

27th November 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

Former Elphin School Building now a Community Centre

I moved to the Elphin area in September 1978 and I have remained here since. There was at that time an old ram shackled hall in Elphin which had served the community for many decades which sadly needed to be demolished due to the framework rotting. The old hall was greatly missed by the residents of Elphin, Knockan and Ledmore. During the years I have lived here I have seen various uses of the old school building ranging from an outdoor centre, to a primary school and now a well used community centre which has become the heart and soul of the Elphin area.

I have supported the idea of the hall since it was first offered to the community and I have served on the committee that runs it. The hall has brought the folk who live in the vicinity of Elphin together with talks on many issues, dances, craft meetings, playgroups, craft markets, yoga evenings, fund raising events like "Chicken Day" supported by many people from the outlying district, weddings and funerals, political meetings, voting, birthday parties, community council meetings to name but a few.

I believe that ownership by the community of the former primary school would mean that we could put on many more events, be able to raise funds from grants etc. and be able to adjust the layout within the hall to better suit our needs.

For me personally, the hall has meant that the village has blossomed from a fairly sad lonely community, that didn't know each other, to a village full of friendships, making the Elphin district a vibrant place to live.

Yours Sincerely,

Russell Pursey