

Dear Mr Ireland

Public Question Raised at the Events Committee of Bridgnorth Town Council on 6th June 2022

At the Events Committee meeting on 6th June 2022 you asked the following during the public session of the meeting, relating to the Christmas Lighting Contract and its installation and dismantlement:

- “Can residents and business that have wall fixings for the support wires please be notified in advance of putting up and taking down the lights?
- A note through the letterbox should suffice.
- Also, any other things to be fixed or removed outside their homes or businesses such as bunting.
- It is rather alarming to have a cherry picker with a man in hi-vis clothing appear at your first or second floor window unannounced.
- Also, when work is being carried out like this can the DLF or contractors please be mindful of litter?
- After removing the Christmas lights in January there were hundreds of cut cable ties all over the High St. A particularly nasty form of litter.
- For external contracts can this please be included as a standard clause in terms of contract?”

At the meeting the Clerk was asked to consider the questions and provide a written response prior to the next meeting.

In response to your questions, I offer the following reply:

- We will look to undertake reasonable steps to notify residents when the lights are being put up and being taken down.
- I regret that it is not possible to identify precisely when such activity takes place, as it takes place over a number of days and in part on an opportunity basis. Access to some fixings is dependent on suitable access and while the contractor might intend to undertake installation of a section of the lights on a particular day it might well be that parked vehicles mean that access is denied. The contractor will then need to modify the installation plan at the time to ensure that the manpower and equipment being used does not sit around idly and incur additional cost to the Town Council.
- With regard to the cable ties being on the High Street, we will inform the contractor of the matter and ask that they make all reasonable efforts to minimise litter.
- Finally, I am not sure that we can simply have a ‘standard clause’ in all external contracts. However, each contract we engage in should have some consideration of such things e.g. grounds contracts for the installation of play equipment and similar do usually have within the specification ‘to make good the site at the end of the project’.