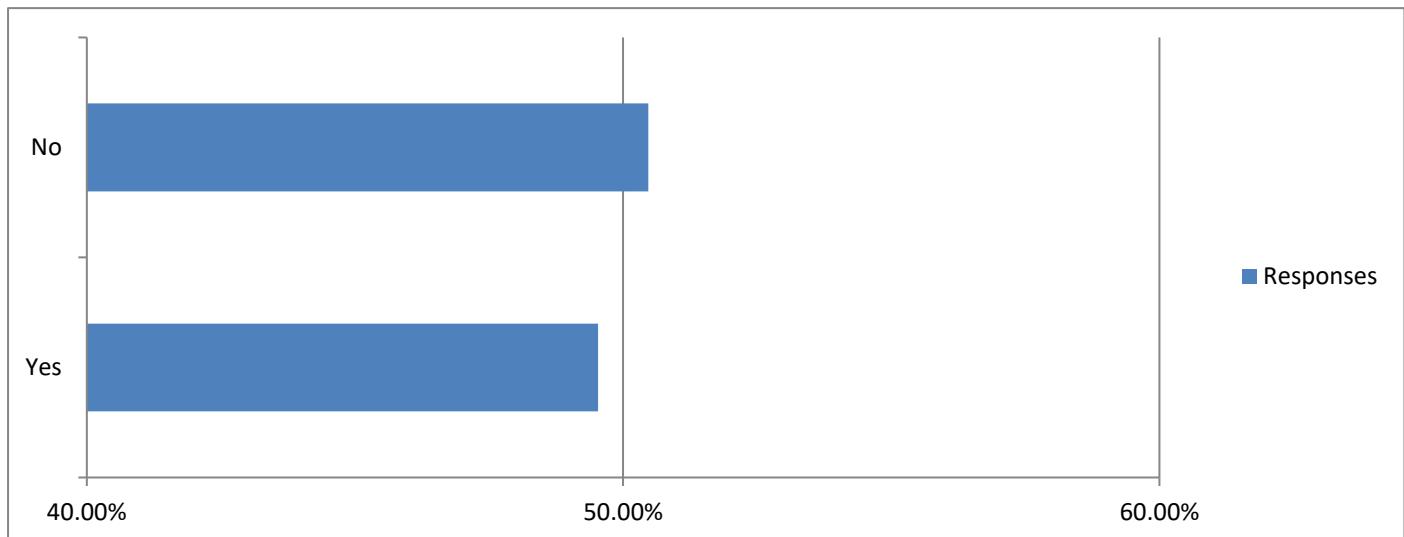
- 1 Events for local and tourism purposes that encourage development of community enterprise, creativity and connection. (score – 3.29 out of 5)
- 2 Museum for cultural and heritage presentation and interpretation of the region. (score – 3.08 out of 5)
- 3 Visitor information that provides clear interpretation of the region through maps and brochures. (score – 3.04 out of 5)
- 4 Gallery/Exhibition space to house exhibitions from local and Tasmanian artists and craft designers, with the potentially significant curated exhibitions in the future. (score – 2.79 out of 5)
- 5 Retail space and cafe for the sale of local and artisan products. (score – 2.79 out of 5)



Question four: Do you have any new ideas or suggestions you would like to see included at the Geeveston Town Hall?

Out of the 107 respondents 49.53% (53) left ideas and suggestions to be considered.

Comments are listed below.



Comments.

- Have a manager (paid) as overseen
- Pop-up market for local artists and producers - Event space for locals to hire
- Library space, movie nights, informative ticketed dinners put on by local producers, more community based activities, art craft classes, choir/singing, more info on trees, info for people on town real estate, plant sales, reading area, poetry, toy library, storytelling, cooking demonstrations, dancing classes
- Make sure Council DO NOT have control of the volunteers, the board, or anything else! Art classes, choir, movies, ballroom dancing classes, long lunches, inviting local produces to talk about their products. More/better tree information.
- Basically, carry on the same way. It has been an excellent local facility - quality in every way.
- Community run lessons / workshops on anything from knitting to composting to cooking to wax wrap making
- To build up a complex on the model of the Old Jam factory in Hobart- integrating all of the above
- 100% Arts & Crafts, Upstairs area could have rented stalls for artists to sell their wares, similar to the former southern design centre. Previous museum was farcical with too many personality clashes hindering its progress. The HVC owned historically significant 'Vin Smith Collection' should be highly promoted instead of neglected as this fit with the timber town theme, and the manual production of products similar to arts and crafts. Do NOT rely on TOURISTS! as this sector is always the first to suffer in any economic downturn for whatever reason. PLEASE think of the locals first and don't have over inflated prices for things. Affordability will make it more likely locals will bring their own visitors to the hall and browsing in a vibrant facility will enhance the atmosphere. The Town Hall was originally built with the youth in mind to give them a venue for socialising, how many locals come regularly? Don't forget the Brady St Community Hall is for community functions and is well equipped to do so, please do not discount this hall for that function and the two can exist comfortably that way. In the past business leaders have had their own agendas to fill, and this time and time again has led to the Town Hall losing its viability. True community input is putting the needs of the

locals first, and then businesses can follow. Note: sorry if this does not flow, it was hard typing this online.

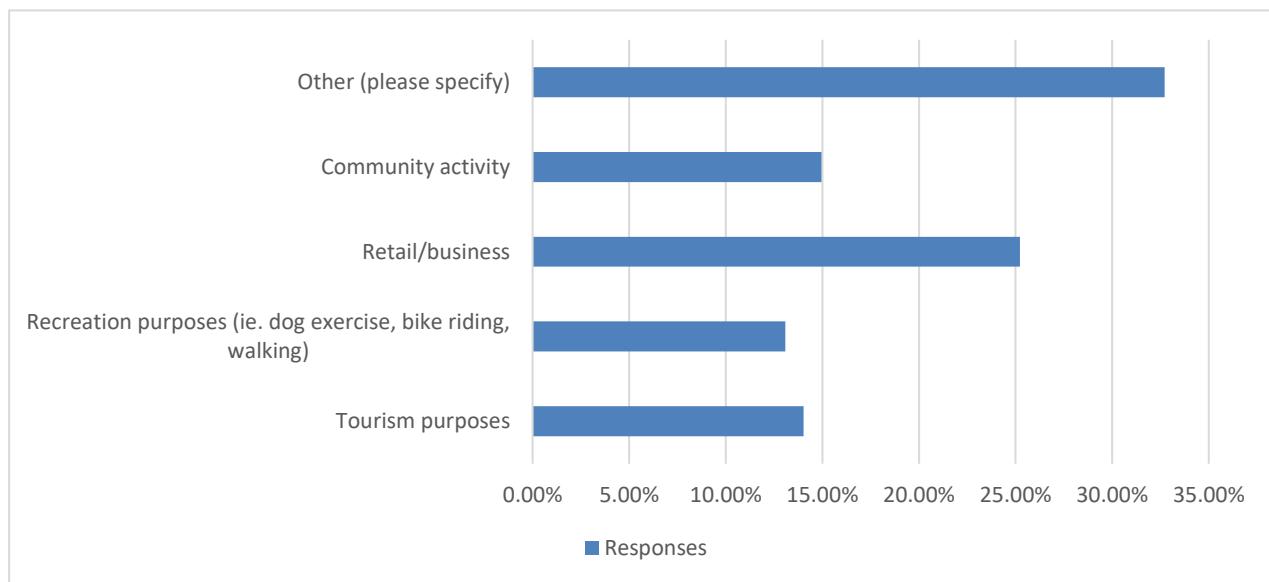
- Movie nights, cooking demonstrations - eg. pickle making, how to fillet a fish, themed dinner events ; asking local producers to come and give a talk about their business and serve their produce, storytelling evenings, poetry readings, small choir evenings, networking events, information for those wanting to move to the area, a space for information about NRM, information on weeds, native plant species, dog walking areas, parks and reserves.
- Re-introduction of Museum
- Community restaurant, sell local food produce but not jam and chutney, a book shop and cafe combined, a space for children to play and a cafe at the back, art classes such as pottery and painting ceramics that people book and pay for.
- Walking tours of the Geeveston town introducing visitors to the carved figures and stopping at relevant business for samples or refreshments
- More community events like the feast
- All spaces and rooms opened up to either maximise community use or be leased out on a commercial basis. Community use spaces could have multi roles. eg the hall could be used for the feast, on other days it could be used for youth organisations e.g. Scouts, on other days it could be used for other activities eg fitness classes. These are examples.
- Re-establish the information centre while retaining exhibitions and sales one of the best in Australia, you have been extremely foolish to close the information centre !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Needs a cafe. There isn't a suitable 7 day a week cafe
- No fresh ideas except to keep it running much like it was before the pandemic.
- More local community events, such as classes, music, perhaps the local artisans could do feature nights. They would need to be affordable. Historic nights about Geeveston, for newbies like me that would like to know more.
- Keep the Visitor Centre open with volunteers
- I think you should consider a licenced pizza bar / restaurant, along the lines that the Port Cygnet Cannery provided. The Cannery was a wild success in its pre-Covid opening period. Unfortunately, the managers appear to be changing the model because of the volume of work involved. The Cannery became a social hub where groups met for a pizza and drinks and was absolutely fantastic. Could have had perhaps other meal options. This type of business in Geeveston would be great for the locals and visitors alike. I feel it would make Geeveston a destination. Look at Willie Smiths - always full - it's a destination. Geeveston has the additional advantage of that fantastic drive along the river south of Huonville. And then there's the fantastic building itself. Once you get the visitors into Geeveston, both the shops and accommodation services would get a spin off. Then there are the destinations around Geeveston - Hartz, Tahune, further down to Cockles Bay ...etc that would keep visitors around a while longer - unique destinations in themselves (by the way - ever seen the tourist magazines the SA Govt puts out for its different regions/localities? Tas needs something like this) I feel a licenced (local beer, cider, wine) pizza / cafe / restaurant would provide a great stimulus to local employment. Hope a progressive decision is made - not another 'craft/tourist outlet'. Sorry about the disjointed commentary - very difficult to write this when you can only see one line of a webpage.
- Pop up artisan markets, themed nights, tours of local artist studios,
- The centre needs to develop engaging displays to explain the history, people, buildings of the entire valley. More than forestry, more than apples. It has to be fun, aimed at a broad range of education, changed regularly and not dependant on being able download apps. The twilight feast is a great social highlight so why not have a daytime artisan market on the 3rd Sunday of each month to allow the crafty people of the valley to demonstrate spinning, weaving, painting knitting, woodturning and carving
- A truly independent community run enterprise without council involvement in the daily operations for the benefit of the people of Geeveston and the surrounding community
- More community use of space, ie local groups from all genres
- Why bother with this one - council will always say "there isn't enough money for that yet"?

- Reinstate the Tasmanian Design Centre travelling (annual) exhibitions; curate fine art exhibitions and highlight concerts linked to the events/exhibitions. Include concerts featuring visiting performing artists. Link to other events and festivals in the state e.g. Dark Mofo.
- Need more displays for tourists/visitors and (2) Run more community events to generate income
- only an old idea. A visitor information centre.
- Community group to run & hire out for major exhibitions/events once COVID settles (if ever). Trying to run Visitor Centres on volunteers (who will require weeks of training NOT an hour or so) has been proven to be a recipe for disaster especially when money handling is required. Volunteers start off enthusiastic but soon drop out as proven with the Green Jacket participation.
- Pop up space - a tourism operator selling their product or this could be taken up by people wishing to trial a newly developed Huon Valley brand product, ie sample our Huon Valley shakes, gin, etc. Grant \$ to establish educational green space, horticulture, permaculture, sustainable living, waste, etc. Maintain and utilise the fantastic gallery space for upcoming artists via Uni Tas Or the general arts community. Continue the monthly feasts. Concern in regard to supervision of volunteers and the level of service that can be professionally offered, a volunteer is deemed an employee. Can a voluntary board supervise these people to the level required? Can HVC inform the community as to how much stock from Visitor Centres is being transferred to GTH? \$100,000? Given current economic conditions 12 months seems like a short timeframe to recoup sales? How transparent will return of \$ to HVC be? Will goods transferring to GTH co compete with established retail in the town? These questions require answers. Additionally, the survey monkey form is terrible! Make the space larger so it is possible to read back comments typed.
- I believe another cafe is not appropriate for Geeveston and that would be competition to the cafes and food premises that are already there. Several artist spaces where tourists can view artists at work, and then be able to purchase their wares (as Ross already does). Being able to speak to and see an artist work gives a souvenir purchase a lot more meaning. A Visitors information area is important as it would be the only one in the Valley (to my knowledge), and a great place for local businesses to have their information. The Centre should be the information hub of the Valley, where people come to learn more about the Valley and to find out about local places to visit. Having a full time Centre manager on site to inspire Visitors to go and visit local businesses and sites. The staff in the centre need to be passionate about the area and its features. The 'right' permanent staff member can do more for the Centre than all of the volunteers put together. An inappropriate volunteer can have a negative effect on tourism.
- Create a much stronger online and social media presence that mirrors the physical and community experience
- Coffee
- It should be made available as a venue for both public and private events (weddings, festivals, exhibitions etc) that showcase local produce, food and wine
- Active productive groups meeting in the hall on a regular base to add local interest in their work and sales
- Expand artisan workshop and craft classes
- Local tourist operators and accommodation operators should be asked to volunteer 1/2 day per month to have their brochures on display
- The space for local artists to create and sell. The access to local, natural heritage and history. Access to visitor information.
- The wood turner gentleman is a great attraction, maybe more craftspeople working in the space would be nice.
- Use it as performance space. Run some of the community centres events or classes there. Run volunteer tourist info like Cygnet hub does.
- More working artist/craftsperson studio spaces
- I'd like to see the Geeveston feast on twice a month. More community involvement using campground money to help fund it like Franklin does.

- Private enterprise; mini cinema, evening restaurant, youth activities, something to help create night life as everything closes as 5pm and the Main Street becomes a ghost town, Health retreat/day spa
- Most importantly the building is ideal as a first stop for all tourists, its location, structure and local ownership make it ideal for this and its prime purpose.
- The artisans could run classes on making some of these items, to help bring extra income in.
- Re open tourist information centre
- Should not include things, such as a cafe, that directly compete with other local business.
- Cinema, playgroup, discos for teens, communal dinners
- A town festival or long table dinner at each season (4 times a year) featuring local produce, artisans, musicians etc
- Community workshops, training facilities, special functions
- Huon junior's art exhibition and possibly sales. Reduce, reuse, recycling information and maybe even drop off station for x-rays, oral care waste etc to encourage our community and to show our visitors we are serious about keeping our valley clean and green.
- Geeveston has TV series Rosehaven and sushi chef - 2 excellent drawcards - also carved statues of locals - a strong start to attracting visitors -
- It would be great if the previous staff could stay. They were terrific!
- artists in resident, information on the history of the hall, retail outlet for local artist
- Go back and have a look at work done by Geeveston Community Centre

Question Five: Please tell us what you use the area of Geeveston for?

We asked the community why they used Geeveston and 32.71% (35) responded with 'Other', this related to a majority answering 'all of the above' to this question. Retail/business followed with 25.23% (27), then community activity 14.95% (16), Tourism purposes 14.02% (15) and Recreation purposes 13.08% (14)



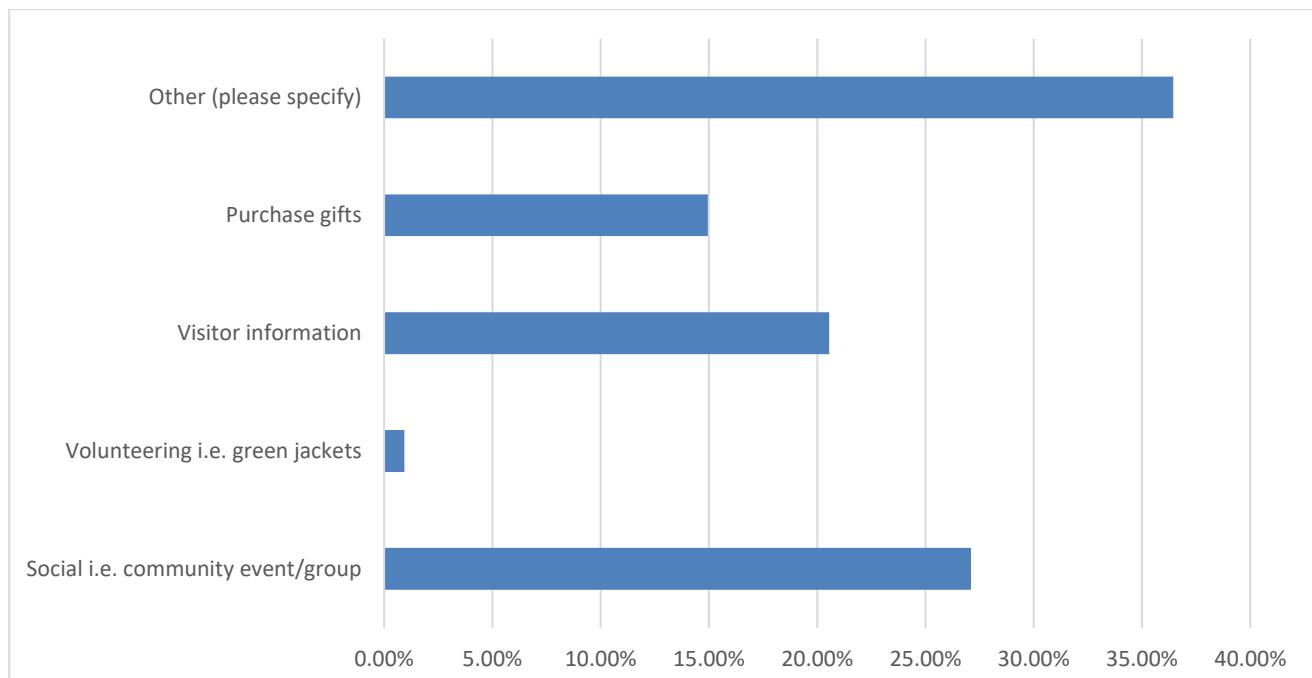
Comments:

- All of the above - Community group
- All of the above - Farming
- All of the above - I live here
- All of the above
- All of the above

- I have lived here for 7 years - moved from Perth.
- Tourism, recreation, business and I live here - why are your choices only limited to be one choice.
- I live there
- All of the above
- I live here but feel too many shops are aimed at tourists and not locals
- I live here
- I live in Geeveston
- All of the above.
- We live here and hence use Geeveston for residential, community and recreation purposes and care greatly about its prosperity and amenity
- Local shopping, to take visitors(family and friends) to the visitor centre for regional crafts and information (or did)
- Most of the above
- All of the above. It's a beautiful place and great community.
- All of these uses. This survey is poorly constructed it should allow for multiple answers
- Again, this is rigged - I use the area of Geeveston for more than one of those things - why does it have to be one?
- I live, work and play in the area!
- ALL of the above
- All of the above. I am a local resident, so Geeveston township provides multiple uses.
- Community & Retail.
- all of the above
- all the above...re tourism i take international guests there for meals coffee into the dis-lays at the town hall etc
- I have a home in Geeveston. I sell my ceramic creations in the Centre, but I also use it as a meeting spot to catch up with people and socialise.
- all of the above
- farming
- Living.
- I am a local, so I shop there, meet friends for coffee there, have a meal there, and go to the doctors.
- I live there
- I live here and grow produce for farmers markets
- I'm a local resident. So I support local business, also recreational and community activities.
- Live here
- sushi chef - food/ visits to Hartz - painting / drawing excursions

Question Six: Do you visit the Geeveston Town Hall? If yes, please tell us why.

We asked the community what they used Geeveston Town Hall and 36.45% (39) responded with 'Other', this related to many answering 'all of the above' to this question and left comments as listed below. Social-community event/group followed with 27.10% (29), then Visitor Information 20.56% (22), Purchase of gifts 14.95% (16) and Volunteering-green jackets 0.93% (1)



Comments:

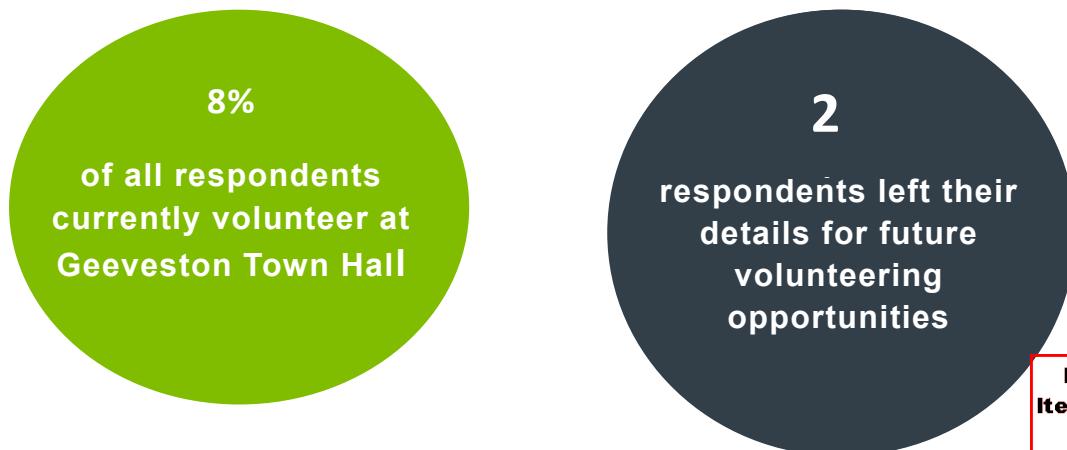
- All of the above - Knitting community
- All of the above
- All of the above
- Social, visitor information and purchasing gifts.
- Again - stop limiting the choices as results wont fit the actual answers. I use town hall for volunteering at feast, social, visitor info and selling my products
- Art exhibitions and book swap
- All of the above
- No
- Biased survey question only allows one selection. I use it for social, visitor information, purchase gifts, view displays and art
- All of the above
- All of the above.
- Am selecting other only because survey does not permit multiple answers. We regularly visit it for the Feast, visitor info with guests and to purchase gifts.
- visitor info/gifts/social
- Community events, gifts, exercise, social interaction
- Social and Purchase Gifts - great spot to buy gifts and support local economy. I brought all our visitors here to look.
- Only ever when interstate visitors are around, and only because there is little else in town.
- The building has always been of interest as a place of social interaction, a showcase of what the people of Geeveston and the surrounding areas are able to create, a place of history,
- Social, visitor information and to purchase products from the Huon Valley
- Thursday night feast
- Same as above - the Town Hall is visited/used by locals for more than one purpose.

- ALL of the above
- Visitor Information & Purchase gifts
- All of the above with the exception of volunteering. As a local I bring my guests here for information as well as shopping and I purchase local produce/handiwork as gifts.
- social eg twilight feast, visitor info, gifts, yoga class, interact with artists, view exhibitions and heritage display
- Occasional feast
- As above, including the monthly feast, and I do shop in the Centre for local gifts for family and friend's interstate and overseas. I am also interested in volunteering.
- visitor information, gift purchases
- many of the above, why limit the survey to one option?
- business
- No
- Purchasing gifts and information and social. This survey only lets you choose one option in these questions. This format is not going to give you a true reflection of people's vision and current use of the space.
- All apart from volunteering
- No.
- Visitor info and social groups
- Take visitors there, and buy gifts
- Delivery of Fresh local apples
- All of the above except volunteer as I have 3 young children in my daily care.
- No - i don't visit
- I take my nephews there to see the displays and activities

Question Seven: How frequently have you visited the Geeveston Town Hall in the past 2 years?



Question Eight: Do you volunteer at the Geeveston Town Hall currently?



Appendix 2

Letter received from private resident 18 June 2020

The Geeveston Town Hall is a unique and historic building that is a feature of the Geeveston shopping street.

The fact that volunteers are willing to staff a welcome Centre without pay shows dedication to the building and the town.

For volunteers to survive in this location economically it will be necessary for council to make a contribution to the Electricity costs. These costs have been a significant inhibitor to the success of any venture in this building since its conversion to a tourism Centre in 1991.

The Centre was created as a compensation package for Geeveston when most of its timber industry was closed down by the Helsham Inquiry.

The Centre potentially has been a tourist attraction and a white elephant type drain on the community as council has found out.

The willingness of volunteers to take up the slack is a godsend for Council and the community and shows the commitment of generous people

I ask that the council provide an allowance towards electricity e.g. average of previous year with a ceiling on expenditure. Electricity charges has been a millstone since the Centre was opened. Offsetting the generosity of the volunteers with electricity assistance should be carried out by the council.

Please don't kill the golden goose here for these wonderful volunteers by making them sink or swim.

The ability to fund expenses through sales commissions is extremely limited and there are inherent risks in saddling volunteers with financial responsibilities.

I trust that you will consider this issue with some generosity to ensure the volunteers are able to make a contribution to the Street.

Please don't leave them high and dry financially.

The town needs an added non-recurrent cost attraction

to give tourists and visitors a photo opportunity. As we have an attraction in our platypus lookout and parklands a large platypus should be installed in the Brady Street area to facilitate tourist's photography and the platypus viewing opportunity.

Appendix 3

Social Media Post Performance

Post Details

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Huon Valley Council
11 June ·

Have your say on the future of the Geeveston Town Hall!

Following the decision to close the Visitor Information Centre within the Geeveston Town Hall, the Huon Valley Council is undertaking community engagement on the future of the Geeveston Town Hall.

The engagement aims to.... See more



HUONVALLEY.TAS.GOV.AU

Geeveston Town Hall - Huon Valley Council

Following the decision to close the Visitor Information Centre within the...

2,405 People reached	378 Engagements	Boost post
--------------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------

14 8 Comments 7 shares

Like Comment Share

Performance for your post

2,405 People Reached

51 Reactions, comments & shares

31 Like	13 On post	18 On shares
1 Love	0 On post	1 On shares
1 Haha	1 On post	0 On shares
10 Comments	8 On Post	2 On Shares
8 Shares	7 On Post	1 On Shares

327 Post Clicks

0 Photo views	74 Link clicks	253 Other Clicks
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide post	0 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Post Details

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Huon Valley Council
18 June ·

Don't forget to have your say on the future of the Geeveston Town Hall!

Following the decision to close the Visitor Information Centre within the Geeveston Town Hall, the Huon Valley Council is undertaking community engagement on the future of the Geeveston Town Hall.

The engagement aims to.... See more



HUONVALLEY.TAS.GOV.AU

Geeveston Town Hall - Huon Valley Council

Following the decision to close the Visitor Information Centre within the...

1,787 People reached	80 Engagements	Boost post
--------------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------

Irene Steven Stone, Deborah Corrigan and 4 others 4 shares

Like Comment Share

Performance for your post

1,787 People Reached

12 Reactions, comments & shares

6 Like	6 On post	0 On shares
1 Love	0 On post	1 On shares
0 Comments	0 On Post	0 On Shares
5 Shares	4 On Post	1 On Shares

68 Post Clicks

0 Photo views	25 Link clicks	43 Other Clicks
-------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide post	0 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Post Details

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

**Huon Valley Council**

29 June ·

...

Have your say on the future of the Geeveston Town Hall! Consultation closes at 5pm, Sunday 5 July.

Following the decision to close the Visitor Information Centre within the Geeveston Town Hall, the Huon Valley Council is undertaking community engagement on the future of the Geeveston Town Hall.

The engagement aims to... See more



HUONVALLEY.TAS.GOV.AU

Geeveston Town Hall - Huon Valley Council

Following the decision to close the Visitor Information Centre within the...

Performance for your post**1,526** People Reached**30** Reactions, comments & shares

14	Like	10	On post	4	On shares
2	Love	2	On post	0	On shares
8	Comments	2	On Post	6	On Shares
6	Shares	6	On Post	0	On Shares

53 Post Clicks

0	Photo views	17	Link clicks	36	Other Clicks
---	-------------	----	-------------	----	--------------

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

1	Hide post	0	Hide all posts
0	Report as spam	0	Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

1,526
People reached83
Engagements**Boost post**

2 Comments 6 shares



Like



Comment



Share



Appendix 4

STAGE TWO: Community Workshops

Three community workshops were held on Wednesday 22 July 2020 and attended by 57 community members. The interactive workshops were facilitated by SGS Economics and we aimed to inform the community of the survey findings and

- Know what the changes are
- Have the opportunity to discuss the future of the Town Hall, and;
- Feel empowered to continue to use, operate and manage the building.

Workshop participants formed groups and focused on the following questions:

- How the current model could be adapted (if needed) without Council running the Visitor Information Centre?
- How the preferred management model indicated in the Community Survey would work and how the Board of management arrangements currently work?
- If Council are successful in grant funding for the installation of a lift – what opportunities would this bring?

Following the workshops SGS Economics analysed the discussion notes and listed them under the following headings:

- General Comments
- Community-run Hub
- Management Model

The conclusions from the first survey and workshops were then analysed and listed into the following:

- Management Model
- Use of the building
- Lift Benefits

General Comments

- GTH should remain as a community hub with a visitor centre and other business components to raise revenue.
- The purpose must be differentiated from other town spaces (already cafes and retail spaces)
- GTH should highlight the importance of face to face communication and storytelling
- As a visitor centre, the personal touch and friendly faces set it apart from other visitor centres
- It must be demographically suitable while maintaining intergenerational connections. There was huge support for the town hall to have greater focus on youth and young people.
- Currently, the town-hall is community-focused. The hall should continue to capture tourism by showcasing local offerings (e.g. promotion of Vin Smith Collection, timber industry promotion) beyond a website.
 - Tourism benefits: “Nothing sells a place like a friendly face”. Emphasised that visitor info MUST be provided by town hall
 - Naming: Geeveston Town Hall or Geeveston Visitor Centre? Needs to be a balance but must still be a hub for community services.
 - Potentially further community engagement on this topic – via a community forum?

Community-run hub with business component to raise revenue

Business Component

- There is a need to raise revenue to direct towards maintenance, projects, and staff wages (Paid staff/manager/marketing officer & rapid responsible operator for 2 days a week). Personal interactions with staff are important, and having a paid manager is essential in mitigating risk.
- Promotion and marketing of Geeveston should be a central role for the town hall which the Geeveston’s website will play a supplementary role in further establishing Geeveston’s identity.
 - Capitalise on assets of the community
 - Potential for rental stream for small business that complement the area (community enterprise opportunities)
- Visitor centre should be a unit of Geeveston Town Hall Company (GTHco) and accredited with Tourism Tasmania. Town Hall strategy needs to be open and align with tourism strategy.
 - One participant suggested perhaps the VIC could be run privately (by this person)
 - Council should “offer to pay for services”: visitor information provision, community services
 - Request for council to share VIC visitation data to the community
- Maximise the use of the building (opportunity from 100 local businesses/40 arts & crafts) Benefits from being open 364 days a year. It was suggested by someone that opening hours of the GTH should be extended to accommodate tourists

Community Component

- There are high levels of community support and many volunteers and volunteer interest.
 - Opportunity for different community groups to work together ie; Geeveston Progress Association, GTHco, Twilight Feast committee.
 - Council must guarantee that the community model has a long-term tenure, which addresses the risk of being transferred over to a private operator in the future.

Management Model – Analysis of the current board arrangements

- Currently, it is a good model, and the current structure should stay for now. Once the implications of Council's changing role are defined, there is potential for the board to change in the future. If the model moves into a new structure, only then should adapting the committee/management structure be considered.
 - Potential to transition to progressive models
 - Cooperative model: shareholders in hub community groups purchase a share (e.g. Milang SA).
 - Adoption of the Franklin Palais Theatre's model
 - Community association model
- There is a need for a paid manager to manage volunteers, marketing and branding and VIC
- There was general support for skilled-based voluntary board members, with centralised community volunteers organised by GTHco.
 - Volunteer board members with relevant skills- Bookkeeping, PR/media/branding, secretarial, public speaker
 - Importance for staff representation on Board (manager – essential for risk mitigation)
- There were varying views on whether Council should stay on the Board.
 - There must remain good cooperation between parties (GTH and Council)
 - There were some negative feelings about Council closing the VIC
 - General preference of the community is to have no Council representations on the board.
 - Alternative views presented was to have Council representative as observer on Board.
 - Council representatives must not impede on actions (competitive neutrality)
 - Observer role only
 - Potential for elected Council staff with no voting rights
- MOU must be created with the Council about the building and business plan, including:
 - Who maintains the building – should be Council as it is a Council asset
 - Agreed grant to operate (community is providing a function)
 - Rates against the building – should not be charged, utility costs only?
 - Negotiation around the potential support that will be provided by Council – moral vs financially

Conclusions from the workshops

Management Model

- A community-led organisation with skill-based volunteers to manage the Geeveston Town Hall.
- An arrangement be created between Council and the community-lead organisation which ensures the community model has a long-term tenure.

Use of the Building

- The Geeveston Town Hall should become a central community hub that continues to capture tourism.
- The hall is used to raise revenue via the support of artisans, retail and events to manage the expenses of operations, such as maintenance, projects and employment.

Lift Benefits

- Installation of a lift which would improve accessibility use of the upstairs area for interactive use such as displays, exhibitions, events, and functions.

**Meeting: 09.12.2020
Item Number: 19.028/20^c
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Appendix 5

Post Details Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts


Huon Valley Council
 14 July · •

Come along to a community workshop to review the results of our Geeveston Town Hall survey and discuss how the vacant spaces within the Hall can be re-imagined.

📍 Geeveston Community Hall, Brady Street, Geeveston
 📅 Wednesday 22 July 2020... See more



EVENTBRITE.COM.AU
Geeveston Town Hall Workshops
 Geeveston Town Hall community workshops – interactive community...

1,114	49	Boost post
People reached	Engagements	

🕒 Lucy Macdonald, Colleen Wilson and 2 others 11 shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#) [More](#)

Performance for your post

1,114 People Reached

27 Likes, Comments & Shares •

14 Likes	5 On Post	9 On Shares
1 Comments	0 On Post	1 On Shares
12 Shares	11 On Post	1 On Shares

22 Post Clicks

0 Photo views	10 Link clicks	12 Other Clicks •
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

1 Hide post	0 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Post Details Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts


Huon Valley Council
 20 July · •

Last call for the Geeveston Town Hall workshops!

This is your chance to Have Your Say on the future use of the Geeveston Town Hall and discuss the results of our recent community survey.

📍 Geeveston Community Hall, Brady Street, Geeveston... See more



HUONVALLEY.TAS.GOV.AU
Have your say - Huon Valley Council
 Community Engagement Projects Huon Valley Council is...

1,995	152	Boost again
People reached	Engagements	

Boosted on 20 Jul 2020
 By Georgia Pauline Jordan

People reached	1.1K	Link clicks	11
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[View results](#)

🕒 Pam Martin, Jasmine Amber and 4 others 1 Comment 3 shares

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#) [More](#)

Performance for your post

1,995 People Reached

11 Likes, Comments & Shares •

6 Likes	6 On Post	0 On Shares
1 Comments	1 On Post	0 On Shares
4 Shares	3 On Post	1 On Shares

141 Post Clicks

0 Photo views	25 Link clicks	116 Other Clicks •
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide post	0 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

Insights activity is reported in the Pacific time zone. Ad activity is reported in the time zone of your ad account.

Meeting: 09.12.2020
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Appendix 6

STAGE THREE:

Discussion paper and Survey Results

The community were provided with a discussion paper which outlined the survey findings and workshop conclusions.

This survey was opened on Monday 7 September for a period of 3 weeks and closed on Monday 28 September 2020.

The community were provided with a discussion paper which outlined the survey findings and workshop conclusions.

The aim of the survey was to gauge from the community the following:

- Did they agree with the survey and workshop findings that the management of the Geeveston Town Hall should be community led?
- Did they agree that the Council role, as the land/building owners should not have a representative on the management committee/board of the Geeveston Town Hall?
- Did they agree that the Geeveston Town Hall should be a community hub for events, artisans, community space and Retail?
- Did they agree that Council should call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for a community-based management model for the operation and lease of the Geeveston Town Hall?
- Did they have any further comments?



Geeveston Town Hall

Stage 3 – Discussion Paper

www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/haveoursay



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Item Number: 19.028/20*
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Community-run hub with business component to raise revenue	8
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Lift and future use of top space	9
Conclusion	10

Executive Summary

The purpose of this engagement is to collaborate with community and stakeholders on the future of the Geeveston Town Hall.

Following its decision to close the Visitor Information Centre, the Huon Valley Council committed to undertake community engagement on the Geeveston Town Hall.

The engagement aims to:

- Check in with the community regarding the 2015 vision for the Geeveston Town Hall and find out if the community still agrees with this vision;
- Facilitate discussions with the community about the management structure of the Geeveston Town Hall;
- Re imagine the vacant spaces within the Geeveston Town Hall; and
- Facilitate discussions with the community about how the Geeveston Town Hall can become not only a tourist destination but also a vibrant community hub.

The community was able to have their say by completing a survey between 5 June and 5 July, and attending a community workshop on 22 July.

This discussion paper analyses the feedback results and uses these results to propose potential actions across three key areas:

Management Model

- That Expressions of Interests (EOI) are called for a community lead organisation with skill-based volunteers to manage the Geeveston Town Hall.
- That a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/lease be created between Council and the management which ensures that the community model has a long term tenure.

Use of Building

- The Geeveston Town Hall should become a central community hub that continues to capture tourism.
- The feedback suggests that the hall has the potential to raise revenue via the support of artisans, retail, and events to manage the expenses of operations, such as maintenance, projects and employment.

Lift Benefits

- The community recognises the benefits of a lift which would add accessible use of the upstairs area, for interactive use such as displays, exhibitions, events and functions.



Background

In 2015, following consultation with the community by Summit Strategy, the vision behind the Geeveston Town Hall model was as follows:

To regenerate the strategic purpose and use of the Geeveston Town Hall as a building of regional significance, that will be sustainably run as a community asset, to create a balance of economic and community value that is sympathetic and respectful of the region's history and its natural competitive strengths and inspires a future of collaboration and industry diversity.

The Geeveston Town Hall Company (GTHCo) was established in 2016 following extensive community engagement and entered into a lease agreement with Huon Valley Council for the Town Hall. The Board has successfully leased areas within the Hall to a number of tenants. The Council's Visitor Centre has also occupied space within the Hall. The Board has leased areas to local artists who exhibit within the main hall and the local history group (upstairs) for exhibitions, and allows community groups to utilise the main hall area for meetings.

The Board has established the very popular Twilight Feast which occurs on the first Thursday evening of each month and is a major funding event for GTHCo.

In 2019, following the February Council meeting, it was resolved that a review of the management structure of the GTHCo be undertaken. The management structure review took into account the review of the Visitor Centres, which was undertaken simultaneously.

At the April 2020 Council meeting, Council made the decision to withdraw the Visitor Information Services from the Geeveston Town Hall. As the GTHCo's tenants rely on the operation of the Visitor Centre as the retail arm of their activities within the Hall, the GTHCo Board is actively seeking an alternative solution to continue the provision of retail services at the Geeveston Town Hall. This is happening while Council undertakes engagement with the community on the future use and management of the Geeveston Town Hall.

Community Engagement

The Council will openly consult with the community and stakeholders at the Collaborate level. This level is identified in the Council's Community Engagement Framework 19.017/18* and aims to:

Work with the public throughout the process to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered

The Council is seeking the community's input and desires for the future management and vision for the Geeveston Town Hall. Council will team up with SGS Economics & Planning to engage with the community on all aspects of the Town Hall. All community views are welcome and encouraged.

On conclusion of the engagement, the Project Team will analyse the community feedback and recommend to Council a response.



Process

This engagement will involve a number of steps to enable Council to collaborate with the community along the way.

This process will involve:



Survey – the survey will be open for 4 weeks, with feedback prepared for the community workshops.

Community workshops – SGS will facilitate interactive community workshops where the survey results will be presented.

Public exhibition – present the findings from the first survey and workshops to the community and engage the community on the themes and proposed actions.

Council Workshop – Councillors will be presented with the engagement findings and draft recommendations.

Council Meeting – a Council Report will be presented at a Council Meeting with the final recommendations

Demographics

The Huon Valley municipal area covers an area of 5497 square kilometres and is the south-most local government area in Australia. The main towns are Huonville, Geeveston, Franklin, Cygnet, Dover and Southport. The economy of the Huon Valley is based on a range of industry sectors, including agriculture, forestry, tourism and aquaculture.

Huon Valley

The census population of the Huon Valley municipal areas was 16,199 in June 2016 and has experienced steady population growth over the last decade at around 0.7% per annum.

Geeveston

The census population of the Geeveston area was 616 in June 2016.

Engagement Findings

Community Survey

The survey was completed by 102 members of the public, 95% of the respondents were from the Huon Valley.

75% of the 102 respondents felt that the vision was still relevant.



- 75% of respondents felt that the vision completed in 2015 was still the same
- 25% of respondents did not agree, and 26 respondents left comments

How should the Geeveston Town Hall be managed?

Results overwhelmingly support community-based operation of the Town Hall



- 58% Community Association
- 22% Not for Profit
- 15% Other
- 5% Business (private)

Relevance of uses

(priority from 1–5 with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

- 1 Events
- 2 Museum
- 3 Visitor Information
- 4 Retail Space
- 5 Gallery/Exhibition Space

Conclusions from Survey

The 2015 vision is still relevant to the community and Geeveston Town Hall

The management model should be community lead

The Geeveston Town Hall should be the community hub with events, artisans, community spaces and retail

Community Workshops

The Council engaged SGS Economics to facilitate the community workshops as stage 2 of this collaboration with the community.

On Wednesday 22 July 2020, three two-hour workshops were conducted at Geeveston (10am, 2pm and 6pm), with 55 community members attending over the three workshops.

The aim of the workshops was to:

- 1. Inform the community about the closure of the Council Visitor Information Centre and implications**
- 2. Inform the community about the survey outcomes**
- 3. Take questions about the changes and the survey results**
- 4. Explore possible future management models for the hall**

The ultimate goal is to empower the community to determine and establish the management form that best meets their needs.

Conclusions from the workshops

General Comments

- 1. Geeveston Town Hall should remain as a community hub with a visitor centre and other business components to raise revenue.**
- 2. The purpose must be differentiated from other town spaces (already cafés).**
- 3. Geeveston Town Hall should highlight the importance of face-to-face communication and storytelling. As visitor centre, the personal touch and friendly faces set it apart from other visitor centres.**
- 4. It must be demographically suitable while maintaining intergenerational connections. Huge support for the town hall to have greater focus on youth and young people.**
- 5. Currently, the town hall is community-focused. The hall should continue to capture tourism by showcasing local offers (e.g. promotion of Vin Smith Collection, timber industry) beyond a website.**

- 6. Tourism benefits: "Nothing sells a place like a friendly face", Visitor information MUST be provided at the town hall.**
- 7. Naming: Geeveston Town Hall or Geeveston Visitor Centre? Needs to be a balance but must still be a hub for community services.**

Management Model – Board

The survey asked how the community felt regarding the management of the Geeveston Town Hall. Whilst there has been some confusion regarding the difference between 'Community Association' and 'Not for Profit', it was identified that there was overwhelming support for a community-based operation (page 6 of the discussion paper).

This was reiterated at the workshops with the community again supporting a community-based management model.

Potential to transition to progressive models

- Cooperative model: shareholders in hub community groups purchased a share (e.g. Milang SA).
 - Adoption of the Franklin Palais Theatre's model
 - Community association model
- 1. Currently, it is a good model and **the current structure should stay for now**. Once the implications of Council's changing role are defined, there is potential for the board to change in the future. If the model moves into a new structure, only then should adapting the committee/management structure be considered.**
 - 2. There is a need for a paid manager to manage staff, marketing, branding and visitor information.**
 - 3. There was general support for **skilled-based voluntary board members**, with centralised community volunteers organised by GTHco.**
 - Volunteer board members with relevant skills – booking keeping, PR/media/branding, secretarial, public speaker
 - Importance for staff representation on board (manager – essential for risk mitigation)

4. There were varying views on whether Council should stay on Board.

- There must remain good cooperation between parties (Geeveston Town Hall and Council).
- There were some negative feelings about Council closing VIC.
- General preference of the community is to have no council representations on the board.
- Alternative view presented was to have Council rep as observer on Board.
- Council representatives must not impede on actions (competitive neutrality).
- Observer role rather than management role.
- Potential for elected council staff with no voting rights.

5. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be created with the council about building and business plan, including:

- Who maintains building – should be council as it is a council asset.
- Agreed grant to operate (community is providing a function).
- Rates against the building – should not be charged, utility costs only?
- Negotiation around the potential support that will be provided by council – moral vs financial.

Community-run hub with business component to raise revenue

At the workshops, the community took part in interactive discussions regarding the management model and how the community hub could be operated. The discussions were split into two major areas: business component and community component.

Business Component

1. There is a need to raise revenue to direct towards maintenance, projects, and staff wages (Paid staff/manager/marketing officer & rapid

responsible operator for 2 days a week). Personal interactions with staff are important, and having a paid manager is essential in mitigating risk.

2. Promotion and marketing of Geeveston should be a central role for town hall the Geeveston community website will play a supplementary role in further establishing Geeveston's identity.
 - Capitalise on assets of the community
 - Potential for rental stream for small business that complement the area (community enterprise opportunities)
3. Visitor centre should be a unit of GTHCo and accredited with Tourism Tasmania. Town Hall strategy needs to be open and align with tourism strategy.
 - Perhaps the Visitor Information Centre could be run privately.
 - Council should "offer to pay for services" such as: visitor information provision, community services.
4. Maximise the use of the building (opportunity from 100 local businesses/40 arts & crafts). Benefits from being open 364 days a year. Opening hours of the Geeveston Town Hall should be extended to accommodate tourists.

Community Component

1. There are high levels of community support and many volunteers and volunteer interest.
 - Opportunity for different community groups to work together ie; GPA, GTHCo, Twilight Feast subgroup.
2. Council must guarantee that the community model has a tenure long-term, which addresses the risk of being transferred over to a private operator in the future.

What's next

September	Public exhibition
October/November	Council workshop
Future	Council Meeting

Lift and future use of top space

As part of the workshops the community discussed opportunities for the upper level of the Geeveston Town Hall. These discussions focused on the existing structure and opportunities that would be available if a lift is installed.

The following word clouds are a snapshot of comments made by the community.

Activities



Lift Opportunities/Upstairs



Conclusion

Following the workshops Council has compiled the survey results and workshop findings into this discussion paper and have summarised the community input.

From this we have concluded that the potential actions going forward are the following and we are seeking your feedback to confirm that we have heard the desires of the community correctly.

Management Model

- That Expressions of Interests (EOI) are called for a community-lead organisation with skill-based volunteers to manage the Geeveston Town Hall.
- That a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/lease be created between Council and the manager which ensures that the community model has a long-term tenure.

Use of Building

- The Geeveston Town Hall should become a central community hub that continues to capture tourism.
- The hall is used to raise revenue via the support of artisans, retail, and events to manage the expenses of operations, such as maintenance, projects, and employment.

Lift Benefits

- Installation of a lift which would improve accessibility use of the upstairs area, for interactive use such as displays, exhibitions, events, and functions.



Geeveston Town Hall Questions and Feedback

To assist Council in understanding that we have heard the community correctly following the workshops, please complete this survey.

Please read the discussion paper for the background and information on the engagement process. Reference is made below to the page number where you will find information for questions 1–4.

We encourage you to add your comments to ensure we have captured all the information possible and can make future decisions in relation to the Geeveston Town Hall.

- 1. Do you agree with the survey and workshop findings that the management of the Geeveston Town Hall should be community lead? (refer to page 6 in the discussion paper)**

- Yes
 No – if no, why not? _____
-

- 2. Do you agree that the Council role, as the land/building owners should not have a representative on the management committee/board of the Geeveston Town Hall? (refer to page 6 in the discussion paper)**

- Yes
 No – if no, why not? _____
-

- 3. Do you agree that the Geeveston Town Hall should be a community hub for events, artisans, community space and retail? (refer to page 6 in the discussion paper)**

- Yes
 No – if no, why not? _____
-

- 4. Do you agree that Council should call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for a community-based management model for the operation and lease of the Geeveston Town Hall building? (refer to page 8 in the discussion paper)**

- Yes
 No – if no, why not? _____
-

5. Do you have any further comments on the survey and workshop findings?

Name:

Email:

HOW TO SUBMIT

In person

Huon Valley Council Customer Service Centre 40 Main Street, Huonville

Mail it to

Huon Valley Council PO Box 210, Huonville, Tasmania 7109

Complete this survey online

www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/haveyoursay

For more info

Community Engagement Officer

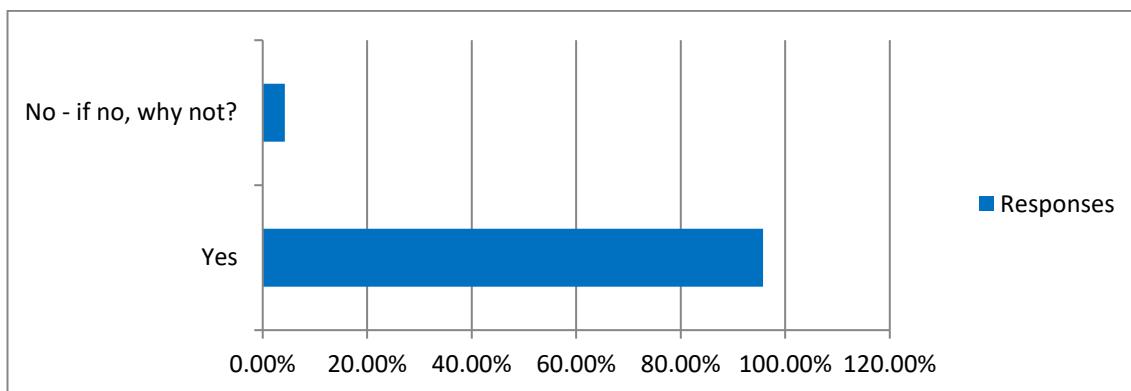
Phone: (03) 6264 0300

hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au

Survey Results

Question One: Do you agree with the survey and workshop findings that the management of the Geeveston Town Hall should be community lead? (refer to page 6 in the discussion paper)

Of the 47 respondents 95.74% (45) agreed with the survey and workshop findings and only 4.26% (2) did not agree. Comments were received from 9 community members regarding this question and are listed below.

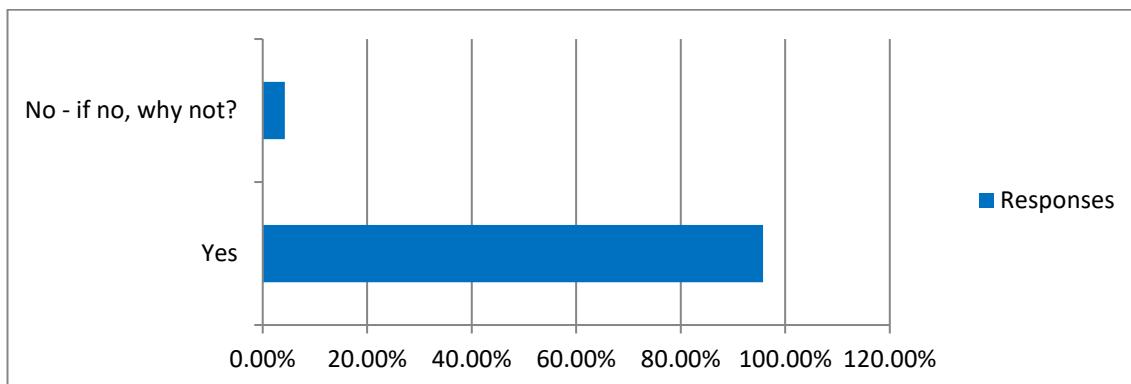


Comments

- I support local community lead management.
- Yes. The community should be engaged with the process to ensure that the ongoing needs of the community are identified and met.
- With the support of HVC to help design and ensure sustainable working framework. ...legal health and safety and COVID-19 requirements are met. What are the exact costs to maintain and run the building? Will HCV cover rates insurance maintenance etc?
- In part yes but a ran by a knowledgeable Board with experience in budgeting, profit & loss reports, staff compliance (volunteers have to be treated as staff regarding OH&S etc) Insurance requirements etc
- A clear focus to make it a Centre of Excellence with emphasis on high end exhibitions, visiting artisans, concerts and not just pushing retail. Volunteers need to be COVID trained especially once the borders open.
- Agree with all except retail component. Cafes are not the only retail areas in Geeveston. See further comment section.
- On the premise that suitable governance is in place with suitably qualified volunteers
- A community lead Board more accurately reflects the community voice and requirements of this space.
- It seems that the majority of respondents just want it to return to its previous use of a museum and visitor information. I think if it's already not survived in that function, we need to consider different possibilities.
- Community Lead venue means more community ownership and participation and sharing of the communities special interests.

Question Two: Do you agree that the Council role, as the land/building owners should not have a representative on the management committee/board of the Geeveston Town Hall? (refer to page 6 in the discussion paper)

Of the 47 respondents 70.21% (33) agreed that Council should not have a role on the management committee/board and 29.79% (14) did not agree. Comments were received from 20 community members regarding this question and are listed below.



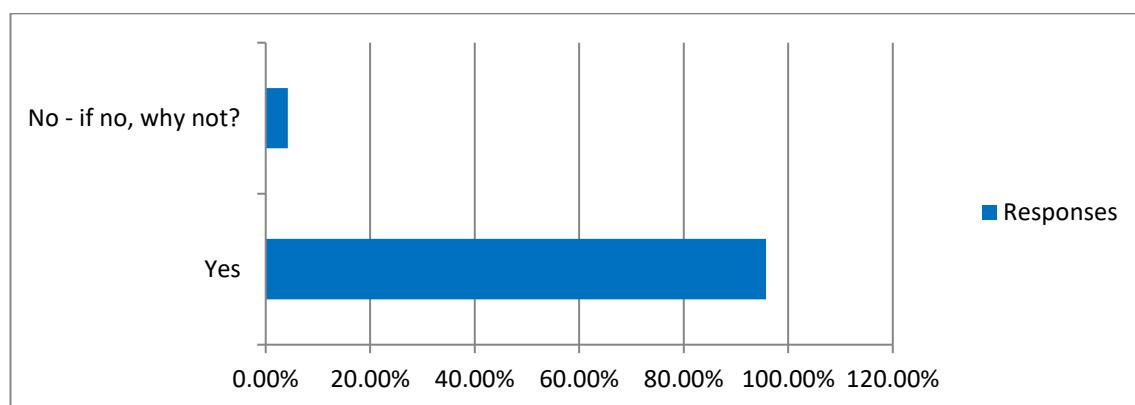
Comments

- Council could have a role on the board to ensure regularity and legislative procedures are observed. Council should not direct the ideas and generosity of the committee and volunteers.
- Is the Council the owner of the Town Hall? My understanding was that the community was the OWNER and the Council does service by holding the building in trust for the community.
- If they do it should be a non-voting position
- If so - no more than one and no say in operations
- Confusingly framed question. There should be a Council representative on the management committee/ committee.
- PLEASE NOTE I AM NOT YES OR NO but to submit this form there was no undecided option!!! All depends how it is going to be run? as a HVC owned community asset there needs to be oversight in some form by HVC. a nonvoting member of staff on the board meetings who can give advice and also report progress to council might be a good thing.
- Needs to be ran independently of Council - no Councillors or staff on the Board but clear lines of communication & perhaps monthly checks on the state of building etc. It is unfair if Council give any of their time to this venture as it is in direct competition to other businesses.
- The Council should be involved with the management of the building. A senior manager at HVC should be part of the board as a nonvoting member. This is because there will be issues which need HVC input and compliance as both the Landlord and the planning authority. Having to defer decisions because the Council did attend the meeting or have input will be inefficient and open to misunderstanding. The council rep must have the authority to agree to requests from the board and responsible to ensure the matters are expedited.
- I think council should via local member or GM with same voting rights as other committee members
- If expectations are that council support the building eg. no rates then they should have 1 representative on the committee
- Council rep as advisor and observer only. No voting rights
- If running as a standalone business without Council input/funding then YES. If Council input/funding, then Council need to be represented. If YES, consider clear communication channels for staff and building management.
- Only if there is an appropriate governance structure and framework is in place with milestones for review and reporting which are met. A governance framework would include an annual governance meeting with the HVC.
- Non-voting Council rep/advisor

- I believe owners should be on the board (one member only) BUT if not some other direct input into the board should be created
- When previously run without the Council, it was a viable business. Once the Council was involved in the running of the Centre, it lost money and credibility due to the bundling of this operation with that of other businesses. I do not agree that the Council should have a representative vote on the Board when they are not involved in direct operational activities or decisions.
- I agree that it should be run in the same way as other Halls are - such as Palais/Judbury etc
- I think that there should be a representative, but that it should be community LEAD
- They should have a representative for transparency of all concerned in the venture.
- As an asset the owners should be involved and included in decision's that effect the building

Question Three: Do you agree that the Geeveston Town Hall should be a community hub for events, artisans, community space and retail? (refer to page 6 in the discussion paper)

Of the 47 respondents 95.74% (45) agreed the Geeveston Town Hall should be a community hub and only 4.26% (2) did not agree. Comments were received from 11 community members regarding this question and are listed below.



Comments

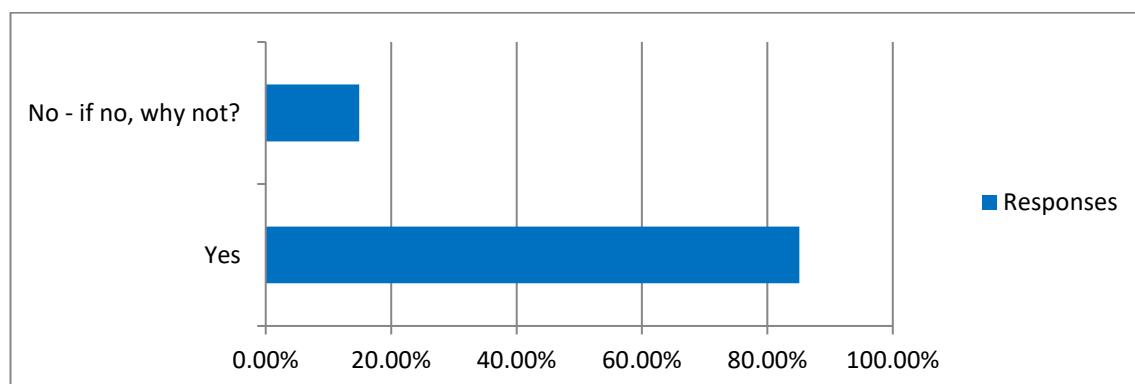
- yes, with willing volunteers and ideas people this will work.
- changes to the building should be designed to be as adaptable as possible so it can move with changing times and changes in community needs....eg sliding walls
- As it is already
- A community hub yes but with limited retail - at the moment retail is definitely the main focus. A mention was made not to compete with cafes but there are more retailers in the town than cafes at present. Is there any point in this "Centre" stocking so much retail product at the expense of putting other small retailers out of business? What guarantee do we have they won't start getting in more product lines that are already catered for in the town??
- I think it would be suited to be used as a space for artisans, exhibitions, local events, markets and to direct visitors to the attractions of the town however I do feel that if there is a strong retail influence within the centre it could potentially take business away from the retailers in the town. People are being careful with their money at the moment, if the visitor centre is the first place that they visit they could potentially spend all of their money there and not shop elsewhere. As a retailer in the town I feel that we have struggled enough already to secure the sale so to speak, the visitor centre would be better off helping us the retailer with promotion and advertising.
- It needs to be promoted as the Centre of Geeveston and the surrounding areas. The current and future management entities must lead by example , for example why use the Kermandie hotel for GTH co gatherings , why use the community hall for the community engagement briefings in July.
- and much more. Entry point or opportunities to be involved need to be matched to build confidence or locals to reclaim and take charge of our history, experience and skills.

EG More things that build a 16-year-old ability to create etc. seek adult learning and accreditation process through VET system

- Agree with all except 'open retail choices'
- Public open space for community events that are not suitable to be held in the community hall otherwise this is duplication of resources. Tenancies for artisans should adhere to a commercial tenancy framework that adhere to a predetermined criterion of agreed types of tenancies. Retail should support local artisans that may be supported through a consignment fee as opposed to occupying a tenancy...
- Community hub = yes....but should NOT be competing with existing retail businesses already operating.
- The Town Hall has always been a proactive venue that encourages community interaction, promotes producers and artisans through workshops, displays and a place to meet. More vitally, it is an important public and event location. It is not another static retail space, but a vibrant community hub connecting with domestic and international visitors to provide a memorable, interactive and interpretative tourism experience. All visitors have been highly complementary of this integrated visitor model and particularly enjoy speaking with onsite locals to get a true appreciation of the Huon Valley.

Question Four; Do you agree that Council should call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for a community-based management model for the operation and lease of the Geeveston Town Hall building? (refer to page 8 in the discussion paper)

Of the 47 respondents 85.11% (40) agreed that Council should call for Expressions of Interest and only 14.89% (7) did not agree. Comments were received from 21 community members regarding this question and are listed below.



Comments

- Council should not under any circumstances take away the Geeveston communities' role in the running and initiatives of the Geeveston Town Hall and community. For instance, where does this end up if leased to non-community. Similar to Heritage Park where the community role has been usurped to non-community members.
- The community-based management model for the operation of the Geeveston Town Hall is already happening and it is quite successful. Why does the Council have to charge money for a lease on a building the community owns? Is the Council going to use the money for paying build for the building?
- Only community based - no leasing of any areas to private enterprise
- I would imagine there needs to be decisions made re a framework of operation, experience needed etc for an EOI to be put out? How much money a year is required to break even? Etc etc
- There really isn't any other option as Council need to step right away other than being the building landlord.
- The HVC and the Board should call for expressions of interest. All submissions should be made public including the names of the proponents and financially interested parties and the Voters of the Huon Valley should be given the opportunity to select the most acceptable model. Whilst the Council has excellent officers there is too much ill feeling regarding the interference and closure of the visitor centre to have HVC and the current Board directly involved in the selection.

- A council supported committee like Palais Theatre is less onerous to establish & maintain.
- Allow current committee to continue on as they are the ones that are operating it and did the work to get it open
- To be done ASAP
- I doubt if a community base management will work in the long run as volunteer's loose enthusiasm and the need is for pain skilled management.
- I doubt if a community base management will work in the long run as volunteer's loose enthusiasm and the need is for pain skilled management.
- council only as ex-officio
- With specified retail component
- It is critically important to have a framework that is both sustainable and achievable that is not swayed by popular opinion or emotion. The model needs to be sustainable and independence in development can go a long way to achieving this.
- Maintaining the president structure of GTHco for now
- Yes but if this does not bubble up a good model (which may need to evolve) then I think the council should facilitate the development of a community based management model
- I think the community should be able to run it as they see fit to change as circumstances change. this should be decided by the management committee.
- There can be great benefits with inviting a wider voice and amalgamating ideas for the best management model.
- Yes. I am happy to help. Alice Toner - Brown.
- There has to be community members willing to do the work and make it happen, not just talk about it. EOI means you sort those people out and find the ones who will actually run it.
- I am under the impression that a community-based management model is already in place. If this isn't the case by all means call for EOI however I can't help thinking that noting previous consultations on this subject and this "revisiting" survey that Council has been given an answer from the community and doesn't like it.

Question Five: Do you have any further comments on the survey and workshop findings?

Of the 47 respondents 44.68% (21) answered yes and 22 respondents made comments.

- the closing of the visitor centres will allow the communities to take over the ideas and directions of their communities. Council and Government tends to usurp the community and allows them to become dependent on council, detached from the future ideas and directions of the communities. Local communities are full of ideas and energy and if assisted and given direction anything is possible. Council by embracing the community is engaging energy and skills that were not possible under the visitor centre model run by council. In the case of Heritage Park council is being naïve in believing that an outside agency CMCA charging minimal rents should be allowed to usurp the community role in mangling the direction of Geeveston. it is suggested the power and reach of CMCA will be much greater and better than local management. This is unlikely as the performance before closure was impressive.

Council and Government should be mindful, the greatest driver of the communities is the communities themselves. Councils and government usually fail when getting in too deep and end up carrying the costs and responsibilities. Councils have the abilities to seed fund and aid initiatives but should not engage to the point that the activity ends up being the council itself. Geeveston has some wonderful community members wishing to engage and get things done. Council should guide and assist but otherwise get out of the way. Many of the initiatives in Geeveston where community driven eg. Heritage Park (local community group). Bendigo Bank financed and initiated by local community group and now in 4 towns. Streetscape and rebuild of Geeveston main street... Kermardie River Rehabilitation done by Kermardie River Landcare. We are not useless so please give us room.

- My knowledge is that the Council cannot lawfully "own" a community building. it can only administer in trust for the community of the Huon Valley and Geeveston.
- Can we trust council at all - after what they have done with the centre previously and when on councillor in particular wanted it closed so he could open his own? And what is Council doing regarding a Forestry Centre of Excellence and the building?
- It's all taking too long!!

- there needs to be a paid qualified manager for the building to work with the board and coordinate the volunteers and events. volunteers burn out so the manager ensures the stable overall functioning framework. the lift is a priority whatever the use of the building and has been consistently identified as such for eons! priority should be given to finally determine the best position and get this installed. what has happened to all the grand plans paid for and drawn up previously?
- there is a comment in the workshop findings about risk of the town hall being privately operated - I would not like to see that happen. I think it is important that it be in community hands and that a community organisation consult broadly within the community and with the Council.
- Many people of the Huon Valley and the wider community have stepped up to be involved in the continued community use of the building. From the residents, artists, Green Jackets, staff and volunteers, local traders, and visitors from everywhere we all benefit from the ongoing and innovative utilisation of this lovely building. I beseech the Council to support the community and gives us time to recover, regroup and redefine where the Town hall fits into the local and wider Tasmanian community.
- The current committee have put in a huge amount of time and effort to get the hall open and operating. If it was handed over to a new group all the work that has been done would be lost and thinks like feast may disappear. It would seem to me that the current committee are doing a good job it should be encouraged and rewarded by letting them get on with the job and work on long term projects.
- The Geeveston Visitor Centre is a great place for tourist, and I was bringing visitors through to show them the history and wood display.
- The original survey was clumsily worded and misleading. A solution to this issue needs immediate attention
- During the period when the centre operated solely under the umbrella of the Town Hall company Ltd and employed a manager on-site it operated successfully. I believe this model should be adopted.
- It is such a wonderful and important space - to keep it accessible to the wider community is of utmost importance.
- Great process. I am concerned about the lack of involvement of GeCo. They seem to me to be a natural partner. perhaps even the place to introduce people to producing saleable products etc
- Council need to consider the comments and communicate with all retail outlets in Geeveston (get out and talk to them before decisions are made!) - there are not just cafes in Geeveston, there are other small businesses who are reliant on income generated by visitors to the town. These businesses are currently struggling to make ends meet - perhaps the Mayor has visited all the retail owners in Geeveston and already has feedback? The town hall is obviously a drawcard to visitors looking for information/direction - if they spend firstly in the hall, that limits the amount that they spend in other established retail areas in the town. Retail lines should be extremely limited in the town hall and not be duplicated or similar or be seen to be competing with other struggling retail businesses in the township - consider that to survive these businesses need flexibility.
- The work to date is good. A lift is a positive initiative for the Centre. It is great to have a list of ideas for the spaces - hopefully the future management direction and choices will create a clear business plan that can be utilized to gain funding that brings the ideas to life; and be tracked well.
- The governance structure of any volunteer management committee must be clearly articulated to ensure appropriate management of a rare payer owned asset. Any proposal must be sustainable and functionally independent from funding from Council.
- Lift idea - low impact on existing building if it is glass box structure in the central opening in the "big tree" footprint. People would be attracted to using the lift to go up inside the "big tree"
- What is to become of the small community hall in Brady Street?
- just get on with it. stop making red tape and stuff and let the community get on and use their building.
- The discussion paper mentions a need for a 2 day a week paid position to 'mitigate risk'. There are a number of community associations that are able to mitigate risk using a solely volunteer workforce. The talent pool of the current volunteers would be able to provide the expertise needed in the initial stages of the venture. Having a period without wage and on-

costs imposts would provide insights into potential revenue streams and the feasibility of affording paid staff

- I would also like to see a 3-way conversation between GTH co, Huon council and Geko to identify community needs within the Geeveston area and the development of strategic plans that uses pooled resources of the three entities. This would not only ensure adequate use of resources but would help GTH co, or the new entity, to clearly identify the mission and functions of the Geeveston town hall.
- Strongly support there should be a paid manager to oversee the running of the hall who would also be in charge of daily management, product purchase and placement, roster of volunteers, support of local artisans and community events. This person must be on the Board for accurate representative reporting and be included in operational management decisions. In addition, as previously stated, it is imperative that a lift be installed to fully utilise the entire building and be in accordance with disability access requirements.
- Lift is a great idea. Can we please have one at the Palais? :) Would greatly help as often elderly and disabled folk are rather sad, they cannot access upstairs and are blocked out of events they would like to attend.
- Refer to my answer in Q4. It's time to act rather than conduct surveys until you get the answer you want. Go to the GTH building and see that it is an impressive representative of the region, not just Geeveston. Any region would be proud of what is currently in place. It is a flagship to be proud of! Back when we did receive interstate visitors it was one of the first places, I took them. My visitors were delighted and made purchases as I also have done more than once. When the current circumstances are relaxed, we need to be poised to respond.

Appendix 7

Post Details

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Huon Valley Council
9 September

Have your Say on the future use of the Geeveston Town Hall!

Following the decision to close the Visitor Information Centre within the Geeveston Town Hall, the Huon Valley Council is undertaking community engagement on the future use of the Geeveston Town Hall.

The engagement aims to.... See more



HUONVALLEY.TAS.GOV.AU

Geeveston Town Hall - Huon Valley Council

Following the decision to close the Visitor Information Centre within the...

1,028 People reached **43** Engagements **Boost post**

0 Photo views **14** Link clicks **21** Other Clicks

4 Likes **4** On Post **0** On Shares
0 Comments **0** On Post **0** On Shares
4 Shares **4** On Post **0** On Shares

35 Post Clicks
0 Photo views **14** Link clicks **21** Other Clicks

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK
1 Hide post 0 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam 0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Post Details

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Huon Valley Council
21 September

We are keen to hear from you about the results of the first survey and workshops on the future use of the Geeveston Town Hall.

You can now provide feedback on a public exhibition displayed at the Town Hall, presenting the community engagement results.

We will be onsite at the Geeveston Town Hall on the following dates, where you can talk to us about the exhibition and submit a feedback form. See more



HUONVALLEY.TAS.GOV.AU

Geeveston Town Hall - Huon Valley Council

Following the decision to close the Visitor Information Centre within the...

900 People reached **18** Engagements **Boost post**

0 Photo views **10** Link clicks **4** Other Clicks

3 Likes **3** On Post **0** On Shares
0 Comments **0** On Post **0** On Shares
1 Shares **1** On Post **0** On Shares

14 Post Clicks
0 Photo views **10** Link clicks **4** Other Clicks

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK
0 Hide post 1 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam 0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Post Details

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts



Huon Valley Council
23 September ·

Don't forget Council will be onsite at the Geeveston Town Hall tomorrow from 11am or you can Have Your Say online (closes 27 September): www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/consultations/geeveston-town-hall

Any questions, please call us on (03) 6264 0300.



HUONVALLEY.TAS.GOV.AU
Geeveston Town Hall - Huon Valley Council
Following the decision to close the Visitor Information Centre within the...

430 People reached 24 Engagements [Boost post](#)

Jackie Hall, Mercy Bas Molina and 2 others 3 shares

Like Comment Share

Performance for your post**430** People Reached**11** Likes, Comments & Shares

8 Likes	4 On Post	4 On Shares
0 Comments	0 On Post	0 On Shares
3 Shares	3 On Post	0 On Shares

13 Post Clicks

0 Photo views	10 Link clicks	3 Other Clicks
---------------	----------------	----------------

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**1** Hide post **0** Hide all posts
0 Report as spam **0** Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts