

Phase II - Public Hall Refurbishment:

Liskeard Public Hall dates from 1887. Although not listed it is notable for its architecture which includes an impressive barrel vaulted ceiling, wood panelling and stained glass windows.

The Public Hall underwent refurbishment in 2018. The work focused on the Emily Hobhouse Room (formerly the Long Room), Wheel Phoenix Room (formerly the Refreshment Room), and improving disabled access including a Changing Places Facility, a platform lift and a stage lift. New automatic doors were installed on the ground floor.

The second phase refurbishment will focus on the objectives of:

- fire safety
- accessibility
- environmental sustainability
- repair & maintenance
- hire-ability

A survey of hall users (past, present and future) would be helpful in guiding some of the decision-making around priority areas for refurbishment. It is also recommended that the Town seek advice and technical input from an architect and/or interior designer to help with lighting design, specifications around accessibility, etc.

A couple of general points regarding the PH – consideration needs to be given to an overhaul of the heating system and the installation of more sensitive hearing controls and/or exploring the replacement of the gas-fired heating system with an air source heat pumps or electric heaters.

Main Hall:

The main hall currently offers a large stage with automatic electric stage curtains, cinema quality screen, grand piano, and a professional lighting rig and sound system. The hall needs redecoration and modernisation – the equipment we have is of good quality but is complicated to use and energy intensive (e.g. the theatre lanterns are incandescent tungsten and fluorescent strip lighting). There is a large area under stage area currently used as a storeroom.

The main hall can be hired for a range of functions including conferences, exhibitions, parties, wedding receptions, theatre productions, film shows, exercise classes, balls, dinner dances, etc. The main hall has a dining capacity of approx. 140, theatre capacity of 180 and a standing capacity of four hundred.

The Public Hall is fully licensed for entertainment and the sale of alcohol. A superfast wi-fi connection is currently being installed.

Recommendations:

- New Fire Door @ rear of stage
- New fire door into workshop area underneath stage
- Replace the automatic stage curtains with new
- Re-design the balcony area. Remove seating.
- Replace balcony curtains with screens or similar
- Stock the semi-commercial kitchen with tableware for sixty place settings (reduces need for disposables).
- Replace existing curtains with pelmets and blackout blinds.
- Empty the under stage area and use for storing furniture and props. Reinstate the trap door.
- Cost new LED lighting to include uplighters, chandelier, and festoon lighting.
- Cost new production lighting based on LEDs
- Replace audio system with something simpler

- Professionally clean and repair paintings.
- Clean windows internally. Clean high-level ledges.
- Purchase tables trolleys to assist with moving of furniture
- Consider overhaul of the heating system + more sensitive hearing controls
- Investigate replacing gas-fired heating system with air source heat pumps or electric heaters.

E.g.



Toilets (half landing and ground floor disabled):

The existing vinyl flooring was for some time being varnished and stripped back regularly – this has led to it cracking and splitting and therefore very difficult to keep hygienically clean. In the ladies toilets the ceiling is quite low, and the cubicles feel claustrophobic.

Recommendations:

- Investigate sensor lighting
- Install quieter, more energy efficient extractor fans
- Replace floor
- Reconfigure layout to include more storage and a baby change area.
- Redecorate

- Install hand driers to reduce use of paper towels

E.g



External woodwork & masonry:

Recommendations:

- Make good render and walls after data cabling and other historic repairs, etc.
- Replace rotten sash window in Members' Room with new
- Repair and decorate all external woodwork
- Redecorate office porch area
- Replace 'blown' double glazing units
- Repaint masonry

Communal areas:

Recommendations:

- Improve contrast between woodwork and walls for visually impaired.
- Install 'welcome' signage including information about the Changing Places Facility on the outside of the building
- Install a noticeboard

New Liskeard Room:

NLR is used as an extension to the WPR when being used as a café and/or bar. It is also used as a dressing/changing room and refreshment area for theatre productions.

Recommendations:

- Remove double entry arrangement & install a new fire door
- Install a new fire door between corridor and
- Replace existing carpet to match WPR

- Replace curtains with roller blinds
- Remove 'dividing' curtain
- Redecorate

Members Room/Mayors Parlour:

Recommendation:

- To convert this space into an office/meeting room
- Reconfigure the heating (too many radiators)
- Replace rotten sash window that cannot be safely opened (Members Room)
- Replace curtains and venetian blinds with blackout roller blind
- Redecorate

Quimperle Room:

This room is not easily accessible for visitors with limited mobility. Long-term look at improving access from Barras Place and/or the main lobby area – installing another platform lift. The Quimperle Room has a piano and a kitchenette. It is popular with choir groups and yoga.

Recommendations:

- Replace carpet (tiles are loose, mismatched, and smelly)
- Replace double fire doors
- Redecorate

Emily Hobhouse Room:

Recommendations:

- Interpretation/artwork provided by the museum team to tell the story of Emily Hobhouse
- Upgrade the existing kitchenette to improve storage and replace damaged flooring
- Replace or renew parquet-style floor as this is starting to break apart.

Other feedback from the Facilities team:

We would like to develop a wedding offer. The cost of licensing the Public Hall for weddings is around £1,000 and lasts for 3-years. We are regularly asked about 'hot desk space' – not sure how we could make this work but something to consider.