

BERWICK CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

PURCHASE OF NEW LIGHTS FOR 2016?

Berwick Christmas Town centre lights are currently made up of small trees affixed to the walls around the town centre. The trees need to have new brackets installed to allow the trees to be affixed and new LED lights are required for some of the trees. Councillors are asked to decide if they wish to keep the same Christmas decorations as in previous years and pay for new brackets and lights, or, buy new fixed light fittings in their place. It has been mentioned that the same Christmas theme repeated year after year is becoming very tired and repetitive.

The Council also own 33 fixed light fittings which are just over a metre high, however, only 20 of them are still in working order. Approximately 3/4 years ago the Council purchased 4/5 fixed xmas lights fittings costing around £500 each. A company called Blanchere is to give a quote for refurbishment of the broken light fittings but to date they have not responded with any figures. 20 fixed light fittings will just be enough to decorate one street in Berwick. So a general and approximate figure to buy new fixed lights for the whole town including Tweedmouth and Spittal would be £60k.

The small trees which attach to the walls of the town centre cost the Council around £900 every year, plus, the cost of fitting and installing them and added to that cost will also be the purchase of new wall brackets and new LED lights. New lights are also required for the Town Hall Christmas Trees.

Councillors have to decide whether they will use Council reserves to purchase completely new Christmas lighting for Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal which will cost in the region of £60k, or, keep the same theme as in previous years and buy new wall brackets and new LED lights. A quote is attached from a company who will supply new fixed xmas light fittings and will travel to Berwick to install all of the lights over one/two days

A few years ago business owners were asked to contribute towards the Christmas lights but some business owners refused to take part and this decision unfortunately led to large gaps in the xmas lights appearing between the various shops and businesses where owners had refused to participate.

Councillors are also asked to consider whether they would like to invite a local Celebrity to switch on the lights this year and this would cost in the region of £2/5k