



Full Council Meeting

Date: 30th March 2023

Number: FC146 – To consider the options for the Christmas street lighting scheme for 2023 and onwards

1. Introduction

In 2020 the Parish Council resolved to enter a 3 year contract with Blachere to provide the Christmas street lighting in Cuckfield. This contract has now finished, so options for 2023 onwards will need to be considered. This report provides an overview of the costs involved either with continuing with the same scheme we have had for the past 3 years by renewing for up to a further 3 years, or by changing the scheme and entering a new 3 year contract.

2. Suppliers

Blachere have provided our lighting scheme for the past 3 years. Whilst there were issues experienced in years 1 and 2, year 3 took place without problems.

I have reached out to 2 other suppliers of Christmas lighting but have either had no response or have received a basic quote, which is included below.

3. Blachere – Extending Existing Scheme for 3 Years

This scheme would continue with the exact same lighting options we have had over the past 3 years, including:

- 8 x lamp post lights
- 4 x street crossing lights
- Queen's Hall lighting
- Uplighter to the cedar tree
- Storage and installation

One Year Extension: £5,864

Two Year Extension: Year 1 £5,379; Year 2 £4,632

Three Year Extension: Year 1 £5,279; Year 2 £4,187; Year 3 £4,532

All costs exclude VAT.



FIGURE 1 BLACHERE - CROSSING GARLANDS



FIGURE 2 BLACHERE - LAMPPOST LIGHTING

4. Blachere – New Scheme for 3 Years (Option 1)

This scheme would continue with all lighting remaining the same except the cross street lighting. The cross street lighting option here is more basic than that we have had for the past 3 years, and less impactful:

- 8 x lamp post lights
- 4 x street crossing lights
- Queen’s Hall lighting
- Uplighter to the cedar tree
- Storage and installation

One Year Hire: £6,323.40

Two Year Hire: Year 1 £5,316; Year 2 £4,288.50

Three Year Hire: Year 1 £4,558.50; Year 2 £3,746; Year 3 £4,091

All costs exclude VAT.



FIGURE 3 BLACHERE - FIR GARLAND WITH FLASHING LIGHTS

For an additional cost there is an option to add static stars to the crossing. This would provide 56 stars, approximately 1 per metre of the street crossing:

One Year Hire:	£6,953.40
Two Year Hire:	Year 1 £5,778; Year 2 £4,750
Three Year Hire:	Year 1 £4,877.70; Year 2 £4,065.20; Year 3 £4,410.20

All costs exclude VAT.



FIGURE 4 BLACHERE - FIR GARLAND WITH FLASHING LIGHTS AND HANGING DECORATIONS

5. Blachere – New Scheme for 3 Years (Option 2)

This option takes the same scheme we have had for the past three years and enhances it with a twinkling fir garland above the nostalgia stalactites. This option retains the striking cross street lighting we've had for the past three years, but adds some interest with the garland containing twinkling lights.

- 8 x lamp post lights
- 4 x street crossing lights with twinkling garland
- Queen's Hall lighting
- Uplighter to the cedar tree
- Storage and installation

One Year Hire: £12,091.40

Two Year Hire: Year 1 £9,663.05; Year 2 £9,195.55

Three Year Hire: Year 1 £8,369.90; Year 2 £7,557.19; Year 3 £7,902.19

All costs exclude VAT.



FIGURE 5 BLACHERE - CROSSING GARLANDS WITH GREEN TWINKLING GARLANDS

6. Festive Lighting

There is little they can provide that would work with the infrastructure we have in place in Cuckfield, as we are limited with regards to height and weight.

They have not provided a quote, however they have provided images of the lighting options that would be available. For the lights crossing the street, the only product they could offer would be icicle lights or festoon lighting:



FIGURE 6 FESTIVE LIGHTING - ICICLE LIGHTS



FIGURE 7 FESTIVE LIGHTING FESTOON LIGHTS

Due to the swan neck style of our street lights, the only lighting they could offer is a Spiral Wrap Braid, image below.



FIGURE 8 FESTIVE LIGHTING STREETLAMP OPTIONS

Due to the style of lighting being less interesting than those available from Blachere, I have not pursued a quote on the basis that the Blachere offerings will be preferable. I can revert to Festive Lighting for more details if you require.

7. Recommendations

I recommend we proceed with Blachere due to their better light options, however whether you wish to change the crossing lights or continue with those we have had over the past 3 years should be considered.

Due to the infrastructure we have available in Cuckfield we are very limited in the lighting options we can have. There is not the clearance for hanging motifs in the centre of the string, and due to there being a single catenary wire we cannot have anything that weighs too much.

Although it is the most expensive, my recommendation is to choose Blachere Option 2. This retains the lighting scheme we've had for the previous 3 years and adds a garland of twinkling lights for extra interest.

Option 1 is a much more basic light offering in the style of that seen on houses throughout the village. Even though these lights will twinkle, with the twinkling garland too this may create quite a 'busy' ambience.

Name: Sam Heynes

Title Clerk

Date: 23rd March 2023