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Briefing Note

Sayers Common Christmas Tree

For Community Engagement Committee 12th September 2024

Background

At the 9th November 2023 Community Engagement Committee Meeting, held at Sayers Common Village Hall, members of the public expressed an interest in the possible installation of a “Christmas Tree” similar to the one on the Village Garden in Hurstpierpoint:



Councillors highlighted that the 2023 Festive Lights costs had been subject to significant cost increases so any additional lights would be cost and logistics dependant. They also warned the speaker that the council was currently reviewing the contract for storing and putting up the Parish Council’s festive lights and that this might cause delay in actioning this suggestion. It was suggested that residents liaise with Cllr Sampson as to exactly what they would like and a suitable site.

Updates

Following discussions with the Sayers Common Village Society over proposed sites, the Estates and Facilities Manager has been out to assess the corner of Berrylands Farm and B2118 (London Rd) Sayers Common as per the maps below:



Photographs and a brief outline of the proposal have been sent to WSCC who have responded as follows:

"The large verge area seems suitable at this location. Depends on the size of the tree & illumination proposed and would need to be set back from the road.

Care must be taken so that visibility for is not obstructed for drivers emerging from the nearby junction at Berrylands Farm."

The Estates and Facilities Manager has written to Merlin Lighting to request dimensions and costings for the project. and this was chased again via email on 23rd August. As part of the more general festive lights project, other contractors are also being investigated. Once full dimensions have been submitted to WSCC, and should they provide consent, a detailed proposal will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.

Recommendation: - The Committee is asked to NOTE the proposed tree location and the progress achieved so far.
