

Christmas Lighting Display 2023-24


This display marked the last of the current contract with SparkX and overall, they have been very timely and reasonable in their costs. Despite their growing business and truly appalling weather conditions to contend with, they marched with stealth and delivered what was required for our town, with the usual quality. Unfortunately, we suffered blatant vandalism of both large cut tree lights in Station Road in the week leading to the Christmas break, and the Poundstretcher tree had been deliberately heaved in daylight hours on one occasion! Our team are adept in securing the trees, so once again turned out to remedy. It's always a shame to think some find pleasure in these actions and is a cause for more expense, out of residents pockets.

The display contract is due to be reviewed this year ahead of the summer tendering process. I will soon be providing Amenities Committee this information and have gathered a number of new contractor details in readiness.

The whole display came together splendidly with the new motifs throughout, and for the first time we had trunk wrapped trees. The Fire Station tree and that at Old Milton Green were requiring new lights, and they have both proved to be quite challenging in the past so it was time to try something new. This created quite some positive comment and have become a favourite for many.

We managed to gain sponsorship of 3 large and 3 small trees this year, which was very gratefully received given the ever-increasing financial pressure nationally. We have 5 positions that will require coverage this coming season, detailed below.

Heartfelt thanks go to the local organisations and traders that see the huge wellbeing benefit this project offers the town and its surrounds. Despite a difficult financial backdrop, they continue to support the project year on year, bringing a smile to the faces of so many, and a glint of wonder in the eyes.

<p>ABSOLUTES for 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repair central junction cross string (certified safe to use currently)• Replace lights at Vision Express (tree x 2)• Sponsorship for 1 large and 4 smaller street trees/Barton cut tree• Remote switch on kit• Replace KFC/Boots icicle lights		<p>PROGRESSION POINTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider trunk wrap to 3 x Station Road trees
---	---	--

INCOME			PAYMENTS		
	Amount	Net	Service		Net
Approved budget	23,000.00	23,000.00	Installation contract		7185.00
Sponsorship deals		2956.25	1. Infrastructure		9,113.73
			includes trees, electricity and wall brackets		
Donations		100.00	2. Safety Tests		2,938.00
			3. Replacement and repairs		6,516.50
			includes banners, bulbs, plaques, icicle replace		
			4. Sundries – Cable ties etc.		963.30
TOTAL		26,056.25	TOTAL		26,716.53
					-660.28

SPONSORS LIST			
Advertiser & Times	A-Tech UK Ltd	BAKE	Bradbeer's
Charles Nobel	Dixon Stewart	Fagan's Menswear	House of Hair
Kimber's Carpets	Lions Club of New Milton	New Forest Stationers	New Life Church
New Milton Pharmacy	NM Residents Association	New Milton Sand & Ballast	Paul Light Hair & Beauty
Sullivan Lawford	The Wheatsheaf Inn	Cllr G Blunden	Cllr D Hawkins
DONATION	Sammy Miller Motor Museum	(Electric) Hardy's Electrical	(Electric) Bradbeers
	(Electric) Brewers	(Electric) Euronics	(Electric) Heppenstall's