
CASTLE HALL PROGRESS REPORT (Min 129/01)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with updated information in relation to the noise problems at Castle Hall and in particular, the recommendations that were made at the meeting of this Sub Committee on 6 November 2001.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A number of complaints have been received from local residents about the noise levels being generated at Castle Hall. These have occurred during certain functions when windows and doors of the venue have been opened and when "partygoers" have congregated in the car park area.
- 2.2 The situation has been monitored by Officers of the Leisure Division, in addition to Environmental Health Officers visiting the site whilst functions are taking place, in order to assess noise levels and the overall situation.

3 RECOMMENDATION PROGRESS

- 3.1 Leisure Connection have been instructed to have a person present on the site for the duration of all disco type events and to ensure that all windows and doors remain closed during a disco type event.
- 3.2 The issues around staffing of the venue during functions and the future use of the Hall will, as previously mentioned, be discussed with the preferred contractor at the negotiation stage of the tendering process for the new Leisure Management Contract.
- 3.3 The cost of purchasing a "noise limiter", which would automatically control the level of noise, would be approximately £585. In addition, the cost of installing the meter would have to be added. The limiter would be set at a suitable level on advice from the Head of Housing Health and Community Care's Service.
- 3.4 The Hall is currently double-glazed but to implement triple glazing would require the installation of new window units at a cost of approximately £15,000. This would obviously still leave the potential problem of the windows being opened and the noise travelling.

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- 3.5 The “double-porching” already exists in the main entrance facing Daws Heath Road.
- 3.6 A ventilation system with sophisticated controls would cost in the region of £5,000. However, for very warm occasions full air conditioning would be more suitable, which would then cost in the region of £15,000. If this were to be installed, then it may be worth considering fixing the windows to prevent them from being opened.
- 3.7 The regulations/conditions of hire are being amended to strengthen the emphasis on the various noise reduction measures.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Implementation of works detailed in Section 3 would impact on the Council’s leisure buildings maintenance budget.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The prevention of excessive levels of noise from the Hall would improve the environmental conditions in the immediate area.

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That Members note the content of this report and consider the information further following the negotiations with the preferred contractor in the new Leisure Management Contract process.
(CD(FES))

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