

Welshpool Town Council, The Vicarage Gardens, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DD
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Document / Report #1084

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Title	Winter Festival update Nov 2026
Date	28th October 2026

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION

- To hire I. Tulloch P.A and system for £400
- To allow Santa visits to schools/playgroups/local businesses and indoor market, scheduled by the Events Manager and Santa.
- To launch the Letter To Santa initiative from 16th November - 15th December, with the postbox situated in the Indoor market
- To launch Christmas Window competition, judging to take place on Friday, 4th December.
- To consider the ideas for this year's Winter Festival from Councillor Kelly Meredith

1. Purpose

1. To consider the recommendations

2. Background

1. The approved budget for Winter Festival entertainment is £2,200, with a separate budget of £300 for gifts from Santa. Christmas lights, staffing, equipment and road closure costs are provided for through separate Council budgets
2. Committed expenditure to date - £1,650 - £550 petting zoo, £200 caricaturist - £200 Disco Daddy, £700 Princess parties

3. Advice

1. To consider the following;

- To hire I. Tulloch P.A and system for £400
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1. To consider the ideas for this year's Winter Festival from Councillor Kelly Meredith:-
 1. Tree contest
 2. Baked goods contest
 3. Think of how to redesign the meet Santa area
 4. For light switch on, villain steals lever. Kids have to find lever in a window display. Finder gets to turn on light
 5. Rides need to be winter themed
 6. House Display Contest (previously agreed in June 2026)
 7. Wreath competition
 8. Gingerbread house contest
 9. Can we have the livestock Xmas market on the same day as the switch on?
 10. Make it also the day St Mary's opens its doors for the tree display?
 11. Have a game room for kids - include snowball toss (kids throw balls at a snowman stack), reindeer ring toss (toss onto deer antlers)

1. Specific Implications

1. Risk Management - Principal risks include adverse weather, contractor cancellation, crowd management, safeguarding, animal welfare and the operation of performance equipment within a public event. These risks will be managed through the Council's event risk assessment, contractor documentation and appropriate contingency arrangements.

1. Recommendation

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2. Decision

1. To resolve to adopt the recommendations as above along with the other event queries