

To receive a report on the Christmas Light Switch on Event 2023 and consider any actions and associated expenditure

Background

The annual Christmas light switch on event takes place in November. The event in 2022 took place on Friday 17th November at 4.30pm in Victoria Gardens. The event is organised in partnership with Saltash Rotary Club who provide Santa's sleigh and Santa. Traditionally the Mayor joins Santa on the sleigh on Lower Fore Street and rides up Fore Street to Victoria Gardens. Saltash Town Council invite children from local schools to sing carols in Victoria Gardens where the Mayor greets residents and visitors before switching on the lights.

For reference neighbouring Christmas light switch on dates are as follows:

Plymouth City Centre Thursday 16th November 2023

Plymouth Barbican 18th November 2023

Crownhill and Plympton 24th November 2023

Proposal

Invite Saltash Rotary to work in partnership on the event as in previous years. The Mayor of Saltash to ride in Santa's sleigh with Santa from Lower Fore Street to Victoria Gardens, leaving approx. 4.15pm. The Mayor and Mayoress to hand out sweets to children in the gardens and formally switch the lights on at 4.30pm.

Invite children from local schools to sing carols in Victoria Gardens as part of the switch on event. During the switch on event last year at Victoria Gardens, it was noted the audible level of the Mayor whilst conducting his Christmas speech was low. It is suggested to procure a mobile, battery powered PA system similar to the following link at a total cost of £180 + VAT.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Fenton-Portable-Speaker-Bluetooth-Microphones/dp/B07BNCTLMP/ref=sr_1_29?keywords=outdoor%2Bpa%2Bsystem&qid=1692508749&sr=8-29&th=1

Members are asked to consider:

1. The event to be held on Friday 17th November 2023. The switch on to take place at 4.30pm.
2. Invite Saltash Rotary Club to work in partnership for the 2023 event, following the above schedule.
3. To invite Children from local schools to conduct carol singing as part of the switch on event.
4. To approve expenditure of up to £180.00 + VAT for a mobile PA system to be purchased from budget code 6202 PF Civic Occasions - available budget £4,815.

End of Report

Receptionist / Mayors Secretary