

# Wylam Institute Community Association

## Consultation on the future of the Wylam Institute

### Context

We are undertaking this consultation on the future of the Institute as the village and County face challenges and opportunities in the years ahead in how to work together to build stronger communities. The Institute has a new constitution; the Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood plan as Central Government is revising its approach to community development; and the County Council aspires to put '[communities first](#)' in the way it operates. With all of this in mind we are seeking the views of Wylam residents on how we can improve the Institute and encourage greater use by a diverse range of users.

### Who we are

The Institute is not just a building; it is a registered charity with the wellbeing of the community at its heart, and its full title is Wylam Institute Community Association. The objects of the Association are "*to provide facilities for the Educational, Social and Recreational Activities of individuals and organisations in the village of Wylam and the vicinity*".

- The Institute is independent of any other organisation in Wylam and managed on behalf of the village by a dedicated group of trustees.
- We are regulated by the Charity Commission and submit an annual return and accounts each year which you can view on the Charity Commission's website. A small team of paid staff look after the building and bookings and are essential to the efficient running of the Institute.
- We work with our hirers and other organisations to ensure the Institute provides a good venue for all, including hirers running their own business, charities meeting at the Institute or other groups enjoying the space.
- The Institute is hired for around 15% of the available time. The downstairs halls and two small rooms are the least used areas. There is scope for many more activities and services to be based at the Institute.
- Having lost a valuable income stream in the last six months, the Institute will soon struggle to afford the huge costs of maintaining a large Victorian building and garden and must encourage more activities to be held in the hall.

### What should we be?

- A modern building with good facilities, technology and equipment?
- Or a community hub for activities that benefit everyone in the village and surrounding area (such as the award-winning community hub we visited in [Grassington in North Yorkshire](#)), for example, by encouraging new activities including health and wellbeing (classes, therapies), educational (new skills, knowledge or



experience), recreational (book club, youth club, amateur dramatics, mental health group), or services (financial hub, therapy rooms)?

### Your support

We want to thank everyone who has already been in touch to offer one-off advice and support to the Institute. If you can help us by volunteering a small amount of time to advise or guide us, particularly with legal, construction or fundraising advice, please get in touch.

### Your views

Please tell us what you want to see happen at the Institute, such as different activities or services in the halls and rooms, refurbishment of the spaces, new technology installed or a plan for the garden. We welcome ideas and suggestions. The trustees will consider them all and seek expert advice and guidance before making any decisions.

### Getting in touch with your views

Survey: complete the questionnaire on paper and post in the Institute post-box or fill in online. Questionnaires are available from the Institute notice board.

Email: [wylaminstitute2@gmail.com](mailto:wylaminstitute2@gmail.com)

Website: use the general enquiry form on the Contact page of our website or complete the questionnaire linked in the news article.

Call into the Institute. We're open from 10-12 on Friday mornings or by appointment at other times.

Write to us at Wylam Institute, Church Road, Wylam, NE41 8AP



**Closing date for consultation responses is Friday 1 May 2026.**

**Thank you**

