



Andover Town Council

Item No.

6

- To **receive** the information provided above
- For members to give their own **feedback** on the event and to share feedback which they had received from their residents who attended
- To **note** that a budget has been approved for the Carols Round the Christmas Tree event 4700/31 of £1000
- To **approve** the date of Friday 11th December 2026 for Carols Round the Christmas Tree 2026.
- To **approve** changing the start time to 5:30pm – 8.00pm
- To **approve** Officers engaging in discussions for a possible collaboration with Andover Community Events and to report back to the Community and Events Committee.

Produced for: C&E Committee

By: Community and Events Officer

Date of Report: 20 January 2026

Purpose

To update councillors and the public on the event, provide photographs and open discussions around the next Carols around the Christmas Tree event in 2026.

Recommendations:

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- For members to give their own **feedback** on the event and to share feedback which they had received from their residents who attended
- To **note** that a budget has been approved for the Carols Round the Christmas Tree event 4700/31 of £1000
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Overview

Carols Around the Christmas Tree was designed to create a gentle, festive atmosphere where the community could come together to enjoy live performances, refreshments, and family-friendly activities.

The event offered a magical mix of entertainment throughout the evening:

- **Tony Wand** opened the event with a selection of classic and contemporary Christmas songs, including popular Michael Bublé favourites which proved very popular with the crowd.
- **Rock Choir** then took to the stage, handing out jingle bells to the audience—an instant hit with children, who danced along enthusiastically. Their uplifting Christmas repertoire brought real energy to the High Street.
- **Andover's Santa** compered between performances, chatting with children about the naughty-and-nice list and taking last-minute Christmas wishes.
- **Andover Ladies Choir** closed the evening with traditional carols. Hymn sheets were provided to encourage audience participation. The atmosphere became especially moving at this point, with families and young children singing along creating a truly memorable moment.

Alongside the performances, the **Reindeer Food Factory** offered a craft activity where children created biodegradable, glittery reindeer food to take home for Christmas Eve. This proved extremely popular with families and received very positive feedback.

Supporting traders—**The Travelling Cupcake, Tap on Tour, and Powder Monkey**—helped keep visitors warm and well-fed, and were valuable additions to the event.

A huge thank you goes to all performers and of course to Santa for helping to make the evening so magical.

Budget

Allocated- £500 (CE 087/01/25)

Additional budget - £380.00 for staging and sound. (CE064/08/25)

Spent - £904.40

Overspend - £24.40

Feedback

A selection of comments received:

- “It's a shame it's so early as those of us who work will miss most of it. Next year maybe start 6.30pm???”
- “This was such a lovely and uplifting event that really celebrated the joy of Christmas without the craziness that so often surrounds it.”
- “The Tree and Guildhall looked lovely.”
- “Thank you for organising it, Andover Town Council.”
- “A very enjoyable evening listening to the various choirs.”

Considerations

- **Potential collaboration:** Explore working with *Andover Community Events* to expand the programme. Consider whether a larger event may impact the intimate atmosphere people enjoyed compared to the November Christmas Festival.





