

THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ONS, 2022.

Overview

At a meeting in Jubilee House in March this year, between representatives of WDC, KTC and the Illuminations Committee, it was agreed that we should revert to separate switch-on dates for High Street and Warwick Rd.

High St switch-on is planned for Friday, November 25th, at 6pm, with stalls open from 5pm till 8, and our Mayor and MP doing the honours, while Warwick Rd's will be two days later, on Sunday, 27th November.

High St Switch On Event – planned by WDC Officer Louise Sheepy

The High St switch-on has again been planned by Louise Sheepy of WDC, with various stalls including children's rides, a hook-a-duck stall, the Myton Hospice hot drinks stall and a doughnut stall. Crackley Hall School choir will be performing and Santa has been asked to attend.

Warwick Road Switch On Event – planned by WDC Officer Gary Rudd

Traffic management requirements have been put out to tender by WDC and they have received applications. They have been evaluated and returned to Procurement. They are being assessed and will be awarded at the end of the month. Gary will apply for the road closures and send out to consultation and install and remove the road notices when secured.

Helen Kelly, who has rejoined the Events team, is currently seeking quotes for medical provision for all remembrance services and lights switch on's.

On the 18th October, Gary will present the Event Management Plan to the SAG group. No issues are envisaged, as the document was welcomed this time last year.

Gary will clarify whether the entertainment specialist will once again be employed to organise the stage entertainment, which will run from 4.00p.m to 8.00p.m, with the official switch on taking place at 6.00p.m, by the Mayor. C.J's have confirmed that they will arrange the stage as usual, PSL will arrange the lighting and sound and that the market stalls, food and drink concessions and some fairground rides will operate from Midday to 8.00p.m

The services of a local Santa, will be requested through the Town Council.
A site meeting will be arranged shortly, with C.J's and Barkers, to agree the site layout.

Gary will pass on comments and concerns raised by Maggie about funding energy and any potential new policy, in terms of the energy crisis and duration of display.

Funding

We are expecting WDC to again contribute £8000 and the Illuminations Committee about £3000, leaving KTC to provide £5000 in order to meet the second year's cost of our three-year contract with Hi-Lites Electrical for putting up, checking and taking down the lights. There is a separate contract for the storage of the lights over the year, which costs approx. £7000 per annum, which the Town Council budgets for.

The Illuminations Committee's income stems from the sponsorship of banners by local businesses. They pay £200 for one banner or £300 for two.

Peter Jones. 19/9/22.