

## About CFO

# communityfirst oxfordshire

Helping communities help themselves

### Community First Oxfordshire

We work to enable rural and urban communities across Oxfordshire to become resilient and sustainable. Equality of opportunity is central to all our activities.

#### We can...

- ◆ Provide you with advice on a wide range of issues.
- ◆ Keep you informed on the problems facing communities.
- ◆ Send you details of CFO events and a copy of our news and information sheets.

#### CFO Website

[www.communityfirstoxon.org](http://www.communityfirstoxon.org)

Find out who we are and what we do by visiting our website for news and events, publications, funding information and links to other useful organisations. If you would like to support the work of CFO, you can join our general membership scheme.

#### CFO

Registered office:

**South Stables**

**Worton Rectory Farm, Worton**

**Witney, Oxon**

**OX29 4SU**

**Tel: 01865 883488**

**Email: [info@communityfirstoxon.org](mailto:info@communityfirstoxon.org)**

**CFO's Community Halls Advisory Service** is supported by Defra and smaller contributions from three of the rural District Councils.

 Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

 South Oxfordshire  
District Council  
*Listening Learning Leading*

 Cherwell  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
North Oxfordshire

 Vale  
of White Horse

CFO is a company limited by guarantee (no 2461552) and a charity (no. 900560)

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## Community Halls Advisory Service



#### How CFO can help you ~

- by providing advice on grants, refurbishment, management and other aspects of running a hall
- by representing community halls' interests at local government level and lobbying for grants etc.
- by contacting experts for help and advice
- by organising meetings to provide contact and information

#### How Community Halls can help CFO ~

- by becoming a member of CFO through the Afiliation Scheme
- by keeping us in touch with local problems
- by paying an annual subscription as a contribution towards costs





*There are over 280 village and community halls within the county and Tessa Hall, CFO's Community Halls Adviser, says 'It is really encouraging that so many volunteers from hall management committees are working to ensure the future sustainability of their community facility'. Projects range from carrying out very minor repairs to refurbishing complete kitchen and toilets facilities.*

## **CFO Community Halls Advisory Service**

*Join for £50 a year*

### **ADVICE**

CFO seeks to advise community hall committees on all kinds of issues which arise in the course of day-to-day management or special projects such as new building or improvement schemes.

### **NEWSLETTER**

We issue a Community Halls Newsletter three times a year. This is our main means of spreading information on national and county matters which are very relevant to your work on the hall committee.

### **LOCAL AREA MEETINGS**

Every year we organise a series of four local area meetings to cover the county. These are social-cum-business meetings and aim to provide an informal opportunity for neighbouring community hall committee members to swap ideas and information, share problems and meet others.

### **DISCOUNTS ON WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING**

Subjects have included, Portable Appliance Testing (PATs), marketing your hall and retaining volunteers

### **SITE VISITS**

We offer site visits to enable us to offer you more advice (e.g. on site improvements etc.) - please note we cannot offer site visits in West Oxon as part of the affiliation scheme.

**Tessa Hall, CFO's Community Halls Adviser,  
advises and supports halls throughout the county.  
01865 883488 tessa.hall@communityfirstoxon.org**

*Fringford Village Hall is just one of the many halls that have carried out major refurbishing at their premises. CFO has been involved throughout this exciting project, giving support and advice, attending meetings and on the other end of the telephone and email, to both the hall committee and the Parish Council.*



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### **FACTSHEETS**

We have a supply of community hall leaflets and publications (produced by our national organisation, ACRE) giving practical information on a range of topics (currently these cost £10 per factsheet, but are free if you are affiliated). In addition, CFO regularly produces its own information sheets and briefings. A publications list is available on request.

### **WANT TO INCREASE YOUR BOOKINGS? THEN GET ON OUR HALLS DIRECTORY...**

CFO administers the successful, online Community Halls Directory. Designed to show-case halls across Oxfordshire, the directory is searchable by district, parish and capacity. It also has a Google location map to help people assess location and accessibility for events. Internal and external photographs are also available of each hall so clients can see if it is suitable for a particular event. By October 2016 there were 217 halls listed on the Directory. Feedback shows that **bookings and income have increased** as a result of this CFO initiative.

### **CFO COMMUNITY HALL AFFILIATION SCHEME A**

Community Hall Affiliation Scheme was introduced in 1980 to strengthen links between CFO and over 280 community halls in the county. Community hall committees are asked to affiliate to CFO by paying a £50 annual affiliation fee. By becoming an affiliate, each community hall, in a small way, helps fund CFO's community hall service a long with the funding we receive from Defra, SODC, Cherwell and Vale.