

STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL



Winter Lights Scheme

Prepared for: Finance and General Purposes 12th September 2018

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INTRODUCTION

Members to agree a scheme for Festive Lighting in Stanley.

BACKGROUND

Stanley Town Council has now come to the end of a 3 year Christmas Lights scheme with the contractor 'Seasonal Group'.

ISSUES

Due to the existing contract coming to an end, The Council need to consider the type of scheme we would like to introduce for this year and for the future as there is currently no provision in place.

Objectives

A Christmas Lights working group was formed and have met on 3 different occasions to recommend and provide a modern cost effective scheme that will meet requirements for 2018 and future years.

OPTIONS

The group considered various options for festive lighting in Stanley. It was agreed the best solution and most cost effective, would be to create a winter lighting scheme similar to the lights that have been installed in the trees outside the Civic Hall and the Louisa Centre and have this type of scheme introduced into various locations of Stanley. This scheme is a one off purchase and installation, has a lifetime expectancy of up to 7 years and the feedback we received off the public for the last 3 years has been

excellent. These lights can also be used outside the Festive period if need be. The scheme also provides a uniform lighting approach for Stanley and the villages, it can also be added to if decided to and meets minimal maintenance.



12 sites have been identified for this scheme please see below. All sites are dependant on installation and cost.



Road split at bottom of front street (clump of trees)



Craghead miners lamp (clump of trees)



opposite the Punch Bowl (clump of trees)



Oxhill traffic lights (3 trees)



New Kyo (3 trees)



Annfield Plain (3 trees)



Catchgate (3 trees)



East Stanley (3 Trees)



Tanfield Lea (1 Large Tree)



Opposite Asda (1 Large Tree)



(trees outside the old board school)



large tree at bottom of front street outside schoo

RECOMMENDATION

For Committee to accept the proposal by the working group and allow officers to investigate and implement the scheme subject to quotations and cost.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This years budget has allocated 18k for festive lighting and installation of our electronic Christmas tree in the Front Street which will fall considerably below this schemes predicted cost, however if members consider the 7 year expectancy of this scheme, members would be required to agree and allocate a sinking fund, in turn becoming a very cost effective scheme. I have spoken with contractors to provide me with indicative costs to meet this scheme and the locations the group have considered, a sinking fund of 42k for a 4 year period should cover this scheme, subject to official quotations.

The cost of installation & storage of the Electronic tree should not be included in this cost.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

If this scheme is supported, we would need to work with Durham County Council and any policy they have in place for such a scheme.



Christmas Lights

1. Background

The report previously considered by Council at the Finance Committee in September highlighted 11 locations throughout the parish where lit trees could be provided. The report gave estimates for costs based on the lighting schemes previously delivered in the town at the Civic Hall and the Louisa Centre. That report is attached as **ATTACHMENT A**.

The Operations Manager contacted Durham County Council to request that the 11 sites identified be assessed for their suitability to have tree lighting schemes run by means of catenary cable from the nearby lamp columns.

The County Council's position after this contact was that all lighting schemes in natural trees would have to be powered from underground ducted cabling controlled by remote kiosks. They also wanted our existing schemes to be converted from 230V to 24V as it was not in line with their safety policies. This came as a surprise to us as all the 3 contractors who bid for the original scheme had specified 230V lights and so had the contractors approached to quote for the expanded scheme.

After protracted discussions with Durham County Council, at the outset of which it looked as though we would not be in a position to provide any Christmas Lighting Scheme, we have negotiated a deliverable scheme for Stanley Town Centre which would provide:

Replacement of the Existing lights outside the Civic/ Louisa Centre with Low Voltage lights

Lighting of trees in the following additional locations:

1. Stand of trees near entrance to Asda/ Rear of Main Bros (visible from Asda roundabout);
2. Tree in Central planter outside former Stanley Board School/ Council Offices
3. Tree on Greensard adjacent to St Josephs
4. Stand of trees on grassed area adjacent to the Royal (visible from main road)

2. Approximate Costs

Scheme/ Item	Price
Replacement of existing Civic Hall/ Louisa Schemes with low voltage lights	£4,203.15
Infrastructure works for other 4 locations detailed above	£4,486.67
Lights for the locations above	£17,160.00
Transformers	£720.00
Carriage	£50.00

Scheme/ Item	Price
Installation/ Tree Dressing	£2,000.00
Total	£28,619.82
Less Existing Revenue Budget	£10,619.82

3. Decisions Required.

The **RECOMMENDATION** of Committee in September was to accept the proposal for all 11 locations subject to costs. Committee accepted the principle of forward funding the scheme from reserves for a scheme that would serve the area for a number of years.

Council is requested to:

- (i) Authorise officers to have the existing installations converted to 24V lighting;
- (ii) **CONSIDER** the locations which can be delivered for 2018 and **DECIDE** whether to allocate the additional funds required to deliver the schemes in time for the 2018 Festive season.

4. Recommendation

It is **RECOMMENDED** that:

- (i) Officers be given the authority to deliver the scheme that can be delivered in the Town Centre for this Christmas, and
- (ii) Steps are taken immediately after the festive season to agree locations in the villages and outlying areas and have the necessary electrical infrastructure installed to accommodate the full scheme for 2019.

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