

Village Hall, Hollesley, Suffolk



An overhaul at the village hall in Hollesley

In the Suffolk countryside, Hollesley Village Hall stands as a vital community hub for over 7,000 residents across the peninsula area. This popular local venue was built in the 1950s and is still well used today. But it faced a modern challenge: how to keep a large space with high ceilings warm without driving up costs or harming the environment. With seven outdated plug-in electric heaters and soaring energy bills, it was time for a change. Thanks to a grant-funded upgrade and the expertise of installer Ash from Clima-tech, Daikin was able to offer a smart air-to-air solution.

A rural hub with a modern outlook

Hollesley Village Hall is far more than its name might suggest. "People hear 'village hall' and think of doilies and dusty curtains but we're nothing like that," laughs Gerry Bathe, Chair of the Trustees. "We've got Pilates, art classes, Tai Chi, wakes, weddings, and even 100-mile endurance walkers collapsing here after their long walks!"

But despite the lively programming, the hall's heating was lagging behind. "We had seven plug-in domestic electric radiators in the main hall – a 65ft x 45ft space with high ceilings. It could take up to six hours to warm up in winter. And that just wasn't sustainable. But in fact, the main driver for the project was in going green."





Funding progress on a green agenda

Keen to cut costs, improve heating efficiency and lower carbon emissions, Gerry and her team set out to secure funding. "We couldn't have done it without grant support," she explains. "We had help from the National Lottery, our local East Suffolk Council, and even the solar panelling on the roof was funded through the Prince's Trust Fund. It was the right time, and it was all about going greener."

Finding the right fit

Selecting the right heating system was a critical step. "We explored various options," says Gerry. "Ash from Clima-tech stood out. He knew his stuff, wasn't pushy, and his quote was competitive, if not the cheapest. Everything felt right."

Ashley Shemmings of Clima-tech has over 15 years of experience with Daikin systems and values their reliability. "We do use other brands, but Daikin is our go-to partner," he says. "Great range, excellent performance, and crucially, UK-based support with uncomplicated parts availability. That's vital when you're working with community spaces that can't afford downtime."



"From freezing to warm in half an hour. It used to take six!"

"We wanted to reduce our footprint, and Daikin made that possible."

"If we extend the hall, we'll definitely go Daikin again."

Gerry Bathe
Chair of Trustees

A smart, scalable solution

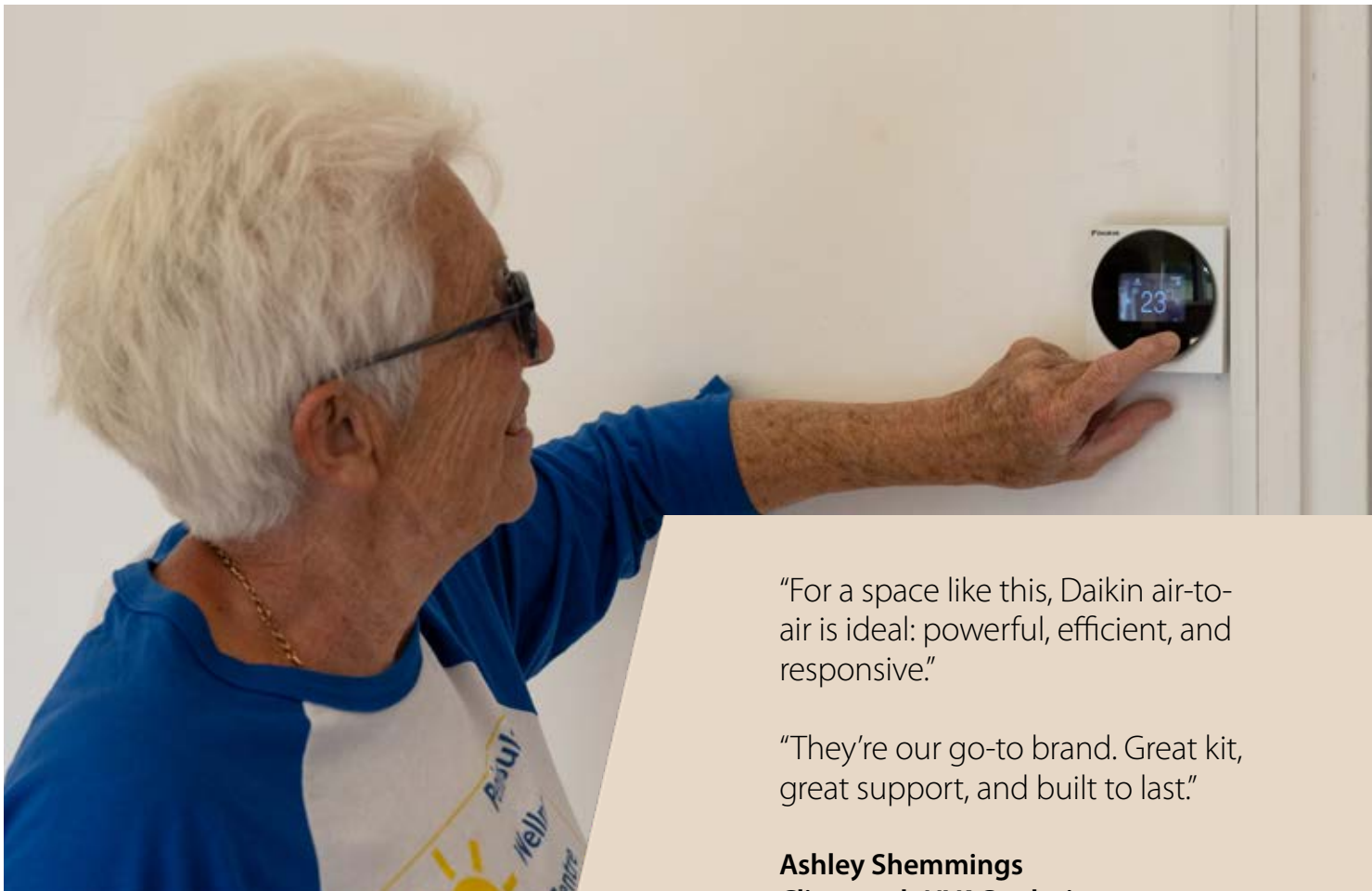
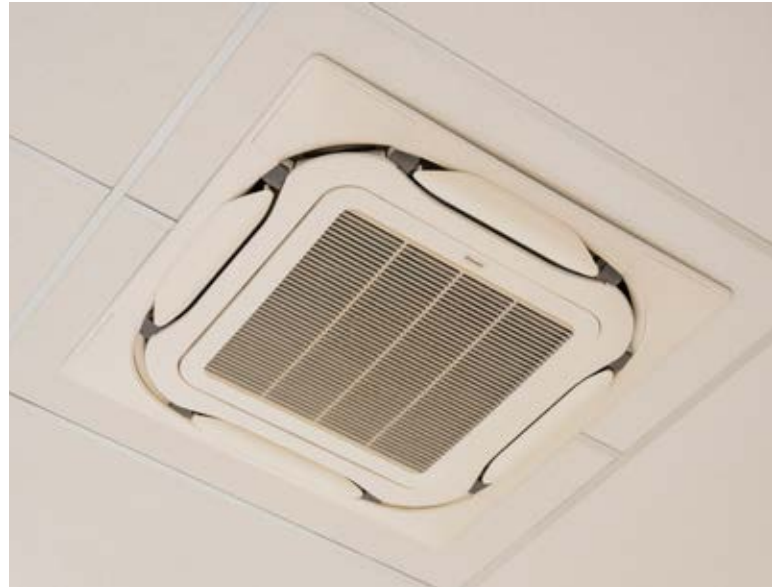
Ash recommended a Daikin air-to-air heat pump system - an ideal match for a hall without wet radiators or existing central heating. "We installed two outdoor heat pump units and two discreet indoor ceiling-mounted cassettes," he explains. "Given the scale of the space, it was important to provide even coverage and a fast response." The installation took just four days, with Ash completing most of the work solo. "Ashley was amazing," says Gerry. "He even adjusted the plan to keep the units accessible for us."



Instant warmth, all-year comfort

The transformation was immediate. "I couldn't believe it," says Gerry. "From freezing cold to warm and toasty in just half an hour, where it used to take half a day!"

And the benefits don't stop in winter, because Daikin's air-to-air systems also offer cooling aircon on hot days. "Tai Chi was the first group to ask for the cooling," Gerry recalls. "We switched it on, and it worked like magic! It cooled instantly. It's great to have that flexibility, even though our focus had been on heating the hall."



"For a space like this, Daikin air-to-air is ideal: powerful, efficient, and responsive."

"They're our go-to brand. Great kit, great support, and built to last."

Ashley Shemmings
Clima-tech HVAC solutions

Savings that stack up

Before the upgrade, the hall's monthly winter energy costs were very high and now they're holding steady at around £400 per month in winter. "Yes, energy prices have risen, but without this system, we'd be paying a lot more – probably as much as £600 or £700 per month in the cold season," Gerry says. "Our energy broker confirms that usage has gone down, despite the price hikes."

Ash further explains the key to savings: "Those old electric radiators were domestic units used in a commercial setting. They were on constantly, which was costing a fortune. With Daikin's air-to-air system, you get rapid heat, even in a big space like this, without a constant drain on the electric – and their bank balance."

Powerful, reliable and easy to manage

For Ash, the Hollesley village hall install is another example of why he trusts Daikin. "It's a robust, efficient system that's ideal for retrofit projects like this. The units are powerful, reliable, and easy to manage. It's a solution I'd recommend for any hall or large communal space."

Pioneers in putting the environment first

With the core heating and cooling needs now solved, Gerry is already thinking ahead. "If we extend the hall, as is planned, we'll definitely install more Daikin units. They're quiet, fast, and they just work. Originally, I tried to find other similar venues with an air-to-air system and couldn't - so we're pioneering here in Hollesley."

In the end, for Gerry, it wasn't just about warmth and convenience but about values. "The primary driver was environmental. The savings help, of course, but we wanted to make our community greener. I'd recommend Daikin to any village hall. If we can do it, so can they."

Kit List

Model	Description	No of units
FCAG-B	Compact Roundflow Cassettes	2
RZAG-NV1	R32 Split System	2

For further details visit our website:

http://www.daikin.co.uk/en_GB/about/case-studies/village-hall.html



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