



Policy Document

Illumination of Corn Exchange for Events

Witney Town Council welcomes engagement within the Community and will consider all reasonable requests to illuminate the interior of the Corn Exchange a certain colour (1863 Cafe & Gallery Room windows) to help mark local or national commemorations/campaigns. The procedures and criteria for handling these requests so they can be dealt with in a consistent and fair manner, are as follows:

1. The Council will light up the interior of the Corn Exchange, in a particular colour, where practicably possible, in response to requests from organisations, charitable or other groups where the requests are deemed eligible (see point No 2).
2. Requests for lighting up the interior of the Corn Exchange for the following purposes will be deemed as eligible:
 - a) To raise awareness of charities nominated by the Mayor
 - b) To mark events directly organised or financially supported by the Council*
 - c) To mark events not directly organised by the Council but which may be held wholly or in part of Witney and be regarded as of significant benefit to the town from a tourism or promotional perspective*
 - d) Charitable, community or other non-profit making organisations based in, with a significant connection to, or from a resident of Witney and which are celebrating a significant anniversary or occasion*

*Illumination will only be considered following a formal written request.

3. Any requests which are judged to be of a political or potentially controversial nature, or do not meet the above criteria, will be decided through consultation between the Town Clerk, The Leader and Mayor of Witney Town Council. The decision taken by the Council is final.
4. Illumination of the Corn Exchange will usually only take effect on the day/night which corresponds to the campaign or commemoration for approximately 24 hours (dependent on appropriate staffing and events already on in the hall – for example, if an event is being held until late in the evening, the lights will not be viewable until it has finished).
5. Requests for annual illumination on a particular date need to be made in writing and considered by the Council. If the date of an annual event falls on a different day each year, it is the requestors responsibility to inform the Council.
6. Requests should be received at least eight weeks in advance of the date on which the buildings are to be illuminated, to allow suitable time for the request to be considered. The Town Council cannot guarantee requests for illumination on dates within eight weeks of the proposed date.

7. Where a request has been made for the same date by more than one group or organisation, illumination will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.
8. The Town Council will only publicise the illumination of the building for events directly organised by the Town Hall or within the sphere of the Council's influence. All other requestors should carry out their own publicity, if they wish to do so, following agreement of illumination.

Requests for illumination of the interior of the Corn Exchange need to be made in writing to:

The Town Clerk

Town Hall, Market Square, Witney, OX28 6AG

e-mail: info@witney-tc.gov.uk

Adopted: Policy, Governance & Finance Committee, 25 March 2024. Minute no: F160