

SHEPTON MALLET TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting	Place-Making & Protection Committee Item 2.9
Date	23 rd February 2021
Author	Paula Robertson, Assistant Town Clerk (Planning & Amenities)
Subject	Festive Lighting Scheme Report

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the festive lighting requirements for the town for 2021 and beyond.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 SMTC had a three-year lease for the hire of festive lighting (including the Christmas tree lights) - 2016-2019 with a commercial company. The lease costs included design of the scheme, install/dismantle, maintenance and storage. Further information on our current scheme is at Appendix A in this report.
- 2.2 In January 2020 we started the tender process for expressions of interest for a new 3-year contract to provide festive lights. We received six expressions of interest from companies providing a provisional outline. However, due to the pandemic those companies were unable to undertake site visits and give further details. It was therefore agreed at an Open Spaces committee meeting on 28 July 2020 to remain with the current supplier for a further year and to start the tender process again in Spring 2021.
- 2.3 Therefore the committee needs to think about what it would like as festive lights for the next 3 years, bearing in mind an agreed budget of £20,000 for lights and the tree and decorations. Does it wish to remain with the current supplier for a further year, does it wish to expand the area that is lit, does it wish to have a theme, colour scheme or remain classical and single colour?
- 2.4 To note that the current scheme is strung lighting, rather than fixed to lamp columns. There must be the appropriate infrastructure on lamp columns to add new lighting, as well as seek permission from both the electricity provider and Somerset County Council. To add lamp displays, enquiries from one company have given approx. costs of:
- Electrical box - £100 per column
Fixings for Light installation - £160 per column
- 2.5 To also be aware of environmental implications in conjunction of the relevant sections of the SMTC Environmental Policy (ref 1921) regarding lighting, recycling and procurement. SMTC should receive a responsible disposal certificate on the completion of the contract.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There is an annual budget of £20,000 for all lighting and associated costs, Christmas tree and delivery and disposal as well as testing and repairs to the fixing points.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 For Councillors to note the report.
- 4.2 For Councillors to consider what scheme they might like to consider within the budget constraints, in order to give the Officers a steer for them to undertake the tendering process and present a report at the meeting on 29th June 2021.

APPENDIX A

2020 Scheme:

- 4 x installations from Townsend through the High Street to the traffic lights on Commercial Road/Paul Street junction;
- 1 x installation across the traffic lights between Cooper & Tanner and the old Nat West bank;
- 2 x installations in Town Street down to the Market Place;
- 1 x installation across the Market Place to the Bell Hotel;
- 1 x icicle light zigzag across The Shambles on the pedestrianised area of the Market Place in front of The Amulet;
- 3 x installations in the pedestrianised area of Town Street down to the junction with Waterloo Road. These lights have looked very sparse and we had to have the addition of some icicle lights.

Some photographs from 2020 display:

From Townsend to Paul Street/Commercial Road & traffic lights crossing:



Looking up Town Street/Market Place & Christmas tree:



