

Witney Dramatic Society
Witney
Oxon

Town Clerk
Witney Town Council
The Town Hall
Market Square
Witney
Oxon

15 November 2024

Dear Sirs

Please find attached our Grant Application and associated paperwork.

Established in 1946, Witney Dramatic Society is the longest running dramatic society in Witney and continues to provide entertainment to all ages with plays, musicals, comedies and pantomimes.

Over the years the society has adapted to different venues and now faces a challenge to update its theatrical lighting and associated control equipment to incorporate LED fixtures. The majority of our current lighting equipment has been in use since the society was formed.

The need for change is driven by three main factors:

1. The phasing out of halogen lamps used in the current luminaire stock. It is no longer easy to obtain spares, and it is likely that in the near future, spares will no longer be available.
2. LED fixtures are more energy efficient (typically using 70% less energy than their halogen equivalents), do not generate as much heat and can produce a vast range of colours from the same luminaire. The light source also has a much longer service life, typically thousands of hours as opposed to hundreds.
3. Modern audience expectations relating to theatrical and visual effects.

Although LED fixtures are more versatile and efficient, they do however have the disadvantage that their initial purchase price is greater and more specialised control desks are required to operate them. In other words, as soon as you purchase one LED fixture, you will need a new control desk to drive it satisfactorily. (It should be noted that the new control desks are backwards compatible in that they will also drive conventional theatrical dimmer packs, thus supporting a phased approach to luminaire replacement.)

We have divided the replacement timetable into four phases, and we are currently asking for a grant to cover phases 1 and 2.

Yours faithfully

Sharon Buck
Treasurer Witney Dramatic Society
On behalf of Witney Dramatic Society