

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LUNESDALE HALL – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Town Council are Custodian Trustees of the Lunesdale Hall and the nine members of the Town Council form a majority of the Management Committee which has seventeen members in total. The Lunesdale Hall is the main civic building in the Town, occupying a prominent position and providing a variety of spaces that can be used from weddings and concerts, to dancing and health care.

The Management Committee have recently decided not to pursue the relocation of the library into the building for a variety of reasons, but are still keen to market the building for wider use, make it more of a community hub and upgrade the existing building and facilities.

As a first phase the Committee decided to deal with external structural issues with the building, upgrade the main Hall and Bective Room and improve the technical offer in terms of sound, projection and lighting.

Before these works the Hall had a positive bank balance of circa £52,000. The external repairs to the building are costing £17,000; the new sound and projection system £5,800; decorating and new curtains £5,500; and the lighting is expected to cost £5,000. The total cost of the works is in the order of £33,300. In addition the Management Committee are undertaking a marketing initiative via the Community Interest Company, costing £4,500 a year over two years. The net result is that the Hall's cash in hand would reduce to circa £14,200 in the current financial year.

Ideally the Hall's reserve should be maintained at around the £20,000 mark. Whilst the Hall's rental income, together with the rental income from No 1 Bective Road do normally result in a net increase in reserves each year, this cannot be guaranteed.

Given the importance of the Lunesdale Hall to the Town, the Hall's Management Committee is requesting that the Town Council contribute to the current improvement works. It is suggested that a contribution of between £2,817 (the VAT on the external works) and £5,000 might be considered.

(Councillor Burchnall on behalf of the Lunesdale Hall Management Committee.)