

From: chris [mailto:chris.parker@hitchin.gov.uk]
Sent: 15 August 2019 10:56
To: Hitchin Town Hall Review
Subject: RE: Thank you for attending and presenting to the Review Panel meeting.

KEEP HITCHIN SPECIAL
(Caring for our Historic Market Town)

[REDACTED]
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15th August 2019

Dear Sir

We feel that very little has been achieved with regard to the refurbishment of the Grade II Hitchin Town Hall with the main emphasis and expenditure on the creation of a new District Museum. Keep Hitchin Special were only updated with scant information on the progress of the project as it developed.

The refurbishment of the Town Hall is a joke this building has decreased in size and stature by the loss of:-

- The seated viewing balcony
- The green room to the rear of the stage.
- Direct access from the rear of the hall to the courtyard.
- The open access and light from the ornate windows to the RHS of the hall being blocked off.
- Loss of an adjustable dance floor
- The loss of ornate gold leaf and pastel paintwork to the scroll coving at ceiling height (photographs are available)
- Reduction of the width of the stage restricting performances that can be held in the hall. We used to have an orchestra and pantomimes on there which is no longer possible.
- Loss of changing rooms for children.
- Self catering facilities for weddings etc.

The building itself was in a terrible and badly maintained state in 2005 when Mr Robinson took over and tried to sell it.

There is very little difference between then and now considering the amount of money that was reportedly spent on the Town Hall.

No reasonable explanation has been given with regard to section 106 money allocated to the Town Hall.

There is still a problem with acoustics which has been known about for decades and still nothing has been done about it.

The paintwork is flaking due to damp etc.

There is also a problem with the heating system in that the reception has to have an electric radiator to keep the staff warm.

The floor does not appear to have been maintained to the standard of a ballroom dance floor i.e The Spirella Ballroom Letchworth.

The Hall is not being used to its full potential because the excessive charges being made for hire i.e. £100 per hour

Yours Faithfully



Chris Parker