

**LLANTWIT FARDRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANILLTUD FAERDREF**



EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

16th July 2026

REPORT OF THE CLERK

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ACROSS LLANTWIT FARDRE
COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the proposed introduction of Christmas lights and festive decorations plan within the Llantwit Fardre Community Council area, following the Committee's previous consideration of the matter.
- 1.2** At the meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 15th June 2026, Members agreed in principle to explore the feasibility of introducing Christmas lights within the Community Council area for the first time and requested that further investigations be undertaken into other suitable locations and associated requirements.
- 1.3** Officers were subsequently requested to liaise with the relevant departments of the Unitary Authority to establish whether the proposed locations identified within the original feasibility plan would be acceptable and to determine whether any highway, safety or operational concerns had been identified.

2. UPDATE

2.1 Officers have now received a response from the Unitary Authority regarding the proposed locations for the installation of Christmas lights.

2.2 The Unitary Authority has confirmed that it is supportive of the original proposed locations identified within the feasibility plan and has raised no objections to the positioning of the festive lighting, subject to the normal technical approvals, safety requirements and installation standards being met.

2.3 This response provides reassurance that the locations originally identified remain appropriate and can form the basis for the next stage of the project.

2.4 During the inspection, consideration was given to the potential use of lighting columns adjacent to Garth Olwg School and St David's Avenue. However, it was concluded that these locations would not be suitable due to their proximity to traffic signals. The use of festive lighting incorporating red and green colours in these locations could potentially cause confusion for road users and therefore it was recommended that these columns should not be utilised.

2.5 A Member requested that officers enquire with the unitary authority, which procures the electricity supply on behalf of the Community Council, regarding the potential cost of electricity should a charging fee be introduced. The response received from the officer at Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council explained that the current electricity supply is unmetered. As a result, it is not possible to provide an estimate of the energy costs at this time, and until tariffs are introduced, these costs cannot be calculated.

2.6 The updated Feasibility Report, attached at **Appendix 1**, shows that two columns on Route 2 have been removed to ensure a more effective first stage of implementation. As a result, the proposal now requires the installation of light fixings on a total of 15 columns.

2.7 Full costings can be found in 4.2 of the feasibility report, below is a summarised breakdown of costs:

- Route 1 = Tonteg to Road Runner
 - 7 Columns one-time payment for fitting £2,800

- Motif Purchase one-time will range from “2,100 to 2,800 depending on which motif Members agree to
- Annual Logistics costs £2,100

➤ Route 2 = St David’s to Beddau

- 8 Columns one-time payment for fitting £3,200
- Motif purchase one time payment will range from £2,400 to £3,200 depending on which motif Members agree to
- Annual Logistics costs £2,400

2.8 The above routes will cover Tonteg Church Village and Llantwit Fardre. In relation to Efail Isaf ward the existing lighting columns do not meet the minimum height requirement of 8 meters therefore are unsuitable for supporting the festive lighting structures.

2.9 Officers have liaised with the unitary authority to determine whether it would be possible to install a live Christmas tree adjacent to the Remembrance Bench in Efail Isaf, together with festive lighting at this location. At the time of writing this report, confirmation is still awaited. Members will be updated as soon as a response has been received.

2.10 The unitary authority has advised that, should Members wish to proceed with the installation of Christmas lights within the Llantwit Fardre Community Council area for 2026, they must be notified by the **first week of August 2026**. This will allow sufficient time for the necessary works to be carried out on the lighting columns in advance of the Christmas installation programme.

3. Financial Implication

3.1 A budget of **£20,000** has been allocated within the Council's 2026/27 budget to support the introduction of Christmas lights and festive decorations.

3.2 The estimated costs of **£16,500** associated with the proposed scheme can be met from this approved budget allocation. Officers will continue to monitor expenditure to ensure that the project remains within budget.

3.3 Future years' budgets will be carefully considered as part of the Council's annual budget-setting process to accommodate the ongoing costs associated with the installation, removal, storage and maintenance of the Christmas lights.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Member:

- 4.1** Notes the contents of the report and the updated Feasibility Report attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2** Approves the introduction of Christmas lights within the Llantwit Fardre Community Council area for **Christmas 2026**, based on the routes and locations identified in the updated Feasibility Report.
- 4.3** Agrees the preferred Christmas lighting motif for the proposed scheme attached at Appendix 2.
- 4.4** Authorises officers to notify the Unitary Authority of the Council's decision by the **first week of August 2026**, enabling the necessary preparatory works to be undertaken in advance of the Christmas installation programme.
- 4.5** Notes the position regarding Efail Isaf and awaits a further update from officers on the feasibility of installing a live Christmas tree and festive lighting adjacent to the Remembrance Bench.
- 4.6** Notes that the costs associated with the proposed scheme will be met from the Council's approved budget for 2026/27 and that future ongoing costs will be considered as part of the annual budget-setting process.