



## **Full Council Meeting**

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026**

**Number: FC146**

### **To consider the options for the Cuckfield Christmas street lighting scheme for 2026 and onwards**

#### **1. Introduction**

After a successful three-year partnership begun in 2020, the Parish Council renewed its contract with Blachere in 2023 to provide Christmas Street lighting in Cuckfield. With that contract now ended, options for 2026 onwards must be considered. This report outlines the costs of continuing with Blachere—either with a similar or revised scheme—or appointing a new provider under a fresh three-year contract.

#### **Suppliers**

Blachere has delivered the High Street Christmas lighting for the past six years and, despite some technical issues, the scheme has been largely successful.

In addition to Blachere, quotes were sought from:

- The Festive Lighting Company,
- Festive Decorations Limited,
- and MK Illumination; these are set out below.

All quotes received are set out below

All suppliers were asked to price for the same specification:

- 8 x lamp post lights
- 4 x street crossing displays
- Queen's Hall lighting
- Uplighter to the cedar tree (if not with Blachere)
- Storage and installation

## 2. The Festive Lighting Company (quote attached)

Two options have been proposed:

- The first option is a classic and premium display utilising warm white and pure white lighting



- The second option is a dynamic scheme that allows us to choose its theme and colours.



Contract period:	3-year hire 2026-2028, with an option to extend a further 2 years
Live period:	Mid November to 6 <sup>th</sup> January
Services required:	Supply, installation and takedown, storage and project management
Total Option 1	£7,579.94 + VAT (Annual Fee)
Total Option 2	£6,968.60 + VAT (Annual Fee)

### 3. Festive Decorations Limited (quote attached)

The proposed scheme largely replicates the Blachere installation used over the past three years. The street-crossing displays would remain unchanged, while the lamp post lights would be replaced with a chandelier-style design suited to swan-neck posts (see image below). No bespoke visuals were provided with the quote beyond the catalogue.



Example of a chandelier for the lamp columns that would be made on a ring and with shorter strings that would produce a similar look to the picture in Warm White.

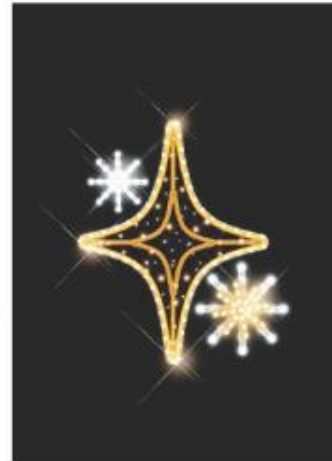
Total annual cost: £8,950 + VAT

### 4. Blachere – New Scheme for 3 Years

#### Option A

This option proposes an elegant solution that will deliver a truly magical enhancement. The High Street crossings will be adorned with rich green garlands and elevated with animated stars to create a captivating seasonal atmosphere. The lamp columns would be adorned of a glittering swan like display mirroring the shape of the lamp posts.

Note: the column-mounted fittings may need to be swapped if they're not compatible with the existing columns due to the positioning of the sockets. While they may work as proposed, there is a possibility that some units would need to be installed at an angle rather than straight. If this proves to be the case, an alternative solution is available — a warm white version of Option B — which is guaranteed to work. This alternative can be confirmed and amended at the award of contract stage following a site revisit by the project management team.



Green garland crossings with animated stars



Glittering Swan like display mirroring the shape of the lamp posts

3-year hire:

Year One 2026: £6,782.99 + VAT

Year Two 2027: £6,782.99 + VAT

Year Three 2028: £6,782.99 + VAT

4-year hire:

£6,695.44 + VAT annually



**Option B**

This option proposes a more sleek and modern approach utilising Flexiprint technology paired with crisp pure-white illumination throughout (also available in a warm-white variation). This is a contemporary option that delivers a refined high-quality finish while showcasing the latest lighting innovations.



Street crossing



lamp post display

3-year hire:

Year One 2026: £7,703.11 + VAT

Year Two 2027: £7,703.11 + VAT

Year Three 2028: £7,703.11 + VAT

4-year hire:

£6,707.55 + VAT annually



## **5. Recommendations**

I recommend proceeding with Blachere Option A, which offers the most attractive display while also being the most cost-effective. It introduces a subtle refresh to the past three years' scheme, adding elegant features that will enhance the look of the High Street.

*MK Illumination did not provide a quote and their proposed design in time to be added to this report.*

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Title Parish Clerk

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026