

	Meeting (No)	Full Council (3)
	Date	25 August 2026
	Document	Ref No
	Christmas Lights	FC3/44a

Background

As a result of C&E Committee's planned programme of budget efficiency savings over several years, Council is now in a position to renew Christmas lights for the town without any precept increase or additional financial burden on tax payers.

C&E Committee recently established a task and finish group to investigate possible options for Christmas lights and officers selected four companies to approach for quotations. The quotations were considered by C&E on 11.08.26.

When considering a new lighting scheme, C&E Committee members were mindful of the need to retain some EMR to meet any unexpected future costs such as repairs/replacements resulting from damage caused by storms or vandalism. There was also a general view that retaining some EMR would allow Council to make a series of small additions in subsequent years, thereby keeping the lighting scheme fresh and adding new elements of interest.

C&E Meeting 11.08.26: Minute 23

It was noted that four companies had been approached to quote for provision of a new lighting scheme for Neston and Parkgate and that four quotations had been received.

The C&E Manager confirmed that she had met with CWaC Cllr Barker to obtain his views regarding provision of lights in Parkgate.

Purchase

It was agreed to recommend to Council that Blachere Illuminations be appointed to provide a Christmas lighting scheme in Neston and Parkgate.

Neston High Street

Purchase 280m of 650W (three bulbs per metre warm white LED) strings of festoon lights for installation in a zig-zag pattern across High Street.

Purchase of 72 strings of lights to be installed vertically on 24 High Street lampposts (three strands per post).

Parkgate

Purchase 200m of 650W (three bulbs per metre warm white LED) strings of festoon lights for installation in a continuous line along The Parade.

Purchase of a green cone tree (approximately six metres/20 feet) for installation at the Donkey Stand. The C&E Committee requested officers to provide several options from which Council might select.

Officers were requested to obtain all necessary costings from Blachere Illuminations for consideration by Council.

Installation

It was agreed to recommend to Council that Continuity Electrical Contractors, CWaC's current Christmas lights installation contractor, should continue to be NTC's contractor for the installation of all Christmas decorations provided by the Town Council. In addition to the installation of newly purchased decorations, installation to include provision of a real tree at The Cross and the nine additional anchor points required to create the zig-zag effect on High Street. Installation also to include testing and connecting lights in the tree opposite the Royal Oak pub in Little Neston.

The Committee thanked the Community Engagement Officer for her efforts in obtaining permissions to install additional anchor bolt points.

As warm white had been the C&E Committee's preferred option for festoons/garlands, officers also requested a quotation for warm white lights and star for the High Street tree to ensure a uniform colour scheme.

Cost (Excluding VAT)

- Neston High Street – cross street lights: 280m of 650W strings of lights (three bulbs per metre)
- Neston High Street – lights for lampposts: 720m of 600W strings of lights (three bulbs per metre)
- Neston High Street – warm white tree lights & star
- Parkgate – lights to hang between the lampposts: 200m of 650W strings of lights (three bulbs per metre)
- Carriage

Sub-total for the above = £11,700.

Four options for a Parkgate cone tree are detailed on pages 3-6. The previous Parkgate tree was 20ft (6.096 metres).



ALPS TREE

5.4m (17.7ft) high x 1.8m (5.9ft) wide

Green background, bright white, warm white and gold



GRAND VEGA GREEN

6.25m (20.5ft) high x 2.2m (7.2ft) wide

Stars LED gold, warm white and bright white



SV562 - CELESTE					
⌀ 1.9 m	⌀ 6 m	⊠ 1.9 m	⚖ 97 kg	💡 185W	
■	● FLASHYSTARS				
TO ORDER					

CELESTE

6m (19.7ft) high x 1.9m (6.2ft) wide

Blue and white scheme, cool white flashing lights



GRAND VEGA FROZEN

6m (19.7ft) high x 2.2m (7.2ft) wide

White and gold with warm white flash

Installation

Creating the zig-zag effect across High Street will require nine additional anchor bolts at a cost of £75 per bolt. Anchor bolt purchase, installation and testing will be arranged by the Town Council's installation contractor.

Cost of installation for 2025 was £22,888.78. This included purchase of a tree for The Cross, all electrical safety testing, anchor bolt testing, hire of HIAB and cherry picker, and a number of night-time installations. Once a final decision has been taken by Full Council regarding the 2026 requirements, officers will be in a position to obtain a definite installation quotation. It is not anticipated that the cost of installation will be significantly higher than in previous years and should not exceed £25,000 per year.

For Discussion and Decision

Purchase of New Lighting

(44b) To approve the C&E Committee's proposed lighting scheme as detailed in minute 23, 11.08.26 and to approve purchase of this lighting scheme from Blachere Illuminations.

(44c) To select a Christmas tree for Parkgate.

(44d) To approve a total combined purchase price from Blachere depending on which tree is selected:

Neston High Street lights & Parkgate lights with Alps tree	£18,561
Neston High Street lights & Parkgate lights with Grand Vega Green tree	£21,795
Neston High Street lights & Parkgate lights with Celeste tree	£17,178
Neston High Street lights & Parkgate lights with Grand Vega Frozen tree	£20,465

Installation

(44e) To approve the C&E Committee's recommendation that Continuity Electrical Contractors Ltd should continue to be NTC's contractor for the installation of all Christmas decorations provided by the Town Council and to agree the maximum cost for a three-year contract.

Provision for Additional Expenditure

(44f) To delegate authority to officers to approve any unanticipated expenditure relating to the installation of the new lighting scheme, such as purchase of additional or replacement drivers, transformers or timers, in order to ensure the smooth-running of the installation process.

Audrey Duncan
Community & Environment Manager