

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: 6th July 2020

Title: Christmas Competitions

Contact Officer: Cemeteries Officer Tracy Minns

Background

Every year the Council invites the children of Witney to enter the Christmas Competitions to design the Advent Fayre poster, the Mayors Carol sheet and official Christmas card and the Christmas light.

At the beginning of June the schools are written to and invited to take part and entry forms are provided. Most schools use these as an activity for the last weeks of term as the closing date is the end of the summer term at the end of July. The timeframe for this in the past has been determined by the need to place an order for the winning light in August.

Current Situation

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic schools are not open to facilitate the running of the competitions neither is it certain at this stage without further government guidance that an Advent Fayre or the Mayors Carol Service will take place.

Due to not having a Christmas light contractor in place we will be unable to have a light manufactured.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

There are no significant financial implications relating to this report. A small budget saving on the costs normally involved in the delivery of the competitions.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

- To continue with the Mayors Christmas card as a competition and to advertise this through our WTC newsletter and website.
- Replace the other competitions with alternatives such as a Christmas poem or a Christmas story.
- Disregard the competitions for this year.