

	<p>Andover Town Council</p> <p>To note a report on Carols around the Tree 2025. To approve proposed ideas for the Carols around the Tree event to be held on Friday 12th December 2025 and to note that further information will be brought back to the next Committee Meeting. To approve a charity to be supported by this event</p>	<p>Item No.</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">9</p>
<p>Produced for: C&E Committee</p>	<p>By: Nikki Barber</p>	<p>Date of Report: 19 February 2025</p>

Background:

During the last Community & Events Committee meeting it was decided that research would be undertaken by the Communications & Events Manager for additions to be made to the 2025 Carols around the Christmas Tree Event.

(CE087/01/25)

A recommendation has been made to Full Council (19 March 2025) that a budget of £500 be set aside from Operational reserves to fund this event.

Officers were tasked with providing a shortlist of charities who could be supported by this event and approached to be a part of the event and/or provide Andover Town Council with fundraising buckets for collections during the event.

Charities:

Officers have collated a short list of local Organisations of who we could fundraise for at this event. None of the charities mentioned below have been approached yet. The charity which is voted as the charity who will be fundraised for will be approached once a decision has been made to discuss how they wish to proceed.

The short list is as follows:

- **Andover Food Bank** - *Helping to stop UK Hunger.*
- **The Countess of Brecknock Hospice** – *Provides palliative & end of life care to adults suffering from life limiting illness.*
- **Veterans in Action** – *Supporting local Veterans suffering the effects of war.*
- **Weyhill Seniors** – *A group who take older people on days out, organise activities and enable socialising.*

Update members on additions to the event:

- A local Choir has been contacted to check their availability for the date of the event and the cost of this. Availability and price will be reported to members once it has been received. School choirs could be approached to perform if the cost of an independent adult choir is too much and does not meet our budget requirements.
- Andover Town Council Officers/Councillors will be managing the ‘crafts table’ to cater for our younger audience and it has been discussed that decorating baubles could be a fun and simple activity for the family. The price to host the crafts table would be in the region of £80 and this would include the baubles, felt tip pens, festive table covers and ‘make your own paper chains’ in a festive pattern.

This cost would not factor in the price of tables and chair hire, but it was hoped that we could reach out to local organisations who do have these items, we could borrow them for the duration of the event.

- We hope to again collaborate with Father Christmas and his elves; only this year we are hoping Father Christmas can bring his Sleigh and a few more Elves for extra festive cheer! These discussions are still

ongoing but once confirmation of availability and cost are confirmed we will bring this back to this Committee.

- Bringing in an outside vendor to provide hot mulled beverages and/or toasted nuts is still very much something we aim towards however, we are waiting to hear back on availability & costing. This will be reported once we have received an idea of both. It might not be part of the budget therefore we may have to consider partnering with a local cafe for the event who will stay open late for the event and service drinks and food to those attending the event.
- We are hopeful that The Lower Guildhall will be trading by then and will be open to the idea of offering Mulled wine for this event if we are unable to find a vendor within budget and with availability.
- The High Street has been provisionally booked for the 12 December 2025 3:30pm-6:30pm.

Recommendations:

- To **approve** proposed ideas for the Carols around the Tree event to be held on Friday 12th December 2025 and to **note** that further information will be brought back to the next Committee Meeting.
- To **approve** a charity to be supported by this event