

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community & Environment		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	16 February 20223 7.00pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Jackie MacArthur, Deputy Chief Officer, Communities and Marketing		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	16 Christmas Lights 2023 and beyond		
Background	<p>Congleton Town Council provides the Christmas lights for Congleton. This currently consists of lights on Lawton Street, High Street, Market Street, Pedestrian area, Victoria Street, Little Street, Mill Street, Swan Bank and West Street.</p> <p>The Christmas lights are installed to create a sense of pride in the town, encourage people into the town for the Festive season, create a positive atmosphere and to help create festive cheer. The Town Council has taken responsibility for the Christmas lights since 2012 and in 2013 carried out a major replacement of the town's lights.</p> <p>In 2020 the Town Council replaced the lights on the pedestrian area – including Victoria Street and Little Street, Market Street and the tree lights at a cost of £8682</p> <p>In 2021 the Town Council replaced the lights on the High Street at a cost of £1950</p> <p>In 2022 the Town Council replaced the lights in Lawton Street at a cost of £3100</p> <p>During Christmas 2022 it became clear that the following need to be replaced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) The Merry Christmas Congleton sign at the bottom of Moody Street B) The two cross street banners used on Swan Bank C) The two lamp post banners on Mill Street D) The six lamp post banners on West Street E) The Cross Street banner that has been displayed in Lawton Street (this failed before installing and was not used for Christmas 2022) F) And there has been a request for Festive Lighting for the Market Area <p>This paper is seeking the committee's support for the principle of replacing the lights mentioned above and exploring options for the market area. If approved a detailed plan with costings and quotes would be prepared for Council to consider as it is expected that the costs will be in excess of £10k. This would be a capital expenditure. We are advised that lights can be expected to last 5-6 years, we have managed to keep the above lights working for 10 years!</p>		
The Plan	<p>A. We have been advised that now the making of lights is automated and so a bespoke design is likely to be 2 or 3 times more expensive than a cross street banner chosen from the catalogue. This may mean it is better to either seek a</p>		

	<p>local electrician that can help build a bespoke light or create something different for the bottom of Moody Street. This area does create a focal point for the Town Centre and helps to frame the town via the Market Street entrance and it would be good to have something spectacular in this location. A regular cross street banner is around £2k</p> <p>B. Swan Bank only has one lamp post, so if this area of the town is to be decorated it will need to be via Cross Street Banners. The fittings are already in place and regularly tested. The electric is supplied by two local businesses and reimbursed by the Town Council. Without the cross street banners there will not be decorations in this main town centre street.</p> <p>C. There are currently two lamp post banners in Mill Street. As this area is being transformed it would be worth exploring options with the Market Quarter to see if they would like to enhance the offer for Mill Street.</p> <p>D. West Street – the lamp post lights used here are the ones that were originally purchased for Market Street. Many started to fail during this season and would not be fit to install next year. West Street is a busy part of the evening economy and it would be good to support this area with new lights.</p> <p>E. Cross Street Banner in Lawton Street. In previous years there has been a cross street banner in Lawton Street. This was not installed in 2022 as it failed prior to installation and was not economically viable to repair. It adds to the appeal to have a cross street banner for this location. We did not receive any complaints about it being missing in 2022, possibly because of the new lights in this area and pre-warning the shops that it would not be used in 2023</p> <p>F. Congleton Market. We have received a request from Congleton Market for Christmas lighting to be extended to this area. A lighting scheme has not been planned or electricity supplies looked at. The opportunity could be taken to explore options with the Market Quarter and with Cheshire East who manage the Market Hall to see what could be possible in this area.</p>
Financial Implications	Three quotes will be needed and more work carried out to get exact costs. Initial conversations with suppliers indicate that cross street banners will be around £2k each. Lamp post motifs around £400 each. A bespoke light is around 2-3 times more than a standard one. Prices are subject to change and will only be guaranteed for 30 days. Delivery is around 12 weeks.
Environmental Implications	All lights will be LED. We will check the green credentials of the companies invited to give prices for this work
Equality and Diversity Impact	Not relevant
PROPOSALS	That the Community and Environment Committee agree in principle that to replacement lights for A-E and that officers should explore options for F and then take a paper to Council for funding.