

Acoustics & Audio.

We have looked at the legacy microphone system held in the strong room downstairs, it consists of a 4-channel mixing amplifier, 6 conference microphones and 1 wireless microphone and is designed to connect into the speaker system in the town hall.

The technology is dated and whilst additional wireless microphones could be added there would be a limited extension of usable life in the system due to the dated technology.

The speakers within the town hall are only suitable for amplification of voice, the playing of music through the speakers causes distortion to the sound produced.

The acoustics of the large hall are afflicted by echoes from 30 different directions, this leads to voices being drowned out by their own echo, and makes it incredibly difficult for persons within the hall to understand what other people are saying even at close distance.

Proposal for Town Hall Vision Group.

Acoustics, looking at the root cause of the problem which is the high vaulted ceiling, and proliferation of hard surfaces within the space, we would consider looking at having an acoustic survey completed by a specialist in village hall acoustics to provide some idea as to what would be achievable in management of the reverberated sound and the nature and likely cost of remedial works to manage the reverberated sound within the hall. (see appendix a)

Speakers, replacement speakers should be wireless, and easily connectible to whatever microphone system is chosen. Modern systems tend to use Bluetooth technology which is a highly adaptable and reliable technology with a good degree of futureproofing.

Microphones, a minimum complement of 5 wireless microphones, suitable for both meeting and performance use with associated floor standing microphone stands. We considered the practicalities of 2 boom microphones, however, due to the requirement for a long boom in use within a crowded hall felt that the safety implications made these unsuitable for town hall use. There would also be a requirement for a hearing induction loop to be installed that connects to the microphone system.

Further upgrades discussed included the installation of a power point at the front of the stage at ground level, a lighting rig mounted in front of the stage on the hall ceiling to allow for the use of front mounted lights and a projection screen mounted at the back of the stage that could be used to digitally project onto either as a performance backdrop or for conferences or movie presentations.

Appendix a.

Resonics.co.uk – specialist acoustic engineers

Hearing induction loops around £600 for the kit, could be installed by the caretaker.

Professional install in the region of £3000

Aspiration for future Town Hall sound system

The mixer can be controlled by iPad anywhere in the room, the hearing loop accommodates those with hearing aids and helps to engage the whole community at events where clarity of speech is required.

Our suggestion would be ;

- 2 × RCF ART 932-A
- 1 × RCF SUB 705-AS MK3
- XR18 mixer
- 4 × Shure SLXD handheld systems
- Hearing loop

Budget around **£7,000–£8,000.**

That system would be suitable for:

- Council meetings
- Public consultations
- AGMs
- Theatre productions
- Choirs
- Bands
- Village fairs

and should last 10+ years if looked after.

Cllr Sion Jones & Cllr Nikki Ruscoe