

Christmas 2026

Blachere Meeting Notes

Tuesday 29th^h September 2026 11am-12.30pm

Present:

Ian Gibson – Sales Manager Blachere

Connor Goulsbra – Business Development Manager Blachere

Cllr Martin Brookes

Liz Wackett – Admin Assistant

Meeting to discuss the Christmas Lights 2026

Blachere made it clear that due to delays by OTC, they had little time left to organise the Christmas display and put in place any changes.

The Christmas lights in 2025 were discussed. MB outlined a number of grievances regarding the quality of the displays and his hope that this year's display would be an improvement.

Budget: MB confirmed budget of £15K had been agreed plus a further £8K underspend.

Budget to be confirmed

In summary MB outlined the following changes to the displays:

- Victoria Hall light curtain to be relocated. Another building to be chosen. LW suggested the Congregational Church opposite and will make enquiries.
- No lights this year in Gaol Steet due to power issues.
- Remove lights in Church Street- QD store has a bright illuminated display and MB felt the existing lights are ineffective.
- Market Street – lights strung up across shop fronts blocked shop signs and the MPs office security camera. Remove these lights.
- Cone Christmas tree not required.
- Resources to be concentrated on three areas with an improved display in High Street, Market Place and Mill Street.
- Mill street to be included within this year's contract – in the past OTC have paid for additional lights. MB requested icicle lights down both sides in front of shops.
- High Street to have additional icicle lights on the cross-street motifs. Ian confirmed that due to H&S they would be unable to zig- zag lights across the High Street.
- Icicle lights to be zigzagged across Market Place

- Pole mounted motifs to be kept the same – remove single one outside library
- 10 flag poles on High Street will feature artificial Christmas trees
- A fresh 20ft Christmas Tree has been donated from a local business. Blachere will not erect this tree. Decoration to be a combination of white lights with warm light flash and red shiny (not matte) baubles.
- Date to put up Christmas Tree to be confirmed ahead of decoration
- Blachere asked to provide an estimate for additional infrastructure necessary to improve the lights displays in the future in areas including Gaol Street, Mill Steet, Church Street, Market Place and Market Street.
- For future displays, new timers were discussed that would allow the display to be managed and switched on and off via mobile phone app. This would eliminate the need for setting individual timers.

Post meeting Blachere confirmed that their invoice had not been paid and were unable to begin their surveys of the sites in preparation for the lights' installation, until this was done.