

	<i>Meeting (No)</i>	Community & Environment (12)
	<i>Date</i>	12.05.26
	<i>Document</i>	<i>Ref No</i>
	Christmas Lights & Celebrations	CE12/121

Christmas Lights

Officers recently met three potential contractors, with a fourth meeting scheduled for 7 May. Once all costs have been received, we will arrange for these to be considered by C&E at an extra meeting in summer.

Christmas Celebrations

Following the Council resolution not to replace the Assets and Events Manager role in 2018, it was decided that the Town Council no longer had the resources necessary to directly manage events. From 2018, Neston Town Council provided annual donations to a local community organisation to create and manage Christmas lights switch-on events in the town; an arrangement which continued until 2023.

Whilst Town Council officers stepped in to create and manage Christmas events in 2024 and 2025, this is not sustainable in the long-term and so a more resource-efficient and cost-effective solution needs to be found.

Officers met with the C&E Chair and Vice-Chair on 20 April to consider the issues. There are no simple solutions and any decisions must be made in full recognition of the resource implications.

One possible solution might be to hold a switch-on in Market Square, put a grotto at the foyer area of the Town Hall and there is a possibility that local community groups might wish to provide some musical entertainment. NCYC could also be invited to take part as in previous years. A switch-on in Market Square would negate the need for road closures with all the attendant health and safety considerations. There would, however, be significantly increased costs in terms of purchase and installation of an additional tree/decorations and any other costs resulting from the risk assessment such as professional security.

Members will wish to discuss potential solutions for 2026 and make a recommendation to Council.

Audrey Duncan
Community & Environment Manager