

Report upon the suitability of North Ferriby Village Hall, North Ferriby Parish Hall and Hallmark Hotel as a Public Inquiry venue for 4 weeks.

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Date: 3 December, 2013 *(updated 16 December, 2013 following further conversations with venue administrators)*

	North Ferriby All Saints Parish Hall	North Ferriby Village Hall
<b>size of room</b>	large hall with wooden floor 52ft x 32ft wide - capacity for up to 200 people - with 100 chairs - large kitchen and toilet facilities available - good sized tables available;	large wooden floor - 59ft x 32 ft - capacity for up to 180 people seated - good sized tables available - large kitchen and adequate toilet facilities (see attached floor plan).
<b>security</b>	the Parish Administrator works at the building daily in her office that offers security and the main building and individual rooms can be locked;	main building can be locked but there are two rear entrances again that can be locked but security would be the Councils responsibility as no permanent presence at the building;
<b>availability</b>	the main hall is used extensively by a range of community/leisure groups and speaking to the administrator it would be difficult to cancel these activities as some of them are businesses;	the caretaker informed me that the building could be made available for the duration of the Inquiry;
<b>acoustics</b>	a PA system would be required as acoustics are not good. I remember when I was involved with the Humberfield Inquiry several years ago that we had to hire a PA system and microphones which was an additional cost for the Council;	very good, the main room used used for amateur dramatics on a regular basis;

<b>heating</b>	radiators and generally warm however limited opportunity for opening windows if it gets too hot;	Good with radiators and windows to provide ventilation.
<b>lighting</b>	good	good
<b>number of secure breakout rooms</b>	one large room could be split into two with a dividing screen, that I considered would not be suitable given that you could easily hear what the other party talking; a further room was OK and the fourth room was in the first floor with a steep stairway - overall far from ideal - given the layout and the fact that privacy for each party including the Inspector could not be guaranteed;	a large room that can be subdivided into two rooms and a third and fourth breakout room can be provided. Security could be an issue when the Inquiry was running and I was not confident that the sub-divided breakout rooms would be secure;
<b>copying facilities</b>	these are limited to the Parish Administrator and the Council would need to provide any copiers;	limited and Council would have to provide their own copiers;
<b>wi-fi and telephone availability -</b>	telephones limited to the administrators office and no wi-fi and mobile phone cover very poor;	wi-fi in use but no fixed land line
<b>parking</b>	limited to about 6 cars - would have to rely on on-street parking which was extensively used;	limited but secure for 8 spaces - rear car/parking to the building is shared with the doctors surgery;
<b>disabled access</b>	good to the main building but limited elsewhere but overall good.	provided throughout
Cost	Management committee contacted me via email dated 16 December, 2013 to state that the venue would not be available for	£125 per day.

## Conclusion

North Ferriby All Saints Parish Hall is not available for the Public Inquiry.

The Hallmark Hotel is considered by the Council to be too expensive at £3750.00 for the duration of the Inquiry.

North Ferriby Village Hall would be suitable for a 'standard' public inquiry sitting for 4 days.

My main concern was the uncertainty that could be created by the lack of readily accessible IT systems/copying facilities/and consistent mobile phone coverage. Again from experience I do recall with the Humberfield Inquiry officers moving back and forth from County Hall to North Ferriby servicing information requirements from our Barrister. This was not appropriate from an operational perspective and led to delays and reduced the ability to act quickly and decisively with information requests.

I am also concerned about the break-out rooms in North Ferriby Village Hall. The suggested rooms will be too close and will enable each party to hear conversations. There is limited privacy as each party will have to use the communal kitchens. Limited shops for lunch in North Ferriby.

I would suggest to the Inspector that we strongly resist holding the Inquiry in North Ferriby Village Hall but consider that it could be used for the day/evening session (s) to listen to the views of local people.

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