

	Meeting (No)	Community & Environment (1)	
	Date	10 June 2025	
	Document	Ref No	
	Christmas Lights 2025	CE1/11	

Neston Town Council currently owns all lights that are installed in the town and is therefore responsible for the cost of repair/replacement. The life span for most decorations is generally about five years, although this can be less in Parkgate due to the exposed site.

In 2024 some of the decorations were damaged during the extreme weather over the Christmas period; the Parkgate tree lights are damaged beyond repair, as is the star that tops the High Street tree.

Councillors have also suggested that the lights in High Street do not make sufficient impact. The cost of replacement will be significant.

Our current installation contract is due to end in January 2026 and we will then follow the usual practice of agreeing a specification for a new contract and seeking quotations. C&E might wish to consider exploring options for a rental contract for all decorations in Neston and Parkgate which would mean that the Town Council would not have to bear the cost of replacement/repair and the decorations could be updated more regularly (average rental contract is three years). Rental contracts can, however, sometimes prove to be more expensive in the long term.

If the Committee wishes to explore options for a new scheme for Neston and Parkgate on a rental basis from 2026, it will be necessary to carry out some repairs to our current stock to ensure it is operational for 2025. Estimated costs are detailed below. Officers have also responded to comments from councillors about the cross-street garlands in High Street not being bright enough by requesting a cost for additional strings of lights for the garlands.

Committee will need to consider the current situation and decide what level of investment to make at this stage.

Estimated costs

- Replacement star for High Street tree: £450.
- Replacement Parkgate tree lights (35 sets): £1,900 + £75 carriage.
- Addition of four strings of white lights to each of the High Street cross-street garlands: £6,350 (supply and fit).

Audrey Duncan
Community & Environment Committee