

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community &amp; Environment</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Bridestones Suite</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Rachel McCarthy, Town Centre and Events Officer</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>18</b>		
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Christmas in Congleton 2022</b>		
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<p>Congleton Town Council takes responsibility for the installation of the Christmas lights and takes a lead on the Christmas Lights Switch-On event with the support of Congleton Community Projects.</p> <p>This paper is to update Councillors on the plans for Christmas in Congleton for 2022.</p>		
<b>UPDATES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Christmas Lights:</b> We are in year 2 of a 3-year contract with PME to store, check, repair, install and remove the Town's Christmas lights. This was agreed at Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. In 2020 the Town Council purchased new lights for the pedestrian area and Victoria Street, changed the lamp post Christmas motifs in Market Street and extended Christmas lights further along West Street. In 2021 we replaced five of the lamp post lights on the High Street which were beyond economic repair. This year we are in a similar position with Lawton Street, where the eight lamp post motifs are now beyond economic repair and looking poor compared to the other lights (they have been used for 9 years). This will be discussed with the Christmas Working Group and a recommendation sent to the Committee.</li> <li><b>Christmas Lights Switch-On:</b> switch on this year will be Friday evening, 25<sup>th</sup> November from 4pm-8pm. This year we are hoping for a return to normal and the switch on will also include activities in the closed High Street and in the Town Hall. Lantern making workshops will be confirmed by Congleton Community Projects. There will also be a number of charity stalls in the pedestrian area and local hospitality businesses are being encouraged to join in with stalls outside their premises.</li> <li><b>Small Christmas Trees above Shops:</b> A letter has been drafted ready for the Christmas trees above the shops. The cost this year will be £17.50 (inc vat), per tree with an additional £12.00 to install and remove each tree, total of £29.50. The trees will be installed w/c 14<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li><b>Classic Car show:</b> Andy Barratt has been contacted regarding his classic car show on 10<sup>th</sup> December, this will be confirmed this week.</li> </ol>		

	<p>5. <b>Rotary Tree of Light:</b> The Town Council will support the Rotary Tree of Light campaign again this year. The Rotary club will sell stars for £5 which people can write to remember a loved one who is not with them at Christmas. The Tree of Light Switch on will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in the Community Garden, from 4.30pm.</p> <p>6. <b>Christmas Makers Market:</b> There will be a Makers Market in Town on Saturday 26<sup>h</sup> November and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p>7. <b>Christmas Windows Competition</b> – the Town Council will run a Christmas Windows competition for businesses in Congleton. Judging will take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – with prizes for First, Second and Third places and certificates for Highly Commended and Commended.</p> <p>8. <b>Free Parking in Congleton:</b> On Saturday's 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 17<sup>th</sup> December, there will be free parking after 10am on Princess Street, Back Park Street and the Fairground Car Park. Time restrictions on the short stay car parks still apply.</p> <p>9. <b>The Civic Christmas Carol Service</b> will take place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at St Peter's Church.</p> <p>10. <b>Congleton Santa</b> – The charity Congleton Santa has asked Congleton Town Council if it would like to take one of the collection days when Santa's sleigh tours around the residential areas of Congleton in December. A team from the Town Council and friends collected on one of the evenings in 2021 and raised funds for the Social Supermarket.</p> <p>11. <b>A full programme of Christmas events and activities in Congleton</b> will be published on the Town Council website as more information becomes available.</p>
<b>Financial considerations</b>	All within the Christmas budgets, also seeking sponsorship for the main town centre tree.
<b>Equality Considerations</b>	All event planning will be mindful of accessibility issues for all residents and visitors and try to reduce all barriers to involvement.
<b>Environmental Considerations</b>	As far as possible all Christmas decorations are re-used every year.
<b>Proposal</b>	To note the report.