

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Council		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	01.10.20	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur and Martha Hayes on behalf of the Christmas Team and Community and Environment Committee		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	12 Additional Christmas Lights		
Background	<p>Following a review of the Christmas Lights in 2019, the Congleton Christmas Team agreed to look into:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Enhancing the lighting in the pedestrian area2. Introducing lighting in Victoria Street3. Enhancing Market Street as a gateway to the Town Centre4. Extend Christmas lighting into West Street area to benefit its evening economy. <p>The review of the lights and the benefit of creating a more attractive and welcoming town centre for this Christmas is considered even more important this year to encourage more local people to support their local town at Christmas.</p> <p>The Christmas team has sought quotes from three companies specialising in Christmas lighting and is confident that it can achieve the four objectives above using the £10k in the Ear Marked Reserve for Christmas Lights.</p> <p>Community and Environment Committee supported this proposal at their meeting on the 24th September, but due to the spend being over the amount the officers can sign off, the paper has come to Council for consideration.</p> <p>As background information Congleton Town Council invested in the bulk of its current Congleton Christmas lights in 2013:</p> <p><i>FAP/09/1314 RESOLVED that: New Christmas lights to be purchased outright at a cost of £19,893, plus one-off hardware costs of £7,200.</i></p> <p>Over the years these lights have been carefully stored and maintained and we will continue the cross-street banners and lamp-post lights. Most large companies give an option to purchase lights outright or hire cross street banners and lamp post lights. The cost of renting for three years is slightly higher than purchasing outright.</p> <p>The benefit of hire is that after three years you can completely change your lighting scheme as the town would have no ties, or ownership of lights.</p> <p>The benefit to purchasing outright is a saving to the public purse if the lights are robust and looked after. Our current lights are going into season 8.</p>		

Recommendations

1. Pedestrian Area

The plain festoon lights in the pedestrian area started to fade and fail last year. The area also lacked some Christmas magic as the trees that were originally lit as part of the scheme were removed as part of the Public Realm refurbishment. The new trees were initially seen as too young to decorate.

The proposal for this area is to introduce 300m of 700mm drop cool white icicles with a warm white rope star every 10m to zig zag the length of the pedestrian area. Also, to dress the four trees in the centre of the pedestrian area with 3 sets of lights (300 lights) per tree of 12v warm white LED lights.

There would be an additional cost of loosely wrapping the trees at £100 per tree from our contracted Christmas lights installer.

2. Victoria Street - Light Columns

After looking at a number of options for Victoria Street the group are recommending introducing lamppost motifs to the street columns in Victoria Street and have chosen moon and star columns that build on the theme throughout the town and are in proportion for the narrow pedestrian route and a load that is acceptable for the post.

Note there will be a one-off charge to convert the lampposts so that they are able to use the electricity for the Christmas displays. This costs approximately £230 per lamppost and will be completed by CEC Highways team.

3. Victoria Street - Entrance to Shopping Area

Rather than putting funds towards the temporary Christmas trees which are largely hidden along the Bridestones walkway, we are discussing adding more dramatic lighting to the area using 9 sets of 700mm drop (max.) cool white icicles with warm white plug in rope light stars. This will mirror the look in the pedestrian area. We are seeking the property owner's financial support for part of this lighting.

4. Market Street - New Lighting Column Designs

The group is recommending changing the current light column display motifs in Market Street to give a new look to the area. These lampposts are already converted ready to take Christmas lights, so it is only the cost of the new motif.

5. West Street Lampposts

The four Christmas lamppost motifs that were previously used in Market Street will be recycled and used in West Street. This will involve a further cost to convert the four lampposts at a cost of £920.

TOTAL COST FOR PURCHASE- Costs exclude VAT, installation and carriage fees also conversion of lampposts from Cheshire East, as mentioned above.

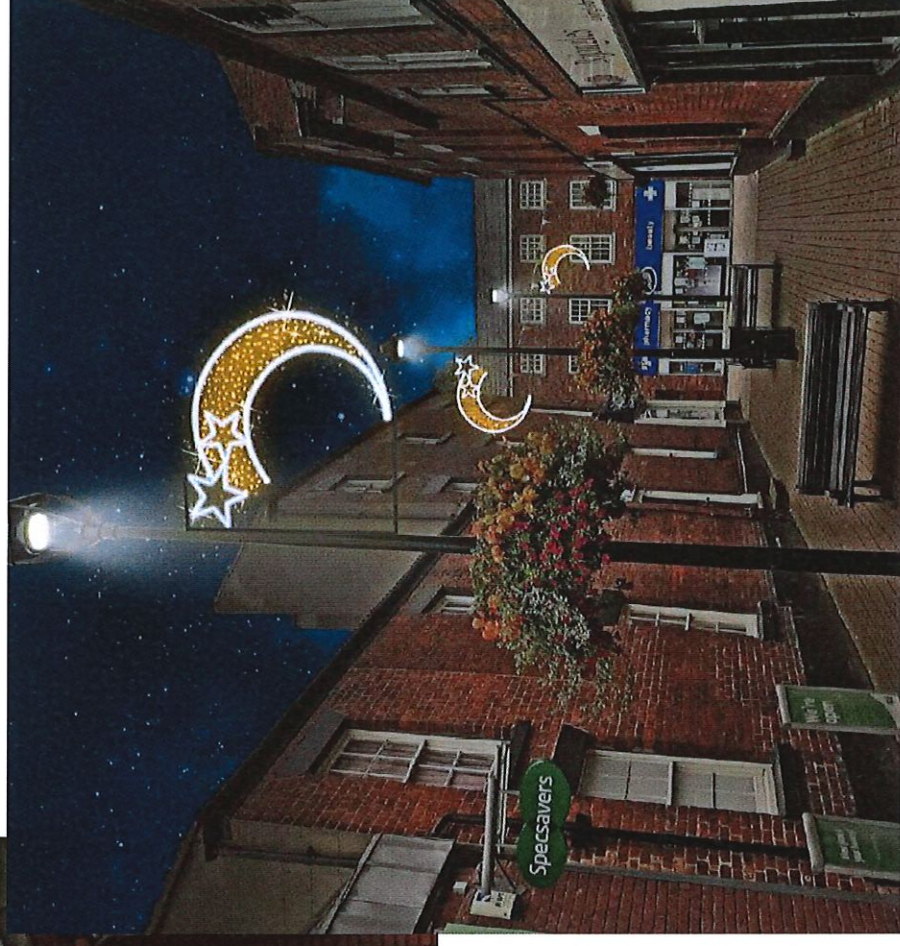
- Company A = £8,397
- Company B = £11,561.88 *awaiting price for tree lights in Pedestrian Area (1.) this will increase the total cost.
- Company C = £25,396

Decision Request	<p>See Appendix 1 for images of the potential new lights.</p> <p>To agree to purchase new lights as set out in this report using company A at a cost of £8,397 with funding to be taken from the Town Council's Ear Marked Reserve for Christmas Lights.</p>
-------------------------	--

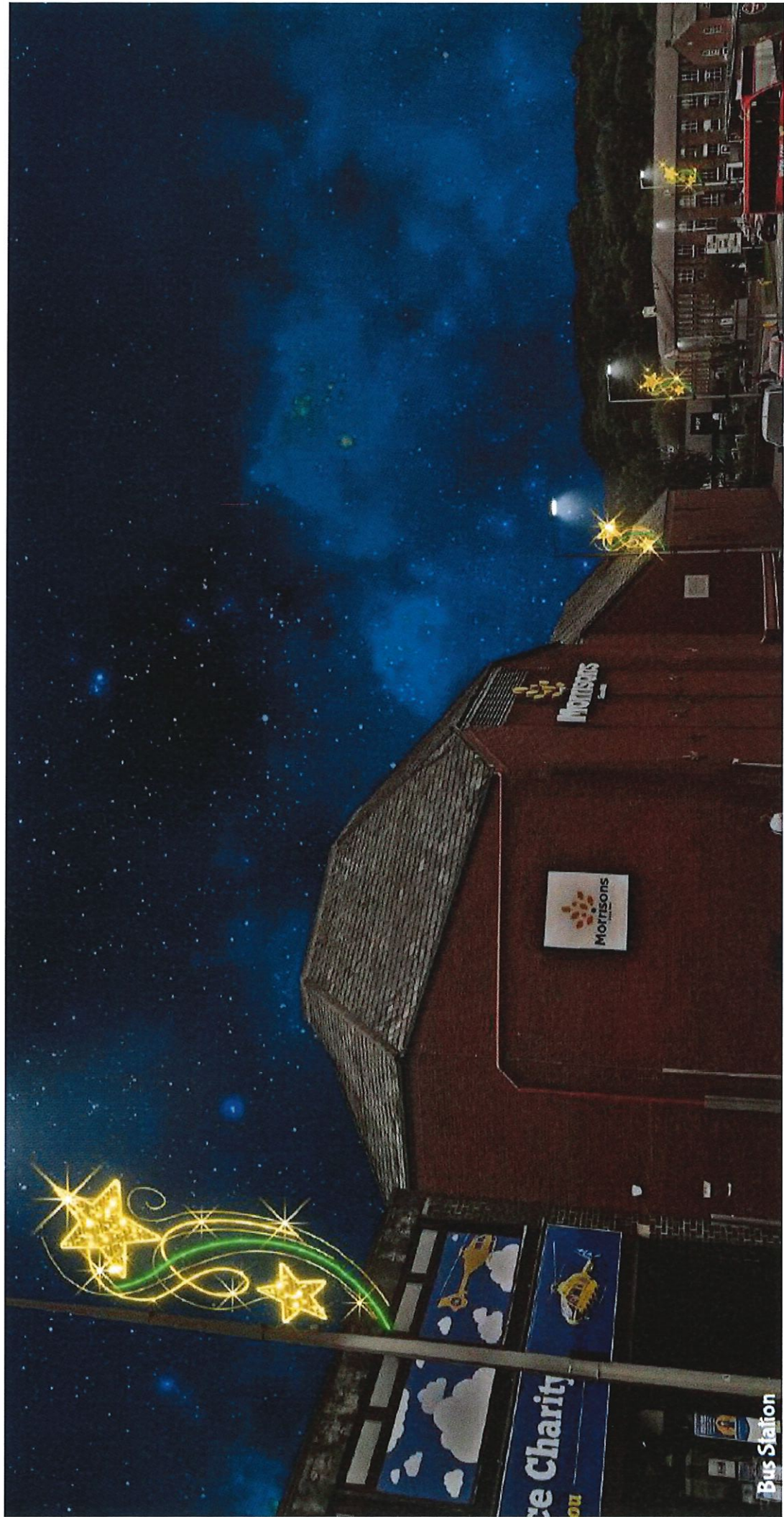
Item 12

Appendix 1

Victoria Street, leading into Bridgestones
Centre



Market Street



Town Centre with planted trees in the middle section

