Plans for Cowbridge Town Hall Refurbishment

A future-ready Town Hall rooted in its heritage

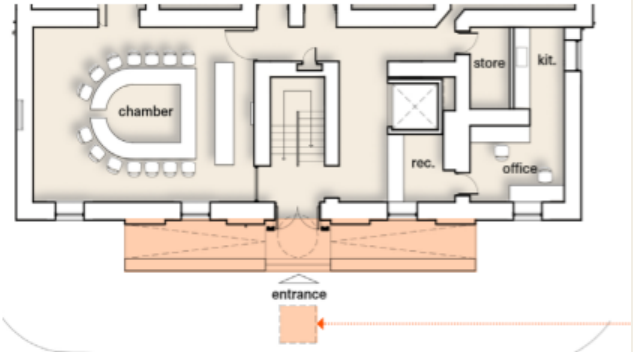
WHY REFURBISH?

Cowbridge Town Council plans to undertake a refurbishment of Cowbridge Town Hall to address essential repairs and modernise its facilities. As the building ages, maintenance costs continue to rise, such as roof repairs. This investment will reduce long-term costs, generate additional income, and deliver lasting benefits for the community. Public consultation identified accessibility, appearance facilities as priorities. The project will also preserve the Town Hall's historic character and heritage.

PLANS FOR REFURBISHMENT



A sensitively designed access ramp and step construction, clad in natural stone to match the pavement, incorporates tactile paving and a wheelchair turning circle at the landing. The composition is symmetrical, responding to the strong elevational order of the building.



Front of the Town Hall on High Street

The refurbishment is designed to make the Town Hall more accessible, welcoming and useful to the community in the 21st Century, while respecting its historic character.

A new accessible entrance

Plans are in place to create an accessible entrance, reinstating the historic central entrance of the Town Hall as the single point access on High Street. This will include a small central stairway and a ramp to allow level access.

Better access inside

Inside the main entrance will lead to a dogleg staircase and lift to the Main Hall, replacing the platform lift at the rear of the Town Hall. A reception area will create a central welcoming point, with the Council Office behind it.

Better spaces. Better access. More opportunity.

Modernised halls
The Lesser Hall and the Main Hall will be modernised, with a new kitchen and redesigned toilet facilities. A bar will be added for functions and events.

A stronger events offer
The stage dressing room will incorporate an accessible lift. A potential extension to the north-west of the building is being considered and could increase space and options improving the Town Hall's offer for destination events.



Plan for extension to the rear of the Town Hall

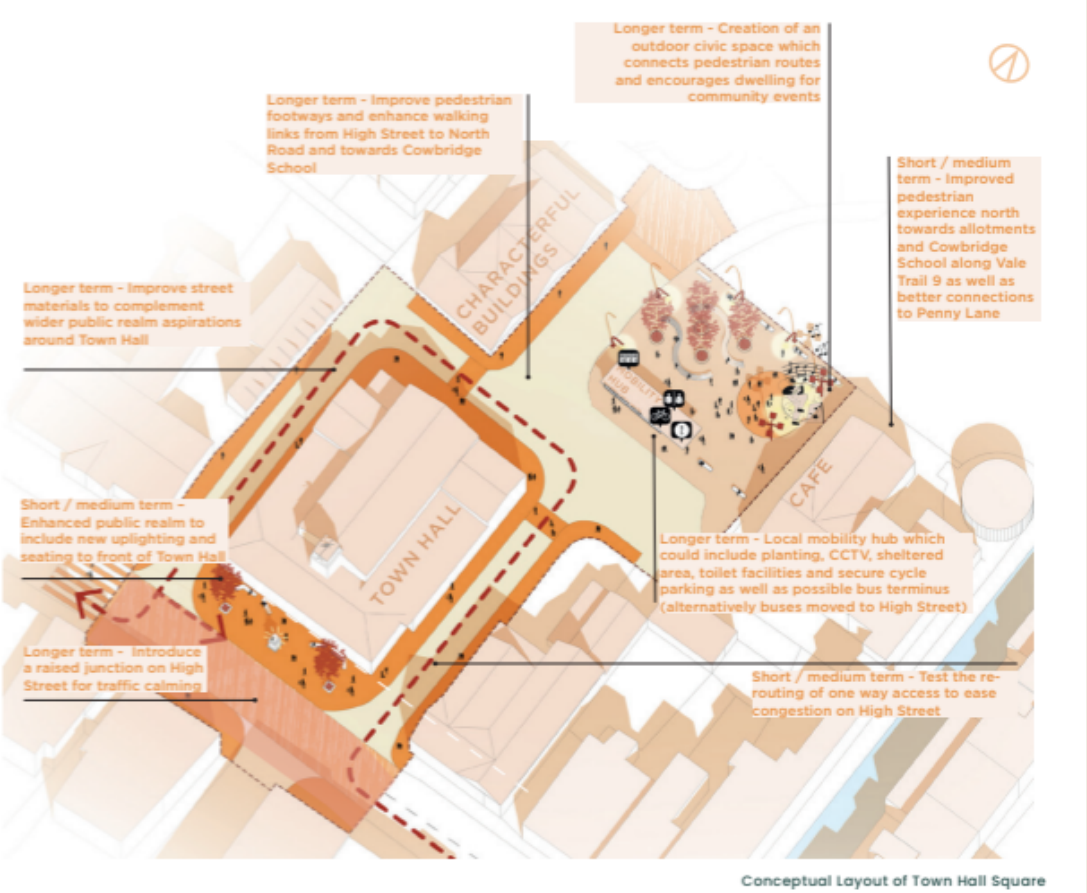


3D concept visual of the Town Hall (ground floor)

An enhanced museum experience
The Museum route will be altered, displays improved and the 19th Century opening to the Council Chamber reinstated, strengthening the visual connection between Council operations and the Museum exhibition.

A new gateway to High Street

The east exit onto the Town Hall Square will be redesigned to provide a gateway experience to High Street ahead of exciting Placemaking plans for improvement of the Town Hall Square area.



Placemaking Plan

PROTECTING THE PAST WHILE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Why is this happening?

Cowbridge Town Council has a duty to maintain the Town Hall for future generations, as the temporary custodians of the building. The Town Hall was built in 1806 as a House of Correction, with the cells dating back as early as the 16th Century. It has also been used as a fire station and today serves as the Town Council Office and Chamber.

Urgent repair works are required to keep the building safe and usable by the Council and the community. The project also incorporates plans to modernise and enhance the Town Hall for community use for years to come.

A live project

All images above are artists' impressions. This is a live project in the early stages and it is noted that plans may change throughout the life of the project. Discussions around the exact design are underway with CADW and the Vale of Glamorgan Council Conservation Team to ensure the heritage is conserved.

What will happen during the refurbishment works?

Options to keep parts of the Town Hall open while other parts are being refurbished are being explored to maintain some continuity. However, it is currently too early to confirm whether this will be possible or whether the Town Hall will remain closed throughout the building works.

ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING
Around £3 million	The Council has submitted a successful Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and has been invited to apply for a design-phase grant. Further grants, loans and donor funding will also be explored.

A long-term project, shaped with the community

NOW	**Early project stage** Design development and heritage discussions are underway.
SPRING 2027	**Heritage funding** The National Lottery Heritage Fund grant application is anticipated around Spring 2027.
2028-2029	**Works anticipated** Refurbishment works are anticipated to begin late 2028 and completed late 2029.

HAVE YOUR SAY

We always welcome your views

Drop into the Town Hall office to discuss this with the Chief Officer, telephone 01446 773385, or email enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk. Further public consultations will also be held at a later stage, with details published on social media.