

## Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Christmas in Thame</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>25 October 2022</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Ben Bennett, Communications and Events Officer</b>

### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on our plans to celebrate Christmas in Thame for 2022.

### Background

2. Following the success of the Christmas schedule in 2021, it is intended to adopt a similar model this year and revolve it around a main event. The popular Christmas Light Switch On would once again lead the itinerary as a celebration for all, attended by our local community and visitors.
3. The main learning taken from last year was that planned events held in December on a Saturday were popular, and footfall was good. Apart from the AgriSocial charity road run, feedback from events held on a Sunday was that they did not attract many visitors or residents.

### Proposal

4. To hold a main event, the 'Christmas Light Switch On', supported by a small programme of support events hosted by, and for our local communities (Santa's Grotto, Fun run, AgriSocial & gift fairs). The overall intention is to have a consistent theme running through December, to help draw people to the Town Centre, supporting our local economy.
5. The light switch on is planned for Friday 2nd December. This will include a musical performance from Thame Concert Band, walk around by 'Stilt walkers', a children's ride, Mulled Wine from the OX9ers, 3 Children nominated by local primary schools to switch on the lights, a visit from Santa and late-night shopping.
6. This is the first year we intend to deploy a mobile stage (from a vehicle) which has its own PA and lighting system. We have secured sponsorship and wider cost reduction opportunities to cover the main cost of this.
7. As in previous years we will be working closely with various groups in the community to put on events. The rest of the main activities in December are planned as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event/Activity</b>
Saturday 3rd	Christmas Gift Fair (local stalls holders & businesses)
Saturday 3rd	Santa's Grotto (Thame Round Table)
Sunday 4th	Santa's Fun Run (Thame Youth Projects with Rotary Phoenix and Invictus Gym)
Saturday 10th	Sally Evans Gift Fair
Saturday 17th	Mynt Image Gift Fair
Sunday 19th	AgriSocial charity road run
Sunday 19th	Mulled wine outside Town Hall with OX9ers

8. Alongside these events will be competitions and activities such as 'March of the Penguins' (formally Tree of Hope) hosted by the Library; Shop window display competitions; 'Penguin' competition to engage people in coming into town; and the Penguin 'selfie-station'.

### **Promotion**

9. A booklet containing details of the events will be printed and distributed to each home in Thame prior to 1st December. The events will also be promoted through the 'Christmas in Thame' Facebook page.

### **Risk Assessment**

10. Each activity/event will have risk assessments in place and be carefully managed. Core risk assessments attached are listed as Appendix A – Corporate and Appendix B – Event.

### **Resource Appraisal**

11. Expenditure will be confined within the Christmas event budget with sponsorship and donation opportunities offered to businesses to offset any additional costs.
12. A number of the events and activities are being sponsored by local businesses.

### **Action:**

- i) To note the report.*
- ii) To provide any feedback on the event offer.*
- iii) To volunteer to support the switch on event (if required).*