

**Committee: Resources**

**Date: 22 August 2022**

**Title: Grant application**

**Purpose of Report:**

For Members to consider a grant application from Ilminster Christmas lights to purchase cross-street lights that will enhance the displays.

**Recommendation:**

Members resolve to approve the grant for £500 from the 2022-23 Grant budget.

**Report:**

1. The Christmas Lights Committee provide annual lights display throughout the town from November through to the New Year. This display is enjoyed, not only by Ilminster residents, but people who travel to the town to admire them.
2. The lights display is a good advertisement for the town and encourages visitors to come to Ilminster. The Christmas Lights Committee collect donations from people to enable them to maintain the existing lights and to purchase replacements when required.
3. This year, in addition to the annual maintenance cost of repairing the existing lights, the Committee would like to purchase additional lights to enhance displays on Ditton Street and along Strawberry Bank as well as making improvements to some of the cross-street garlands.
4. The proposed lights are clustered with 50 LED bulbs per metre, and their intention is to purchase 80 x 5 metre strips of lights along with the starter cable at a total cost of £3,505.15 Ex VAT. Therefore, the Christmas Lights Committee are requesting the Town Council to consider their application for a grant of £500.00 to go towards this purchase.
5. Members have a Resources Grant budget of £10,400 of which nothing has been applied for and therefore not awarded so far this year.
6. Members may wish to award a grant of £500 or may have a different resolution for this application.

**Julie Earp  
Deputy Town Clerk  
30 August 2022**