

Christmas Lights Consultation 2023

123
Responses

07:29
Average time to complete

Closed
Status

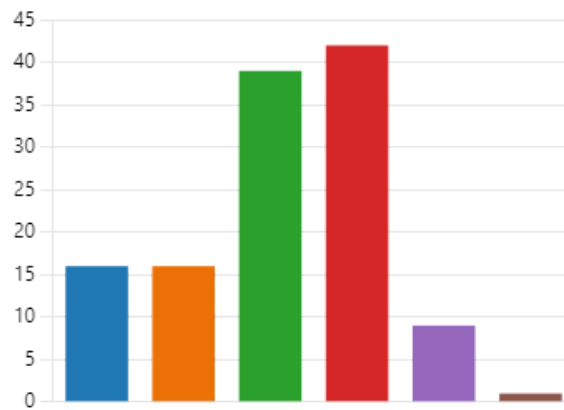
1. Do you live within the Parish of Worplesdon?

Yes	113
No	10



2. If you live within the Parish, please indicate which of the communities you live within:

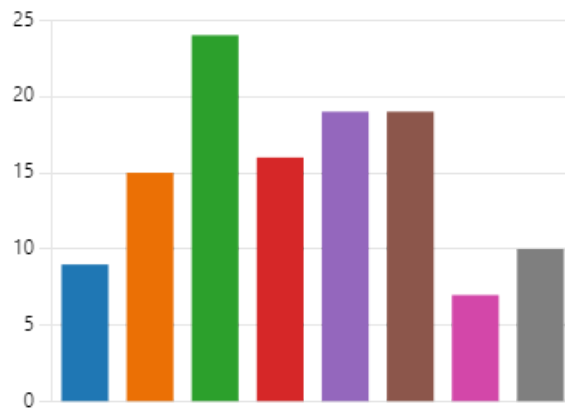
Fairlands	16
Jacobs Well	16
Perry Hill/Rickford/Whitmoor C...	39
Wood Street Village/Rydes Hill/...	42
Live outside the Parish	9
Other	1



3. Please only answer this question if you live within the Parish:

How much are you willing to pay per household (within your Council Tax Precept) towards the annual cost of providing Christmas lights? [There are 3,600 properties within the Parish of Worplesdon]

● £0 (nothing - don't think lights s...	9
● Less than £2	15
● Less than £4	24
● Less than £6	16
● Less than £8	19
● More than £8 (don't mind what ...	19
● Not applicable - do not live with...	7
● Other	10



4. Are you aware that each year, from the middle of November to the end of December, Worplesdon Parish Council provide two illuminated Christmas trees (one at St Mary's Church, Perry Hill and the other on Wood Street Village Green), as well as illuminating horse chestnut trees along the edge of Perry Hill Green (opposite the former White Lyon and Dragon)?

● Yes	109
● No	14



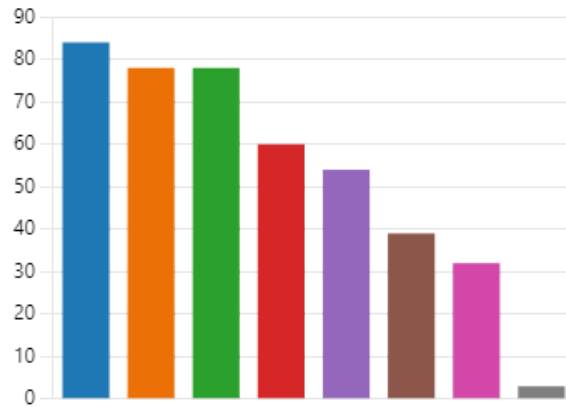
5. Are you aware that the money which pays for the provision of the Christmas trees and lights comes out of the Parish Precept (which is collected from taxpayers by Guildford Borough Council on behalf of Worplesdon Parish Council)?

● Yes	94
● No	29



6. Where do you think Christmas lights should be provided in the Parish? The minimum cost per tree is anticipated to be £4,000, plus the installation of an electricity supply cabinet at locations which do not currently have one (estimated to be £3,500 as a one-off payment per location). Please tick all that apply.

- Christmas tree outside St Mary's... 84
- Illuminated avenue of trees at P... 78
- Christmas tree on Wood Street ... 78
- Christmas tree at Fairlands 60
- Christmas tree at Jacobs Well 54
- Christmas tree on Perry Hill Green 39
- Christmas tree at Pitch Place Gr... 32
- Nowhere - there should be no C... 3



7. If you run a local business would you be prepared to sponsor any of the suggested locations?

- Yes 1
- No 5
- Not applicable 116



8. If you confirmed that you would be prepared to sponsor or make an additional financial contribution to Christmas illuminations (whether as a business or personally), please leave your email address below:

11
Responses

Latest Responses

1 respondents (9%) answered **church land** for this question.

Mary church land st drive
cost for the tree electricity cost

9. Thank you for taking the time to complete the short questionnaire.

Please be aware that the provision of any Christmas lights is wholly dependent on having the necessary funds available, as well as securing appropriate permissions from any landowners.

If you have any additional comments to make with regard to the provision of Christmas illuminations, please leave your comments below:

51

Responses

Latest Responses

33 respondents (65%) answered **lights** for this question.



The illuminations lift the spirits of not just Worplesdon residents but the thousands of passing motorists, and I'm happy to pay to spread Christmas cheer and goodwill to all men through Christmas lights.

If there are to be lights they should be at different sites each year if the cost of providing them at all the villages is prohibitive.

Consider solar/battery option to keep cost down otherwise Use low voltage lighting as can be installed safely by anyone and just plugged into permanent junction box with transformers in it. Can you plant a tree in each location to be decorated each year?

You need to enlighten the dark months to bring pleasure to residents and those people passing through the whole parish.

I have seen the lights in the trees at Perry hill but did not realise the council paid for them. I think it's lovely to decorate the parish for everyone to enjoy. If everyone joined in the cost would be small per person but for maximum enjoyment.

Surely this is an 'all or nothing' survey - either all villages get some council lights or none do? It is very hard to think of a justification for some villages getting lights paid for by the whole parish when others get nothing.

Christmas is a lovely time for family's and it is important to keep tradition in the local area by illuminating Christmas trees for all to enjoy.

It seems that there are 4 key areas in the parish (see q1) and that you should either provide something at each or none. But perhaps it would be more inclusive to look at longer term installation of winter lights for example around the shops in Jacob's Well (and other centres of the community in the other locations), where a wider cross section of the community would benefit from them for a longer part of the year.

I believe the provision of cheerful and attractive Christmas lights is enjoyed by the majority of our residents. It lifts the mind away from the gloomy problems of everyday life. People who wish to do away with lights are simply selfish and miserable souls with no love for the wider community in Worplesdon.

I have elected for the Christmas tree at St Mary's option as it has its own power supply and doesn't need a trench to be dug. Unfortunately, the questionnaire also doesn't take into account whether the option of a Christmas tree on Perry Hill Green would be a live planted tree or not.

Was the lights along perry hill actually working last year?

Love the lights brightens up wood st

The trees always look really good I think we should embrace Christmas as it brings cheer and happiness in the area

You missed out the community of Fox Corner which is in Worplesdon!

If you are only going to do the 2 pathetic trees by Perry hill your better off doing none !! You could put them on a timer where they come on at 5 off by 10pm Start later in December off by 6th Jan it was beautiful when it was the whole line of trees these two this year are just embarrassing

Love the perry hill avenue. Be nice for JW to get something too... Low voltage lights may be a much better (and cheaper) option than numbers quoted above... (tech has markedly improved)

Looking at the size of the tree that's been provided this year at St Mary's Church, I can't believe a tree this size would cost £4000 and suggest that you look for another provider!

To make a decision one should have the ongoing costs of running the lights annually. You only give the capital cost of installing more lights which are one off expenses. What is the annual cost per household (ie cost/3600)? Question 6 does not give an option for maintaining the current installations only- so it's either more or none at all!!

I am not sure Jacobs well needs and Christmas tree as the expense seems very large for this, but some lights accross the village, village hall, from lamp posts / telegraph poles, lights on existing trees, maybe a cheaper and just as effective option

Great asset to the Parish and Borough of Guildford

I like to see the christmas tree lit up on Wood Street Village green, but PLEASE don't switch them on until December. Christmas light in November is just wrong.

Firstly, as to item 4, I was aware lighting on the tree outside St Mary's was paid for by the Parish Church itself and not by WPC. Maybe I am incorrect on that one.
However, I think the illuminated Christmas Tree outside St Mary's is sufficient for that area, whoever pay for it, and I don't think any further lights shuld be provided, namely on the chrestnut trees. The monies spent on other lighting is just using funds which could find a better use elsewhere.
Again it is a waste of funds to provide lit trees in the other areas mentioned above.

The Christmas lights look beautiful every year and should stay on for as long as possible! More villages should benefit from having lights - not just Wood Street and Perry Hill. I thought Christmas was about spreading good cheer rather than restricting it to the chosen few?

Honestly it's a shame it has come to having to populate a questionnaire in order to (hopefully) secure funding for Christmas lights that are- and always have been- a pivotal part of the Christmas festivities in our parish. I've no doubt there will be complaints as to the lack of any lights and festive cheer should this questionnaire not secure a positive outcome! This is a small amount of money- the bulk of which is a one off charge. I absolutely support this. Good luck

I am somewhat dismayed that this need be consulted at all. No doubt someone in the parish is channelling their inner Scrooge. I do not understand why people seek to part of a parish community and then do everything possible to erode its spirit.
I think the question is not what the cost is to have the lights but rather the cost of not having them. The lights literally bring light. They make a difference to so many people. Isolated individuals and families alike. They speak of us as a community, bring warmth to everyone who enjoy them and allow neighbours to join as friends- particularly to enjoy traditional carols around the tree. They ensure the parish comes together as a collective.
This should not be undermined nor underestimated in importance because of anyone who cannot understand the value.
I'd therefore suggest the cost of not having them- no matter how insignificant to some - would unquestionably be greater to the community as a collective than not having them at all.
Even Ebenezer saw the light eventually!

We value the Christmas lights every year. It's part of our family traditions to gather and sing around the tree in Wood Street and we enjoy the lights in other parts of the parish including the avenue of trees at Perry Hill.

It would be a travesty not to have them anymore.

They mean so much to so many people.

I and my family are very grateful to see the Christmas trees at St Mary's Church and Wood St Green, and the avenue of lights on the trees at Perry Hill. In these difficult times we find them very uplifting, and enjoy meeting with the community in singing carols round the tree in Wood St.

It brings a great village spirit and is the start of our Christmas festivities.

Since Perry Hill gets trees illuminated it would be best to spread resources across the parish and give trees to Fairlands and Jacobs Well rather than giving one to the church at Perry Hill. Rokers could be approached for sponsorship since they clearly run a very successful business in the parish.

we very much enjoy the Christmas tree on Wood Street Village Green every year

Think trees are an asset to the Parish and the wider community that drive through the Parish and beyond

I object to expanding the illuminations and / or placing lights on any other trees in the parish.

Cost per tree at £4,000 seems exceptionally high. Other towns cost Christmas tree lights at below £1,000 per tree.

I am aware that the parish spent a lot of time and effort installing the lights at Perry Hill and they had a great impact on wellbeing. I'm therefore prepared to make a contribution to their provision.

In today's world Christmas tree lights provide a welcome cheer and help contribute to Christmas festivities.

I think lights should only be turned on where there is already an electricity supply cabinet. Also those lights should only be turned on after dark and during the month of December.

How about using exiting trees on Fairlands Roundabout or maybe the Willow trees at the front.

If it's possible in addition to the light trees at Perry Hill (or possibly instead of) perhaps the lighting of a Christmas tree could be rotated through the parish year on year. If the lights in the trees are retained as it's a main route then I don't think any additional Christmas trees need to be out at Perry Hill.

They look amazing and bring Christmas cheer to all. Lets make the effort

If the Perry Hill avenue of trees are expensive to maintain, could trees be lit from below (Wisley Glow style) rather than lights wound in the trees that need removal during tree surgery.

The tree on Wood Street Green is a lovely community focus, it would be nice to see repeated in other communities eg (Fairlands?) But makes sense to put only where there are natural gathering places.

To not have lights would be miserly. Residents can afford to pay towards it.

Don't install the tree so early, December is fine, as for the tree in Trafalgar square.

Solar lighting availability

Not sure why this is now an issue when it wasn't before? £4000 seems excessive!!!!

The costing seems excessive - is this currently done by a commercial enterprise? The cost to run the lights is nominal - could this not be sponsored privately or commercially using domestic power supplies.

It would be a shame if they had to stop them because they do provide a lot of enjoyment when they are lit.

I would like to see the lights from mid December until 6th January and only illuminated between dusk and midnight.

This should enable the cost to be lowered to £1 per household, to make it affordable for everybody.

Lights should be where ever local communities want them! It should be the decision of the majority, not the minority. Perhaps the Parish Council can consider planting trees to be decorated or using existing trees at some locations to be more eco-friendly?

The well outside the village hall in Jacob's Well could have christmas lights - save the cost of a tree ! How do these contractors make up their prices £4000 per tree indeed !!

Just as long as Christmas lights are not put up in trees that would affect ' Bats' .

Christmas trees are religion specific and no longer appropriate in a society that embraces religious diversity. Seasonal lights could be displayed in secular locations but those living in Worplesdon should not be paying for Christmas lights or trees if they follow other religions or indeed no religion at all.

You should not spend any money which is not available without further tax increases.

We are in favour of keeping the lighting, hopefully with modern LED lighting the electricity bill is not too expensive? The world is not in a happy place and the joy of seeing sparking lights at Christmas is a huge lift for the spirits for the young and old alike.....to do away with this short burst of light would seem very Scrooge like!!!!

I just wanted to say how much I and everyone enjoys having the tree and lights in Wood Street. It brightens up the Green and our spirits and I hope they will continue to do so.