

6. Facilities Managers Report (17.03.2026)

Foresters Hall Clerestory Roof Repairs and Redecoration of the John Rapson Gallery – Works now complete – unfortunately, we had to terminate the contract with the original contractors and engage new contractors to finish the job. The additional cost has been offset by omissions from the final account, contingencies, and liquidated damages. The John Rapson Gallery re-opens on 20 March 2026 with the launch event on the evening of the 19 March 2026.

Castle Park - an Expression of Interest has been submitted for CIL funding and if successful we will be notified on 31 March 2026. The fund will provide grants of between £20,000 to £100,000 and we have submitted an outline application for £80,000 (with an additional £22,000 provided by the Town Council). The project focuses on three priorities: Improving accessibility; expanding inclusive play provision; and promoting community well-being.

We have received some complaints flooding of the footpath at the Poldhu Road entrance to the park. Cormac did a temporary repair last year but the sheer volume of rain this year has washed most of the loose gravel away. Quotations are being sought for a drainage survey to determine the next steps.

Liskeard Old Cornwall Society are planning to clean the granite plaques at the bottom of the park – this will restore the legibility of inscriptions and generally tidy up the area.

Volunteer gardening sessions continue – the next one is scheduled for 9.30am to 1.30pm on Thursday 16 April 2026. For further information please contact Kelly at volunteers@cormacltd.co.uk.

Finally, there have been complaints about dogs off leads, so we have provided information via social media and put some additional posters up around the site.

Rapsons Skatepark – Betongpark have responded to the consultation feedback and revised the design for the skatepark. The new design moves away from a bowl led layout to reduce collision risk, lower the barrier to entry for newer riders, and support progression for all abilities. The layout will create distinct but connected zones so more users can ride at the same time without getting in each other's way. Overall footprint has increased, displacing the MUGA. The initial site survey work has been completed and the team at Betongpark are ready to move to the next level of technical survey work.

Guildhall – Work to the lath and plaster ceiling underneath the balcony remains outstanding. We are in the process of obtaining a bat licence and getting quotes for the work. The steeplejacks have been instructed to clear the gutters and are waiting for a suitable weather window for this to be done.

The Little Shop of DVDs and Games has vacated Unit 4.

Public Hall Repair & Redecoration – the contract has been awarded to TF Grills with a start date of 13 April 2026 and completion 5 June 2026.

Public Hall IT & Equipment – Councillors will be aware that improvements have been made over the last 18 months to modernise the audio and lighting infrastructure in the Public Hall. The upgrades were undertaken to replace ageing and unreliable equipment, improve safety, expand the types of events the hall can host, and reduce operating costs.

Audio System Upgrade - much of the hall's existing sound and lighting equipment was over 30 years old. A significant proportion of the equipment was either unreliable, no longer functioning correctly, or becoming unsafe to operate.

The aim of the upgrade programme has been to gradually replace outdated systems with modern, efficient equipment while improving the hall's ability to support a wider range of community events, performances, and external hires.

The main hall audio system has been upgraded to a modern digital setup centred around the Allen & Heath SQ 6 digital mixing console.

The new speaker system includes:

- 6 × dBTechnologies DVA M2M + dBTechnologies DVA M2S mini line array speakers
- 2 × dBTechnologies SUB 615 active 15" subwoofers
- 4 × dBTechnologies FMX10 10" active floor monitors

This system provides significantly improved sound quality and coverage for both speech and live performances. Additional equipment has been purchased to expand the hall's technical capability:

- Additional radio microphones
- Stage microphones
- DI boxes
- Microphone stands
- Audio cabling

These additions allow the hall to support a wide range of performances and events in-house, which previously required hiring external sound contractors.

Where possible we have repurposed existing equipment. Some of the former delay speakers are now used as backstage monitors, improving performer facilities. Other original speakers can now be used for small outdoor events, extending the Town Council's ability to support community activities.

The previous analogue sound console was donated to the local school for a small fee, allowing the equipment to continue being used within the community.

Lighting System Upgrade (Phase 1) - The first phase of the lighting upgrade has recently been completed. The new lighting control system uses a ChamSys MagicQ MQ50 lighting console, providing modern programmable lighting control. The house lighting fixtures have been replaced with energy-efficient LED units including:

- 16 × LEDJ Spectra 12HEX10
- 2 × LEDJ Spectra 6HEX10

A stand-alone switch control has also been installed to allow simple operation for users who do not require the full lighting console. The new LED lighting system provides several key advantages:

- Replacement of failing or unsafe legacy lighting equipment
- Ability to illuminate the hall in a wide range of colours and atmospheres
- Improved reliability
- Reduced energy consumption, with running costs estimated to be nearly five times lower than the previous tungsten lighting system.

These upgrades significantly improve the Town Hall's functionality and value to the community.

Key benefits include:

- Improved sound quality for performances, meetings, and events
- Greater event flexibility, including live music, theatre, presentations, etc.
- Reduced need for external equipment hire
- Improved safety and reliability
- Lower operating costs due to energy-efficient lighting
- Enhanced backstage and performer facilities
- Greater capacity to support outdoor and smaller satellite events

The Next Steps - The final phase of the lighting upgrade will focus on enhancing the stage lighting system.

Proposed additions include:

- Moving head lighting fixtures
- Colour-changing stage lights
- Smoke and haze machines for theatrical effects

This phase will allow the hall to better support theatre productions, live music performances, and touring acts.

A further improvement under consideration is the installation of an upgraded screen and projector system. This would allow the Town Hall to expand its entertainment offering, including family film shows, rear projection for theatre productions, and better presentations and conferences. We are hoping to secure a grant for this element of the upgrade, and this will include automatic blackout blinds.

Bins for Boys – more information on the Bins for Boys initiative is available from <https://www.lingendavies.co.uk/our-work/what-we-deliver/binsforboys/>. The initial proposal is to install a sanitary bin in the gents toilets at the Public Hall at a cost of £42.28 plus VAT per year, which includes servicing every 4-weeks.

Fees & Charges Review – the fees and chargers have been updated together with the booking forms. Additional pages have been added to the website to help with community engagement.

Westbourne Toilets – we are continuing to have problems with the drainage outside the ladies toilet at Westbourne Car Park. Cornwall Council kindly cleared the surface drain, but the area continues to flood after each spell of heavy rain. The gutters, downpipes and external areas are due to be cleaned by a contractor this month.

Thorn Park – some scheduled tree work to take place this month. We are really pleased that Healthy Cornwall will again be funding a 20-week programme of Park Yoga starting 3 May 2026.

Public Hall Events - bookings in February and March 2026 have been as busy as ever, with many of our regular hirers continuing to make greater use of the venue.

February began with the Liskeard Lions Panto - The Wizard of Oz, followed by two sold-out events hosted by Liskeard Town Council, a Music Bingo evening, and the ever-popular Johnny Cowling show where we took a modest income. During February half term we welcomed children for a Science Workshop with The Science Booth, and Anna Geldard hosted her SEND Listening Event at the end of the month. March has already seen the hall host the Cancer Research Art Exhibition and the fantastic ABBA - Take a Chance On Us tribute night. We have also welcomed a new regular booking, Cornwall Musical Theatre & Performing Arts, who will stage their production of Matilda here in September. Looking ahead, we have the Community Fair on Saturday 21 March, then the Liskeard Young Farmers Charity Bingo, and we finish the period with the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and Caradon Hockey Club hosting their annual Junior Presentation evening.