

Councillor Initiative

1. What is the Initiative?

To install a reliable, and more importantly safe infrastructure to enable the Christmas Lights to be powered and switched at regular intervals through the Town Centre, also meaning less reliance on qualified personal to make electric connections instead offering 16A sockets to which any voluntary member can safely connect pre wired lights.

2. Where is the initiative taking place?

This takes place in Melksham Town Centre, directly affecting the entire town who benefit from one of the best Festive displays across the South West, in turn hopefully bringing more footfall and business to the Town over the Festive period.

3. When will the initiative take place?

We plan to install this system over the Summer months in sections, in readiness for the 2014 lights, its life span is then reasonably expected to be in excess of 15 years, and mainly maintenance free.

4. What are the Community benefits/evidence of need/desired outcomes?

We have made huge strides towards making Melksham Lights the best for many miles, and importantly making them some of the most economical in terms of power consumption and ongoing costs. Annually one of our biggest issues has been the unreliability of the Electrical infrastructure provided from the Lighting columns since the replacement of them a few years ago. We essentially wish to install our own specific 'ring main' built up in zones, to allow the connections to be made safely at various points through the Town by any of our volunteer team (like for example plugging in something in your own home) plus ensuring that these outlets are electrically safety protected to the best most suitable level. This system will also carry low voltage wiring and control cabling for more elaborate parts of the displays.

The implementation of this scheme is something we have looked at for a few years but have been unable to afford the cabling and time, versus putting the same into the lights themselves. As our team ages we desperately wish to bring new younger members on board, who cannot reasonably be expected to continue the kind of elaborate wiring we do annually, this system provides them and us with a safe resilient infrastructure that allows the lights to continue with less technical input, plus reassurance that we are connected to a reliable system that is designed specifically for the lighting we install, and distances itself from the issues realised with the current poor infrastructure which has proved unsafe and very unreliable.

5. Who will Project Manage/be responsible for this initiative?

The work will be carried out by suitable members of Melksham Christmas Lights Group and project managed directly by Paul Weymouth.

6. Costs/quotes/ match funding?

The total cost of this project is approximately £4200, with the main part being made up of Cable itself, with all work being carried out by volunteers / donated. Shortfalls in funding will come from our own ongoing fundraising.

7. Additional information

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