

## Town Hall Lighting – progress report

The November 2022 meeting of the Town Council considered the merits of a new era LED lighting system for the Town Hall, after a request was made in spring 2022. This had the benefit, for the performance groups, of more effective lighting and, for the Town Council as venue owner, lower energy costs.

The March meeting asked two members to meet and further investigate options with the main performance groups.

### **Recommendation**

**To agree to procure an LED-based spotlighting system for the Town Hall, with the expectation of grant funding assistance, through the Coleshill Drama Group and Coleshill on Stage.**

### **Background**

Both Coleshill Drama Group and Coleshill on Stage have been keen to progress new era LED lighting and seek grant awards from local or national awarding bodies. Coleshill On Stage has provided 3 quotes on a consistent specification with the preferred option at £34,250 pre-VAT (a revised 2023 quotation).

A meeting was held on 6 July between Cllrs. P. Symonds and Wynn with Coleshill Drama Group (Mrs. Sue Wallace as Chairman and Mrs. Nanette Walker as President), together with Coleshill on Stage (Mr. John Kerr as Chairman and Mr. Tom Willson as Secretary).

The proposals were as follows:

- A fundamental view of the councillors present is that the Town Council should assume control of all the lighting, to be made available to all hirers, equally.
- The wiring would use the same routing, so would continue to be hidden.
- Dimmer switches would be redundant as these would not work with LED bulbs.
- A new lighting bar would be required on a 3m truss, which would be level with where the projector hangs. It would be higher up, but the projector would then sit on that lighting bar along with the central spotlights.
- Fewer lights would be needed than currently, but the LED design would still give a higher lumin output than at present.
- The lighting desk would be “plug in” to one of two ports, e.g. one could be in the corner of Fifield Hall and another in the Sound Box, for total flexibility. The desk itself would be roughly A3 sized and stored in the Town Hall, under a secure location.
- The preferred contractor offers two days of user training as part of its quotation.
- The Town Council would need to assume the responsibility for equipment maintenance and the PAT process.
- The sound system would not be affected and there are no plans to change anything to do with CDG’s show relay system.

Further discussions have taken place between members and the groups, discussed below.

## **Finance and Value for Money**

A revised quotation was sought in spring 2023 and this was £34,250 pre-VAT. It was revealed, at the November 2022 meeting, that Coleshill Drama Group, had a £10,000 grant offer from a Coleshill trust. It is assumed that the grant would be made available to the Town Council, if it was to make the purchase from the supplier. CoS also believes it can access monies from granting bodies (e.g. environmental improvement groups and National Lottery funders). It estimates it will be able to achieve a £10,000 grant, as well. That would leave a £14,250 outlay for the Council.

The question of the original wiring and equipment has been raised with Production LX, the preferred supplier. It is unlikely to be utilised by the contractor, to save much of the new outlay costs for the project. CDG could therefore recover or sell on these items.

It is very difficult to assess the cost of the current lighting, when it is used. Commercial LED Lighting Ltd estimate up to 80% saving in running costs for LED over conventional lighting. Members may be interested to know that the cost of electricity for the whole building for a year has been around £5,000 and energy costs have increased a lot more than inflation levels in the last few years. The use of spotlights for performance groups, Comedy Club, Fusion of Dance, Live and Local and potential new hires could amount to hundreds of pounds for a year.

The CCLA LAPF monies are held in reserve for the bigger, long-term projects such as this one.

## **Risk Management Issues**

To delay would mean that the existing lighting continues to be less effective for hirers and more costly for the Council to run.

It would be an ideal step forward for the Council to own the lights that are purchased. This is to avoid future issues about ownership and use by other organisations who may want to make utilise them in the future (e.g., The Comedy Club, Local Vocals or Live and Local).

This contractor has strong theatrical credentials, having supplied many theatres as well as the Commonwealth Games venues and Birmingham Pride outdoor events.

**This report has been prepared by the Town Clerk**