

CORN EXCHANGE WORKING PARTY

Date: Monday 11th January 2021
Title: Corn Exchange Refurbishment Update
Contact Officer: Office Manager – Adam Clapton

The purpose of this report is to provide the Working Party with updates concerning the aspects of the continued refurbishment of the Corn Exchange.

Current Situation

Community Cinema

A meeting with Mr Richards was scheduled for the first week of January but Tier 4 and subsequent national lockdown restrictions have resulted in the postponement of this initiative. The Venue Manager will liaise with Mr Richards when Government guidance allows to proceed.

Main Hall Enhancements

Following the last meeting, the Town Clerk wrote to Oxford Arts Consultants enquiring as to their availability in January. A response was received advising that at this time they are regrettably not able to advise the Council on lighting, audio and seating.

The Venue Manager is currently researching other options on this and hopes to be able to report back to the Working Party soon.

As previously advised the Town Council has been awarded £35,951.00 by way of a Community Facilities Grant from West Oxfordshire District Council. This was based on audio, lighting and retractable seating being installed in the Main Hall for a total cost of £131,806.00 based on preliminary quotes already received for the works. The breakdown of this funding is as follows:

- Retractable Seating £55,000 (approximately)
- Audio & Lighting £77,000 (approximately)

Once the service of a consultant has been employed to assist with the technical specifications of the above aspects, the Council can publish tenders with the above budgets.

It should be noted that any subsidiary works i.e., removal of the kitchen door into the Main Hall will also be required to come out of the above total cost and should be reflected in final published budgets.

Environmental impact

There is no perceived environmental impact pertaining from this report.

Risk

The Council should consider the financial and reputational risks to the Council so should ensure that the best value for money and most robust equipment is sought from this tender process.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report.