

## **Liskeard Lights Up Meeting**

**21<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Liskeard Sports Club**

### **Attendees**

Jenny Foster, Martin Gilbert, Cllr Nick Craker, David Ambler

Apologies – John Gliddon

### 1) Review of 2021. Accounts and Costs from 2021

It was noted that there was a lack of volunteers when the lights came down, and this needs to be managed better.

Businesses in Liskeard were generally generous with supporting the funding of the lights during 2021.

It was noted a need to improve the recognition of businesses who supported LLU.

There were several outstanding costs, (lifter and trees) and these have been chased.

**Action: JF to circulate accounts from pre-Covid Christmas events.**

### 2) Review of actions from the last meeting.

NC – had spoken to some neighbouring towns, and there may be an opportunity for joint working.

MG noted that previously meetings had been held between towns to discuss their lights up operations.

It was suggested Wadebridge would be a good town to talk to about their lights up process.

**Action: DA to investigate the lights up process at Wadebridge**

DA – had circulated information about options for an external contractor to undertake the whole of the LLU process, and a catalogue from Festive Lighting.

### 3) The future structure of Liskeard Lights Up? Options including setting up a formal committee with a constitution, or maintaining an informal group associated with a local entity?

There was a general discussion on how the LLU should be run going forward. It was thought a committee, with formal constitution, would make it easier to co-ordinate and manage the LLU process. The committee would have responsibility to arrange

the physical lights up, fundraising, and co-ordinate any town wide Christmas events.

It was suggested principle committee members should include the Liskeard Town Council, and an invite be made to the Liskeard Chambers and Liskeard Traders. Other groups, such as the Liskeard Town Forum, would be invited to be members.

Consideration was given to insuring the longevity of the LLU process, and the maintaining of skills. It was suggested LTC could be the committee member with the responsibility of insuring the lights up committee meets in time to organise any town wide Christmas events and the physical lights up process. An approach would be made to LTC to consider being on the committee as an outside body.

**Action: DA to co-ordinate the setting up of a LLU committee.**

4) Discussion on how the lights should be done going forward. Options include maintaining the current 'in house volunteer team' to Liskeard, use an external contractor to manage the part/whole of the process, or team with neighbouring towns to share resources?

There was general discussion over the difficulty of some businesses not supporting town events. It was felt better recognition of supportive businesses would be useful.

It was felt that the likely costs, (£20k) of employing a contractor to oversee the whole LLU event would be unfeasible to achieve.

However, the use of a contractor to erect lights owned by LLU maybe more feasible, and insure all relevant HSE is followed. This would avoid risk, and maintain the necessary skills.

**Action: DA - investigate the options for providing dedicated power supplies for the Christmas Lights going forward – either lampposts or by dedicated outside power supplies. This would avoid the problem of some traders paying for the supply, while others do not contribute anything to the project. The positioning, installation and operational costs will need to be considered.**

**Action: DA - Audit of the current infrastructure and any refurbishment costs.**

**Action: DA - Arrange with Festive Lights for the audit and refurbishment of current light features.**

**Action: DA – Investigate the costs of employing contractors to lift up lights.**

5) Fundraising - crowdfunding, grants, shops and businesses, sell items. The structure of LLU affects the options for fundraising.

It was noted that a separate LLU bank account already exists.

Options to raise funds to cover future events include crowdfunding, grants, selling products.

**Action: NC to discuss the idea of a standing LTC budget line to support the future refurbishment of the town's Christmas lights, (£5k).**

It was noted on the need to put the collection pots back out.

#### 6) Ideas for Christmas 2022 in Liskeard?

**Action: Deferred to after the Jubilee celebrations.**

#### 7) A.O.B

The current LLU storage is unlikely to be available once the current building is sold. A new location will be required.

DA noted a concern over the use of cable ties, and the Liskeard Plastic Free message. Alternatives should be investigated.

It was felt LLU needs to increase the number of volunteers, and training – especially from actual businesses in the town.

DA suggested youngsters could decorate the Christmas trees for shops?

JF suggested encouraging organisations to support the process of Liskeard Christmas, by organising their own events co-ordinated with any future LLU committee.

**Action: David Ambler to get quotes for an external contractor to manage the physical lights up process.**

I have chatted to Festive Lights, and one of their contacts for Twinkly Lights.

**Festive Lights** have passed on a link for information here, we can get the prices by registering for their business account: [https://blog.festive-lights.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Business-winter-2022\\_digital\\_2.pdf](https://blog.festive-lights.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Business-winter-2022_digital_2.pdf)

**Twinkly** are quite sophisticated Christmas light displays, and the cost goes with it - however they do look good, and the company I chatted to would organise things down to the switch on event. This is merely at this time for discussion and ideas. I attach a link to a video of a Twinkly type light. I also attach the referenced brochure.

---- Notes From Twinkly Contractor ---

*I confirm we would welcome the opportunity of discussing your potential Christmas Lighting requirements going forward.*

*As the largest UK owned provider of Christmas Lighting to Municipal Authorities across the UK we offer a 'Concept to Completion' package including installation, switch on, dismantle and out of season storage, testing etc.*

*Please click on the brochure download link below which showcases our products and services together with testimonials.*

*Many of the contracts we have are now on a 3 year 'rental' basis enabling you to change the displays every 3 years thereby maintaining the WOW factor and allowing budget predictability and negating 'cost of ownership and maintenance' going forward.*

*Our local experienced installation team are HERS ( Highways Electrical Road Safety) registered and provide a 'worry free' total scheme management solution.*

*Having seen the photo's you have kindly sent and Google Earthed the Town Centre an 'elegant' thematic display matching the persona of Liskeard would we believe delight and engage the community across all ages and the Christmas Tree to be lit with the Twinkly programmable products you recently saw as the main WOW for the Christmas switch on event.*

*From what I have gleaned at this point an annual estimated budget of aprox £20K would meet this expectation.*

*Product lead times are in the order of 10 weeks from order and orders are normally in place by 1<sup>st</sup> week August.*

*In short I would like to arrange a site visit with myself and our local Installation Manager to discuss you requirements, conduct a site survey and submit a comprehensive quotation for your consideration.*

*I have attached a typical quotation for your information and detailing the scale and comprehensiveness of the total service we provide.*