

## Purpose of the Slides

- Show there is a shared long-term direction for the Welfare Hall
- Consider early community engagement
- Identify priorities before detailed costings
- Ensure plans reflect charitable purpose
- Allow discussion with possible funders



# Abercrave Miners Welfare Hall



# History and Background

- Constructed in **1937** as a miners' welfare hall for Abercrave and the surrounding area
- Established as part of the wider **miners' welfare movement**, funded to support communities built around the coal industry
- Intended to provide:
  - social, recreational and cultural facilities, and
  - a focal point for community life
- Held in trust for the benefit of local inhabitants, with a particular (but not exclusive) connection to the **mining community**
- Has hosted generations of community activity, meetings, events and social life
- Remains governed by a **Charity Commission Scheme**, which safeguards its use as a community welfare asset
- Now an important **heritage building**, reflecting the social history and identity of Abercrave



## The Hall and Its Role Today

- Key asset for Abercrave village and surrounding area
- Building condition limits current use but still supports community groups on a regular basis
- Challenge to maintain community engagement due to building issues
- Old Cinema/concert hall area is leased for provision of a pool hall and sports bar. Used by local residents and for national competitions and tournaments



## Long-Term Vision

- Safe and welcoming building
- Flexible and well-used community space
- Financially sustainable
- Supports the needs and situation of the local community
- A source of local pride

## Our Charitable Purpose

- As laid out in the charity scheme
  - Provide a welfare hall for local benefit
  - Improve quality of life for residents
  - Particular connection to mining heritage
  - Inclusive and non-political use



# How the Hall Could Be Used in the Future

- Community Hub

- Community groups and clubs
- Events, performances and activities
- Health, wellbeing and support services
- Learning and volunteering opportunities

## Economic Driver

- Local employment opportunities
- Affordable space for organisations
- Increased local footfall
- Potential for social enterprise



## Why a 10-Year Plan Is Needed

- Avoid reactive and costly repairs
- Protect the building and trustees
- Create a clear long-term direction
- Build confidence for future investment



## Last Major Building Survey in 2019

- Significant fabric and maintenance issues
  - Flat roofs and water ingress critical
  - Internal finishes and electrics require attention
  - Investment required over time
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- Work has been undertaken in the intervening period to renovate the lounge, install a kitchen area and add accessible toilet facilities

## Phasing the Next 10 Years

- Years 1–2: Safety, comfort and compliance
  - New Heating System
  - Seal, paint and insulate the exterior
  - Interior insulation
  - Refurbish Bar Area
- Years 3–5: Refurbishment and improvements
  - Repurpose rooms according to community needs
  - Full internal redecoration
- Years 6–10: Growth and sustainability
  - New users
  - More diverse groups
  - Aligned with community needs



# Community Engagement and Voice

- Engagement with community groups and stakeholder organisations
- Open consultation events
- Surveys and feedback
- Ongoing dialogue
- Transparent decision-making

## Next Steps

- Capture feedback
- Refine priorities
- Community Consultation
- Commission updated surveys
- Fully costed plan