

Additional Christmas Lighting in Wem High Street

The addition of the bunting fixing bolts has provided an opportunity to install some Christmas lighting at a higher level along High Street between The Warbling Tit to Wem Library. This lighting could criss cross the High Street in the same way that the bunting does.

There are several different types of this style of lighting on the market but small globe festoon lighting has been recommended as it is a sealed waterproof unit so stands up to the weather far better than other products. An example of this type of light can be seen below



A quote has been received from the company that supplied the 'Welcome to Wem' Frame last year, as they are one of the only suppliers of this type of light.

To supply 220m of MaxiLED small globe festoon with 294 no. ultra-bright LED lamps at 750mm spacings and 2 weatherproof drivers, would cost **£2,846 total** + VAT and carriage.

Along with the purchase of the lighting strings there are other costs that must be considered including

- Installation of Electrical Infrastructure for globe light strings - £2334.76 (one off cost)
- Installation/ removal of lines and connection £2217.3 (annual cost)
- Storage £400 (annual)

Total additional costs 2024-25 **£7226**

Future years costs £2617

It should be noted that these lights may also be used at other events held in the town so they will not be just for the Christmas period

Christmas Lights Cost Breakdown

	2024- 25	2025- 26
Electrical infrastructure upgrade	£3,839	£3,392
Standalone socket upgrades	£1,173	
Tree Bracket inspections	£375	£375
Tree Bracket replacements*	£1,000	£1,000
Small Tree installation and testing	£1,228	£1,228
Small Tree/ lights replacements*	£1,160	£1,160
Lampost displays installation and lease	£2,190	£2,190
Frame Unit installation	£275	£275
Leek Street Tree lights	£250	£250
Total	£11,490	£9,870
2024-25		
Budget	£5,000	£5,000
Agreed budget allocation from Earmarked reserves	£5,000	£5,000
Total	£10,000	£10,000
EMR balance 1.4.24	£15,000	

*This figure assumes 10% of 3ft trees / light strings/ brackets will need to be replaced each year

2025-26 budget figures are provisional only

If Town Council allocates £5000 from the existing earmarked reserves for year 3 (2025-26) of the Christmas lights contract in the 2025-26 budget and utilises these monies to upgrade the last section of wires, this should leave a balance of approximately £5000 in earmarked reserves at 31.3.26.

This remaining £5000 could be used in the current year to purchase the globe lighting and install the infrastructure needed.

An extra £2250 will need to be found from other budget codes in 2024-25 to cover the cost of erection and removal of the globe lights. However, the 2024-25 budget includes a sum of £5324 allocated for Town Centre improvements, so if the Town Council is minded to pursue this project these funds could be used to cover this shortfall.

Notwithstanding this, a figure of £2617 will need to be built into future years budgets to cover the erection/ removal and storage of the lights each year.

Decision needed

The Town Council is asked to decide whether it wishes to

- purchase 220 Maxi Led Lights as additional lighting for Wem High Street and commit to the additional expenditure in order to install the appropriate infrastructure for the lights, along with the annual costs of installation, removal and storage.