Andover Town Council

1. To consider holding Carols Round the Christmas tree in 2025 on Friday 12 December 2025.
2. To consider amending the format of the event and what is offered
3. To approve a budget of £500 (2024 the budget was £350 - **C 048/05/24)** for recommendation to Full Council for the event. To approve that it be recommended to Full Council that this is taken from Operational Reserves.
4. To approve delegation to Officers to research and report back to the next C&E Committee Meeting on 27th February 2025.

Item No. **10**

Produced for: Community & Events Committee	**By:** Nikki Barber	**Date of Report:** 22nd January 2025

Purpose:

For members to discuss the Carols around the Christmas Tree 2025 event.

Background:

Christmas 2024 in Andover saw the reprisal of 'Carols around the Tree' which had been hosted by Andover Town Council in previous years. It is an understated, simple, traditional event where people can gather under the town's beautiful Christmas tree and share a song together. In contrast to other festive events held in December in town, this event allows residents who prefer smaller crowds along with other residents to enjoy the festivities.

Carols Around the Tree 2024 was well received and it is hoped that this will continue making it a regular fixture in the Town Councils social calendar as per the draft Business plan.

From draft Business Plan:

Actions	2025-26	2026-27
1.1 Christmas tree and lights	Extend the Christmas lights display Purchase new fencing for the Christmas tree.	Further extend the Christmas lights display
1.2 Carols around the Christmas tree	Deliver in December 2025	Deliver in December 2026

Proposal:

1. To consider holding Carols Round the Christmas tree in 2025 on Friday 12 December 2025.
2. To consider amending the format of the event and what is offered
3. To approve a budget of £500 (2024 the budget was £350 - **C 048/05/24)** for recommendation to Full Council for the event. To approve that it be recommended to Full Council that this budget is taken from Operational Reserves.
4. To approve delegation to Officers to research and report back to the next C&E Committee Meeting on 27th February 2025, for approval, the following additions to the event:

    - A Choir to lead the singing.
    - Hiring of musicians to accompany the singing.
    - Chestnut's vendor

- Mulled wine vendor
- Hot drinks vendor
- Father Christmas with his sleigh and elves
- Craft activity for children
- To approve supporting a local charity with the event. (Officers to ask for suggestions for approval at next meeting)