

**Sevenoaks Town Council
Youth Services Committee – 10th June 2026**



Over the last 4 years, Sevenoaks Town Council has invited young people aged 11 and younger to design a light in a Christmas/ winter season theme that would later be displayed at the top of the doorway to the House in the Basement, along with the previous winners. The Competition normally has a soft launch over the summer months with a harder drive once the schools go back in September, with many of the primary schools, along with a few youth groups in the Sevenoaks area, being sent copies of the entry form.

Last year, we went with Blachere Illumination UK, who would take the concept and turn it into a functioning Christmas light, 1.2m x 1.2m in size and column mounted. These were displayed on the Stag outside the entranceway to the House in the Basement Youth Café.

While Blachere had quoted, depending on the design, around £800 for design, manufacturing and shipping costs. We had originally budgeted for this with £400 being funded by the Youth Services Committee and £400 for Knocker and Foskett; unfortunately, the final amount for last year's design came to £1,234 before VAT, £1,480.80 including VAT.

A request for sponsorship for this project was sent to local businesses, asking for up to £750 to help cover half of the cost of manufacturing.

Rough Timeline:

Dates:	Action:
Soft launch over the summer holidays:	Social media, website and poster promotion around the town and local arts groups,
Hard Launch- September:	Letters/ emails with copies of the entry forms to be sent to schools, Nurseries and Youth Groups.
Judging- October:	Aiming to hold the judging in the first week of October to maximise the lead time for manufacturers.
10-week lead time on manufacture:	This would mean a delivery for roughly the first or second week in December. During this time, certificates for the winner, runner-up and schools will be created.
Mini Switch on event- Mid December	Once the Christmas lights have been delivered, a mini switch-on event will be arranged for both this year's and last year's winners with the Mayor.

RECOMMENDED: That £750 of the Youth Outreach Grant be used for the 2025 Christmas light Competition, with a call to local businesses to help sponsor this project for the additional £750.