

# 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





# Abercraive Miners Welfare Hall



# History and Background

- Constructed in **1937** as a miners' welfare hall for Abercrae 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 Abercrae



## The Hall and Its Role Today

- Key asset for Abercrafve 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
- Work has been undertaken in the intervening period to remove 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

