

QUESTIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION – 22 January 2026

The questions have been listed in the order they were received.

FROM:	QUESTION
Written question from D Ellis	<p><i>“How much does it cost Hedon Town Council to stage Hedon’s Annual Christmas Lights switch on?”</i></p> <p><i>The Chairman included erection and dismantling of small Xmas trees in his summation of the costs.</i></p> <p><i>Expenditure Elements</i> <i>Christmas trees purchase & erecting & dismantling, Hiring & erecting Entertainment, Stewarding and other staff costs</i></p> <p><i>Income</i> <i>Christmas tree sales to local businesses and income from fun fair and catering operators</i></p> <p>Hedon Town Council publishes all expenditure each month on our website in the Monthly Payments Schedule once it has been approved. This provides a full breakdown of the individual costs associated with the event.</p> <p>For the 2025 event, the total expenditure was £9,676. This figure includes several essential elements required to run the event safely and professionally, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purchase, installation, and dismantling of Christmas trees - Lighting, PAT testing, bulbs, maintenance, and removal - Entertainment and staging - Stewarding and staffing - Licences required to hold the event (some of which increased in cost) <p>Taking into account the income from the Fun Fair, stalls and food concessions resulted in a net loss of £700, meaning the event did not generate a profit. The £20 Christmas tree charges help towards the cost of erecting the trees but do not cover the full expense due to the lighting and safety requirements involved. Although the event comes at a cost, it continues to receive extremely positive feedback. Residents consistently tell us how festive and cheerful the town looks at what can be a dark time of year, and how much they value the Christmas Lights Switch-On as a community celebration. Hedon Town Council is not a profit-making organisation; we operate to provide services, events, and community benefits. Each year the Council sets a budget for its activities and raises a precept to cover any shortfall between income and expenditure. The Christmas Lights Switch-On is considered a well-valued community event and an important part of Hedon’s seasonal celebrations. The Council was unable to obtain a grant towards the event from ERYC on this occasion.</p> <p>If you would like to view the detailed payment information, you can do so at any time via the Monthly Schedule on our website.</p>
	<p>There were no other written questions and the Mayor took questions from the floor.</p>
	<p><i>Question regarding Stride and the number and origin of occupants – from a member of the public</i></p> <p>The Mayor asked Inspector Foster of Humberside Police to answer this question. Inspector Foster is in the process of organising a meeting with the Directors of Stride and the residents – date to be confirmed. He also noted that there was a plan to have an Open Day in the spring for residents to visit the premises and talk to both staff and residents. It was noted that the police are kept informed of who is residing at Stride at any time. Inspector Foster reiterated how vital it was that any problems or incidents needed to be reported to the police by residents in the area; action can only be taken by the police and/or ERYC if there are statistics to back it up.</p>