

Holme Valley Parish Council

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Grant Evaluation

- The Parish Council likes to hear how community groups have used the money awarded to them
- As the money awarded is public money, we also need to make sure that the money has been spent appropriately and as agreed

Name of Organisation	Holmfirth Christmas Team
Amount of award	£ 1000
Purpose for which the grant was awarded	Contribution towards the festive lighting and Christmas event in Holmfirth

The Story of Your Project

- *Tell us what you did with the money awarded to you*
- *Attach a few photos*

We used the £1000 HVPC kindly contributed towards purchasing new lights to replace the failed strings from last year and allow us to improve our lighting display in some areas. The remaining monies were put towards the fixings (cable ties etc) which we use to attach the lights to the hooks and pins we use throughout the town. They also allowed us to purchase two sets of ladder mats which allow our volunteers to have safe rubber mats to use under the ladders. This is essential for safety when using ladders on uneven pavements especially in cold and wet weather.

The HVPC contribution was a key part of allowing us to both decorate the town with over 3km of high quality LED lighting through the festive period and also hold an event to bring people into Holmfirth centre to celebrate.

Our event on 25th November included local entertainers and those from further afield:

- Carols from Honley Silver Band
- Music from Valley Beats Percussion
- Bell-ringing from Holmfirth Parish Church
- Circus skills activities for children by Crafty Devilz
- Street performers; 2 stilt walkers and a gingerbread man
- Parade of over 40 tinsel tractors

Feedback was excellent from people who attended the event and more widely about the lighting display which consisted of both lights and 48 small trees plus 3 larger ones. These were alongside the large tree near the HVPC public toilets which you kindly provide for us through Kirklees.





In addition, putting up / taking down the lights is done by a team of up to 25 people of all ages who come together to assist each year. This community effort is really valuable in giving people pride in their town and is a way people can volunteer for a specific task without committing to a regular activity. This even included someone bringing a cherry picker making some of our work easier and quicker than in previous years.

Thank you to HVPC for lending us the reflective vests as well.

These volunteers are essential in allowing our small Holmfirth Christmas Team which coordinates, plans and seeks funds to do this to deliver such a large amount of impact in our community each year.



Just some of the 400+ strings of lights now needing to be dried, tested, sorted and sifted by our team ready to identify replacements for next year and store for next year.

What you achieved

What were the benefits of your project?	<p>We decorated Holmfirth with over 3km of high quality LED lighting which despite storms and inclement weather provided a bright and cheerful display throughout the town from mid November through to early January. Our volunteers put up the lights, repaired / replaced failed strings where damaged by high wind or vandalism and made sure Holmfirth looked warm and welcoming to everyone over the festive period.</p> <p>To provide a focus for the town, we organised the Holmfirth Christmas Lights Event on Saturday 25th November bringing hundreds of locals and visitors into the town to enjoy free music and entertainment. This helps bring footfall into town and is an opportunity for businesses, both shops and restaurants to boost their trade.</p>
Who benefited from the project and the grant awarded?	<p>Hundreds of local people and visitors enjoyed the festivities in Holmfirth on 25th November. The lights have been enjoyed by everyone living in, passing through or stopping in Holmfirth from mid November until early December. We therefore believe that thousands of people have taken pleasure from our lighting display through the festive season.</p> <p>The lighting encourages people to come to Holmfirth during the dark evenings and so local businesses also benefit from increased footfall.</p>
How many people benefited?	1000s of local people and visitors (over the festive season)
Did you achieve what you were trying to do?	<p>Yes, we brought festive cheer to the town helping people feel proud of Holmfirth and by organizing an event, provided a focus for the start of the festive period. This brought the community together as all the entertainment was free and the busy streets showed it was successful in this way.</p> <p>We also received extensive positive feedback both to our volunteers whilst we put the lights up / took them down and online.</p>

Finance and Expenditure

We ask groups to retain their receipts and invoices, and to keep a record of what they've spent for auditing purposes

		Grant awarded	£ 1000
Date	Description of expenditure	Amount	Remaining
October 2023	Purchase of additional lights, power packs and associated cabling	£ 924.83	£
November 2023	Insurance for lighting and event	£ 662.20	£
November 2023	Fixings for lights & ladder mats	£ 160.98	£
November 2023	Entertainment for event on 25 th November (5 x entertainers plus temporary events licence)	£ 1348.00	£
November 2023	Purchase of Christmas trees to put up on Holmfirth including three larger ones	£ 937.00	£
(May 2023)	(PAT testing & cable repairs of bus station festoons)	£ 1104.00	£
	Total to date although accounts will be completed after end of financial year with any costs for new lights etc. identified through testing / checking later in the spring.	£ 5137.01	£

Any amount of the award unspent may have to be returned to the Parish Council

Person completing this form		Date	26/1/24
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