

Report

Date: 6th October 2023

Client: Saltash Town Council

Address: The Guildhall, 12 Lower Fore Street, Saltash, PL12 6JX

Telephone: 01752 844846

Fore Street Sound System

The sound system was set up and all items of equipment tested and checked. Both wireless microphones were tested and are fully operational. The 3.5mm jack cable for music input was tested on a laptop and was fully functioning. However, there was an Apple thunderbolt adaptor which appeared not to work and requires replacement.

A walk test was carried out from one end of the street to the other. All speakers are functioning with the exception of two situated roughly half-way up the street but these have been disconnected previously due to complaints.





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Issues:

1. There were comments after the Coronation event that the volumes of different speakers varied from one area to another. We found no obvious level difference when we carried out our walk test. There is obviously a dead spot in the middle where the two speakers have been disabled and it might be marginally quieter at the top due to voltage drop over distance but this is not significant. Other than that it is more likely that one person's 'loud' is another person's 'not loud enough'. Because the output level has been notably limited, (Note.1), other sounds (e.g. buses) can swamp the sound system as well.
2. There was also an issue with the wireless microphones dropping out when used in the middle of the street. We didn't experience this when we tested the system. The most likely reason is that with crowds on the pavement between the mayor and the rack equipment, the signal was blocked. UHF radio signals are blocked by water and people are 80% water.

Remote paddle antenna would be a solution but these wouldn't survive outside. Mounting a couple inside the shop above the doorway would help. However, perhaps a better solution for many reasons would be to replace the audio input socket on the pillar outside (never used) with an additional speaker line input. A speaker line extension cable would allow the rack unit to be placed on the stage for maximum access. It would also mean that the sound system wouldn't be reliant upon access to the shop for operation.

Notes:

1. The overall output from the sound system is limited by two small black volume control pots on the back of the power amplifier next to the input leads. These can be accessed by removing the rear lid and will need a small screwdriver to adjust. They are currently set at roughly 1 O'clock. The slightest adjustment will make a significant difference.
2. To make more use of the sound system, can I suggest the purchase of two or four more speakers mounted on a stand. These can be used with the existing rack unit to provide a totally portable PA system that could be used in the gardens at the top or for any other event elsewhere in the town.