

# Marlborough Town Council

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1 September 2026

Dear Councillor

## Full Town Council

I hereby **summon** you to a meeting of **Marlborough Town Council** which will be held on **Monday, 7 September 2026 at 7pm** in the **Assembly Room, Marlborough Town Hall**.

Yours sincerely

*Richard Spencer-Williams*

Richard Spencer-Williams, PSLCC

**Town Clerk**

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If members of the public wish to attend they should notify the Town Clerk of this by noon on the Friday prior to the meeting.

If members of the public wish to attend and ask a question they should also notify the Town Clerk of this by noon prior to the meeting and provide their question in writing at the same time. If members of the public wish to ask a question, but not attend, they can provide the question in writing to the Town Clerk by noon on the day of the meeting, and a written response will be provided.

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Organisations and interest groups are asked to send one delegate. Some people may not be allowed to attend if all the allocated seats are taken.

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## MOMENT FOR PRAYERS OR QUIET REFLECTION

With the Mayor's Chaplain Reverend Mark Nightingale

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with Standing Order 3(f), members of the public may ask questions of the Council. The time allocated for this should not exceed 10 minutes and be limited to one question per person unless directed otherwise by the Chair. A full response may not be possible without further research, and the Chair may direct that a written or oral response be given

## CRIME AND DISORDER

A member of Wiltshire Police will be invited to give a report and answer questions from Councillors and members of the public (not to exceed 10 minutes)

## TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Not to exceed 10 minutes

## AGENDA

### 1. Apologies for absence

### 2. Declarations of interest

- a) To receive any Declaration(s) of Interest under Marlborough Town Council's Code of Conduct issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011
- b) To consider any dispensation requests received by the Town Clerk

Members are reminded that they are obliged to notify the Monitoring Officer of a change to disclosable interests, or a new interest as defined in Appendices A and B of the Code of Conduct within 28 days of becoming aware of it. These should be passed on to the Town Clerk to register online.

### 3. Interviews for Councillor Co-option

### 4. Mayor's Announcements

### 5. Minutes

To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held 22 June 2026

### 6. Action Log

To review the Action Log

### 7. Christmas Lights

To consider and agree the recommended new Christmas lighting scheme

### 8. Land Registry Signatories

To Agree to authorise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and/or the Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee as signatories for title registration with Land Registry for Rabley Wood View (Play Area and Hawthorn Meadow)

## 9. Outside Bodies

An opportunity for Members to provide verbal updates on their representational roles to outside bodies

## 10. Committee Minutes

In accordance with para 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, to note the approved minutes of the following committee meetings: **Planning** – 18 May, 8 June, 13 July, 3 August; **Amenities and Open Spaces Committee** - 16 March 2026; **Finance and Policy Committee** - 13 April; and **Town Promotion and Culture Committee** – 31 March and 16 June 2026. These minutes have been approved by committees and circulated to Members and are available to download from <https://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/council/meeting-dates-agendas-and-minutes-2026-27> or from the Town Council offices. Other meetings have taken place, but minutes are not yet approved so remain in draft form

## 11. Common Seal

To authorise the fixing of the Common Seal of Marlborough Town Council to all documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of the meeting

## Background

Under the Local Government Act 1972, s.79, as long as a potential candidate qualifies to be a Councillor then he/she can step forward. They must be:

- A British, Commonwealth, Irish or European Union citizen
- 18 years old or over and meet at least one of the following criteria:
  - i) have been on the electoral register for the parish, or
  - ii) during the previous 12 months have owned or tenanted land or premises in the parish, or
  - iii) during the previous 12 months their principal or only place of work has been in the parish, or
  - iv) during the previous 12 months they have resided in the parish or within 3 miles of it

Certain people are unable to stand, and these include paid officers of the council, bankrupts, and those subject to recent sentences of imprisonment.

One candidate has applied:

- Richard Pitts – West Ward

The candidate qualifies under LGA.1972, s.79

## Timings (guide time)

7.15pm      Interview: Richard Pitts – West Ward

## The Process

The candidate has been invited:

- a) To provide a written statement setting out why they would like to serve as a Councillor and what attributes they might bring to the role. This statement can be found at Appendix 1.1
  - b) To make a short presentation (3 to 5 minutes) on 'why they have applied to be a Town Councillor' (at Interview)
  - c) To answer a series of questions asked by the Mayor and Chairs of Committees (Appendix 1.2)
- The candidate will be asked to vacate the Town Hall during the candidate consideration.

- If candidates request, they are permitted to attend the meeting during the vote, but it is not required.

## Voting

- Members will listen to the presentation, consider the candidates' answers to the questions, and vote on the merits of each as to whether they should be coopted or not.
- In the case of equal votes for and against, the Mayor will have the casting vote.
- After the vote has been concluded, and where the Council has voted in favour of coopting the candidate, the Mayor will declare the successful candidate duly elected. The candidate will be informed by the Town Clerk.

Wiltshire Council guidance states:

- The person co-opted must receive an absolute majority vote of the councillors present and voting
- Councillors shall vote by show of hands, or, if it is resolved by Members, by paper ballot.

## Recommendation

Members are asked to note the process and consider the candidate for co-option as a new Town Councillor to the West Ward.

**Town Clerk**

**24 8 26**

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 22 June 2026

## Marlborough Town Council



### Full Town Council

**Minutes of a meeting of Marlborough Town Council held Monday, 22 June 2026  
in the Assembly Room, Marlborough Town Hall at 7pm**

**PRESENT** Councillor Mark Luson  
Councillor Emily Trow  
Councillor Nicholas Fogg  
Councillor Mervyn Hall  
Councillor Mark Cooper  
Councillor Susannah O'Brien  
Councillor Caroline Sadler  
Councillor Abi Beaumont  
Councillor Nicholas Awbery  
Councillor Kim Wakeham  
Richard Spencer-Williams  
Dawn Whitehall  
Scarlet Walker

Town Mayor  
Deputy Mayor

Town Clerk  
Corporate Services Officer  
Information Officer

#### ALSO

**PRESENT** Councillor Jane Davies  
Neil Goodwin

Wiltshire Councillor – Marlborough West  
Marlborough.News

#### **MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION**

The Mayor asked people to consider how best to care for the older generation who are more vulnerable to the hot weather predicted for later in the week, and to share their thoughts after the meeting.

#### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A written question had been received from a firefighter:

“With the recent news regarding potential fire station closures, and the loss of one of our appliances in Marlborough already, what are the town council going to do to support local businesses in allowing staff to respond to incidents? And what are the council going to do to assist in our recruitment of on-call firefighters at Marlborough?”

Discussion points included:

- The Mayor would be happy to write to local businesses to ask for strong support for Marlborough’s volunteer firefighters, encouraging their existing staff to join, and to commit to releasing them when they are called to serve
- In the past Marlborough College had a strong association with the Fire Brigade, and it was noted that some of the estate staff were already on-call members and always allowed to leave immediately when paged

**ACTION:** Town Mayor to write to local businesses asking them to support the recruitment and employment of on-call firefighters

### **CRIME AND DISORDER**

No officer was able to attend, but a written report had been provided and was tabled for Councillors. Comments included:

- The Further Action Taken rate at 54% was higher than both the whole Wiltshire force and nationally
- It was good to see retail theft was now being dealt with by arrest and imprisonment

**ACTION:** Write to the police to thank them for the update and congratulate them on their high outcome rate.

### **QUESTIONS TO AND FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS**

**Councillor Hall** asked whether there was any update on the proposed Wessex Mayoralty and timetable? **Councillor Davies** was not sure when it would happen and questioned whether it would remain a government priority.

*Councillor Davies left the meeting at 7.12pm*

**64/26**

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from **Councillors Farrell, Shantry, Wrench**, the **Mayor’s Chaplain** and the **Chair of Marlborough Youth Council**.

**65/26**

### **DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest.

**66/26**

### **MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced two local events and asked Councillors to spread the word and encouraged them to attend themselves:

- Sunday 28 June: Marlborough Open Gardens. Stonebridge Allotments would be included this year.
- Saturday 18 July: “Waters of Change” at the Town Hall, documenting Marlborough’s journey towards resilience

67/26

## MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meetings held 23 March and 11 May 2026 were confirmed as true records and signed by the Town Mayor

68/26

## ACTION LOG

Members noted the updated action log. Discussion points included:

#293: investigate a parking compromise for future years at Avebury during summer solstice. As a year had passed since the 2025 Summer Solstice with no action taken and the 2026 Solstice had recently taken place, it was agreed to close this action.

#316: investigate changes in parking at Kennet Avenue. **Councillor Wakeham** explained the background: the changes had been made by the National Trust because the former, informal parking in the layby and on nearby grass verges had been damaging the archaeology, which is very close to the surface in the Avebury landscape.

#351: parking issues at Lower Prospect garages. Although the Town Clerk had contacted Aster, the Police and WC Parking Services on behalf of residents, all could act within their areas of responsibility but there was no obvious collective body to help to resolve the issue, such as a Community Safety Partnership. Without this, while the Town Council could continue to lobby on behalf of residents there was little else it could do within its own powers.

69/26

## INTERNAL AUDIT 2025-26

Members noted the final internal audit report for 2025-26.

70/26

## ASSET REGISTER

**Councillor Hall** asked how the Merchant’s House valuation had been arrived at: the asset register had been updated on the advice of the internal auditor for the specific purpose of the external audit, although this meant that valuations and depreciation anomalies were apparent. **Councillor Beaumont** clarified that the valuation should be shown at the historic, i.e. purchase, cost, and this should be shown in the accounts although other columns could be added for clarification; e.g. it was noted that the values shown on the asset register would be different to resale values for all items, or values after depreciation, or insurance rebuild costs. The **Town Clerk** advised that a review of the register and process should be undertaken by the Finance and Policy Committee.

**RESOLVED:** that the updated asset register was approved, to be reviewed by the Finance & Policy Committee before the end of the current financial year

- 71/26 AGAR 2025/26 SECTION 1 – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**  
**RESOLVED:** that the Annual Governance Statement at Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was approved and signed by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk
- 72/26 AGAR 2025/26 SECTION 2 – ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS**  
**RESOLVED:** that the Annual Accounting Statements at Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was approved and signed by the Town Mayor and Responsible Financial Officer (Town Clerk)
- 73/26 YOUNG PEOPLES’ DIGITAL COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**  
 Members considered the draft policy which had been agreed for recommendation to Full Council by the Finance and Policy Committee on 13 April 2026. It was noted that the policy stated that it would be amended as required in line with changes in government legislation.
- RESOLVED:** that the Youth Council Digital Communication and Social Media Policy is adopted
- 74/26 SAFEGUARDING POLICY**  
 Members considered the revised policy which had been agreed for recommendation to Full Council at the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held 13 April 2026.
- RESOLVED:** that the revised Safeguarding Policy is adopted
- 75/26 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC)**  
 Members noted the response to the Town Council’s Freedom of Information Request regarding the PCC’s legal position in respect of the sale of police assets, specifically relating to the former police station in George Lane.
- Discussion points included:
- The police did not yet know where responsibility for the sale of assets would be handled after the office of PCC is abolished (*in May 2028*)
  - The building had been empty for several years
  - Whether there had been any offers to purchase the George Lane site following the recent deadline date of the site being advertised to invite bids
  - Whether the requirement to comply with wider public law principles, specifically “*taking into account all relevant considerations (for example, operational need, financial implications, **community impact** and alternative options) and disregarding irrelevant considerations*” as stated in the reply was a serious consideration regarding the sale, and whether there was anything the Town Council could do to push for this consideration to be taken seriously
- ACTION:** to reply to the letter, asking specifically how the PCC would judge/weigh the sale against the social impact, and whether there was any update on where the responsibility for the sale would be handled after May 2028

During a suspension of Standing Orders, **Neil Goodwin** highlighted the unique, secure nature of the George Lane site. As it had been empty for several years and may remain so, he questioned whether the forthcoming change in structure to police forces would identify a need for this level of terrorist-secure holding facility by the future new force, such that the building may be reopened by the police. **Councillor Sadler** echoed the concern that such a secure facility might be needed in the future.

## 76/26 OUTSIDE BODIES

Members were invited to provide verbal updates on their representational roles to organisations and community groups:

- Following the resignation of Councillor Peter Morgan, the Planning Committee would be asked to appoint a replacement representative to the Wiltshire Council Area Board Local Highway and Footway Improvements Group
- **Councillor Beaumont** encouraged everyone to attend the open gardens on 28 June – as well as seeing some beautiful gardens, the event would raise funds to support The Merchant's House

## 77/26 COMMITTEE MINUTES

In accordance with para. 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, Members noted the approved minutes of the Planning Committee on 20 April 2016.

## PART 2

## 78/26 HERBERT LEAF CHARITY

Members noted the Town Clerk's report and the financial position of the Herbert Leaf Charitable Trust. **Councillor Sadler** (Chair, Herbert Leaf Working Party) gave a verbal update, and discussion points included:

- The working party (WP) had been created in March 2026, comprising **Councillors Sadler, Hall** and **Wakeham** with the **Town Clerk**, and had met twice since then, with a further meeting set for 1 July
- The WP was working to define the objects for the trust, to be recommended to Full Council for consideration and adoption during the current municipal year. This would set out ways the money could be used while staying true to the original intention of the bequest
- Whether the money should be allocated in smaller units, or spent on one specific project
- That although the funds were attracting a small amount of interest the overall value was not keeping up with inflation; the WP was investigating whether there were other bank accounts to attract more interest

## 79/26 COMMON SEAL

Proposed by **Councillor Fogg** and seconded by **Councillor Hall** and

**RESOLVED:** that the Common Seal of Marlborough Town Council be affixed to all documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of the meeting

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

**ITEM 6****ACTION LOG**

To note and review the Action Log

| Ref | Action                                                                                                   | Owner        | Minute No. & status | Meeting date    | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 316 | Investigate changes in parking at Kennet Avenue (B4003)                                                  | Cllr Cleasby | In progress         | 3 November 2025 | 22 June: <b>Councillor Wakeham</b> explained the background: the changes had been made by the National Trust because the former, informal parking in the layby and on nearby grass verges had been damaging the archaeology, which is very close to the surface in the Avebury landscape |
| 373 | Write to local businesses asking them to support the recruitment and employment of on-call firefighters  | Cllr Luson   | Complete            | 22 June 2026    | Letter sent 24 6 26 from the Mayor to Cllr Wrench and Shantry FAO Marlborough Business network.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 374 | Write to the police to thank them for the update report and congratulate them on their high outcome rate | Town Clerk   | Complete            | 22 June 2026    | Email sent 23 6 26. RSW                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

**ITEM 7****CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

To consider and agree the recommended new Christmas lighting scheme

**Purpose**

To note the background and progress with the infrastructure upgrade, and to agree a proposal for a new lighting scheme.

**Background****Christmas Lighting Infrastructure Upgrade**

- Marlborough Town Council inherited the current Christmas lighting scheme, which was purchased almost 20 years ago now (back in 2005/6) by the then Chamber of Commerce along with support from local businesses. The electrical infrastructure installed at various

locations along the High Street to support the scheme is now very old in terms of reliability and suitability going forward.

- Wheeler's, the Town Council's contractors, maintain the town's Christmas lights and install and dismantle them each year. They also take care of all the systems in place which keep them working and they have alerted us to the fact that this needs an upgrade. Town Council funds have been allocated to this work, to ensure we have working Christmas lights this year and beyond.
- As part of the process of the upgrade our contractors will renew old cabling and connections, and, at the same time, electrical meters will be installed to ensure that, going forward, these businesses are remunerated for the electrical supply used for the Christmas lighting whilst it is illuminated (approximately 6 weeks from the end of November until the beginning of January).

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## Current Status

- Officers have secured permissions from all premises on the High Street that supply power in relation to support for the infrastructure upgrade for the Christmas lighting.
- Wheeler's have confirmed that work will begin around the beginning of September in preparation for Christmas 2026.

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## New Christmas Lighting Scheme

### Considerations

- The current annual Christmas lighting budget is £15K.
- The Christmas lighting infrastructure EMR is £25K.
- Projected cost for the infrastructure work is around £20K which would give a potential saving of £5K, if it comes in under budget, which could go towards the new lighting scheme costs.
- Based on the above calculations, with a Christmas lighting budget of £15K and a potential saving on the infrastructure EMR of around £5K, there is scope to fund a new lighting scheme to include installation and removal, based on our existing scheme, for the first year only at a cost of £19,726 + VAT.
- A proposal to secure additional budget for 27/28 and beyond was recommended to the Finance & Policy Committee at its July meeting. This recommendation was noted for council budget consideration in the 27/28 precept setting process.
- After several meetings and much discussion, members of the Town Promotion & Culture Committee RESOLVED:
  - o That indicative costs are obtained for a new lighting scheme based on the current set up/parameters, but with expansion into the lanes and alleys as discussed
  - o that costs are obtained from our current electrical contractor for the installation, removal and storage of a new scheme (to include the expansion) and
  - o that the Deputy Town Clerk finalises a 'warm white' design scheme with the supplier, seeking financial savings where possible, for recommendation to Full Council on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2026 – ( see Appendix 2).

Three festive lighting companies were approached for designs and quotes in October 2025. One company failed to quote, one company came in much more expensive. The proposal presented by Blachere is the most competitive quote received.

*These costs were obtained in late 2025, however the lighting contractor has honoured these costings should we decide to proceed and enter into an agreement with them for 2026 (on a 4-year lease agreement).*

| All costs are ex VAT and are subject to change                                                                  | <b><u>OPTION A</u></b><br>REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING SCHEME | ADDITIONAL COST TO EXTEND EXISTING SCHEME | <b><u>OPTION B</u></b><br>EXISTING SCHEME + EXTENTION |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Supply of new Christmas lighting scheme on a 4-year lease agreement (to include delivery, collection & storage) | £7,376 p/a                                               | £4,887 p/a                                | £12,263 p/a                                           |
| Installation and Removal                                                                                        | £12,350 p/a                                              | £1,600 p/a                                | £13,950 p/a                                           |
| <b>TOTAL ANNUAL COST</b>                                                                                        | <b>£19,726 p/a</b>                                       | <b>£6,487 p/a</b>                         | <b>£26,213 p/a</b>                                    |

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## Proposal

Members are requested to note the background to and progress made with the infrastructure upgrade.

Members are asked to consider and agree the design proposal for a new Christmas lighting scheme to replace the existing (as detailed in Appendix 2), for Christmas 2026 and beyond.

**Deputy Town Clerk**  
**24 8 26**

## ITEM 8 LAND REGISTRY SIGNATORIES

To agree to authorise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and/or the Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee, as signatories for title registration with Land Registry for Rabley Wood ( play area and Hawthorn Meadow, and amenity land)

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## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to ask the Council to agree up to at least two councillors to be signatories to the HM Land Registry *Transfer of part of registered title(s)* (TP1) in respect of Rabley Wood View Play Area and Hawthorn Meadow (Land area 'A' as described in the s106 agreement), and for the amenity land at Rabley Wood (Land Area 'B' as described in the s106 agreement).

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## Status

In order to execute the land registration in the council's name, the TP1s need to be signed by two approved councillors (re: Standing Order 28 [Standing Orders](#)).

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## Proposal

It is proposed that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and/or the Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee are confirmed as signatures for title registration with Land Registry for Rabley Wood (Play area and Hawthorn Meadow).

The Council are asked to consider the matter and instruct the Town Clerk accordingly.

**Town Clerk**

**25 8 26**

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## ITEM 9

## OUTSIDE BODIES

An opportunity for Members to provide verbal updates on their representational roles to outside bodies

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## ITEM 10

## COMMITTEE MINUTES

In accordance with para 3.1 of the Scheme of Delegation, to note the approved minutes of the following committee meetings: **Planning** – 18 May, 8 June, 13 July, 3 August; **Amenities and Open Spaces Committee** - 16 March 2026; **Finance and Policy Committee** - 13 April; and **Town Promotion and Culture Committee** – 31 March and 16 June 2026. These minutes have been approved by committees and circulated to Members and are available to download from <https://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/council/meeting-dates-agendas-and-minutes-2026-27> or from the Town Council offices. Other meetings have taken place, but minutes are not yet approved so remain in draft form.

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## ITEM 11

## COMMON SEAL

To authorise the fixing of the Common Seal of Marlborough Town Council to all documents necessary to give effect to the decisions of the meeting.



## Statement of Candidacy: Co-option for Marlborough Town Councillor

# Candidate: Richard (Rich) Pitts

### Introduction

I am applying for the open Town Councillor co-opt role to bring energy, experience, and a fresh perspective to Marlborough Town Council (TC). Although retired from my 28-year career at Oracle Corporation, I remain deeply active in research, community resilience, and local development. I am eager to return to the TC to drive progress on environmental sustainability, community markets, and public spaces.

### Why I am Running

My previous service as a Town Councillor (2007–2013) was defined by tangible results. In 2013, I stepped down due to demanding travel requirements at Oracle, but my passion for Marlborough has never been greater. Today, I offer:

- **Sustainability Leadership:** I was instrumental in transitioning the Council to a "Transition Council" model, working in partnership with the community. This needs reinvigorating, as an example, for entire community to adopt sustainable practices.
- **Current Resilience Focus:** My recent work on "The Waters of Change" project and my current permaculture studies have inspired me to champion the Kennet BioRegion project—advocating rights for the river Kennet and holding Thames Water accountable for water quality and flood resilience.
- **Proven Track Record:** As Chair of Open Spaces, I raised £175,000, funding new play areas and the "teenager-led" skate park development.

### What I Will Bring to the Role in 2026

If selected, I will focus on four key areas:

1. **River & Climate Resilience:** Leveraging my university connections (University of Reading and Essex) to coordinate efforts with Transition Marlborough, ARK, River Action and relevant council committees whilst being mindful of The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Wiltshire and Swindon, (See: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/local-nature-recovery-strategy>). The LNRS provides a clear framework to reverse biodiversity decline and build resilience across the county's landscapes. Developed under the Environment Act 2021, it forms part of a national programme of 48 strategies and contributes to the UK's commitment to protect 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030. With the LNRS in mind I am keen to develop the concept of the Kennet BioRegion, I see the town council as one of many partners. With the stated aim of improving our community's resilience to the climate chaos of our times.
2. **Revitalizing Town Markets:** With the aim of making the markets an attraction of visiting Marlborough. I propose working directly with all Councillors and community to present a unified vision to Wiltshire Council regarding the Wednesday and Saturday markets, addressing the issues of pitch fees which stifled the local artisan market developed by Transition Marlborough in the past.
3. **Supporting Local Arts & Culture:** As a keen supporter of the Lit Fest and music events, I will work to increase town council promotion and support for these cultural pillars.
4. **Community Food Security:** I am committed to developing more allotments and encouraging local food growing, drawing on my experience as an allotment labourer (on my wife's Elcott Lane Allotment) and as permaculture student. I am currently studying for a Permaculture Design Certificate on Regenerative Organisations (See <https://root-to-reef.com/permaculture/>)

### Professional & Community Background

- **Research & Innovation:** Currently holding visiting fellowships at the University of Reading (Bee taxonomy) and University of Essex (AI techniques for analysis of ARK river data).
- **Community Roles:** Core Group Secretary for Transition Marlborough (2012–Present); Director of Marlborough Area Development Trust (2013–2019) where I worked on Community Free Wi-Fi and Raspberry Pi education projects.
- **Personal:** I am a parent of two adult children and have a full DBS check on file. I bring 28 years of experience in complex project management and innovation from my time as a Senior Principal Architect at Oracle.

**My understanding of being a town councillor:** A town councillor for Marlborough must be a true **partner with the community**, possessing a deep reverence for the **over 4,000 years of human history** that has shaped our distinctive downs and environs. As **stewards of the town**, councillors should demonstrate strong leadership while maintaining a genuine **willingness to listen** to local voices and **advocate** for the specific needs that matter most to residents. This role requires a dual vision: addressing immediate concerns with empathy while remaining **mindful of future generations**, ensuring that the unique character and wellbeing of Marlborough are preserved and enhanced for those who will follow.

Contact Information for Richard Pitts

REDACTED

**Question 1 - Town Mayor**

What do you think are the key issues for the Marlborough community?

**Question 2 – Chair of Planning Committee**

What skills, attributes, or areas of expertise would you bring to Marlborough Town Council?

**Question 3 – Chair of Amenities & Open Spaces Committee**

What is your understanding of the purpose, and roles and responsibilities, of Marlborough Town Council?

**Question 4 – Chair of Property Committee**

How much time do you think is required of someone to be a local Councillor and what impact would the role have on your other commitments?

**Question 5 - Chair of Finance & Policy Committee**

What should the Council consider when spending local taxpayers' money?

**Question 6 – Chair of Staffing Sub Committee**

What do you think would be the main challenges of being a local Councillor?

**Question 7 - Town Clerk**

Is there any reason that, if offered the position of Councillor, your employment would prevent you from accepting office?



Marlborough Town Council  
Christmas Decoration Hire Proposal 2026

blachere®  
illumination

# Summary

## Contract Period

4-Year Hire (2026 – 2029)

## Budget

TBC

## Live Period

November-January each year

## Services Provided

Design

Supply (Hire of product)

Collection

Delivery

Storage

Product Maintenance / PAT Testing



# Product Included

## High Street

- 6 x Central double pole mounts (12 motifs)
- 10 x Suspended motifs (over path)
- 5 x Nicia Braid Suspensions (6 x 6m sets per crossing)

## Oxford Street / Kingsbury Street

- 2 x Warm white static icicle suspensions (13.5m each crossing)
- 2 x Central suspension motifs

## The Parade

- 1 x Triple pole mount motif (3 motifs)

**Fittings available at request.**

**WE ALSO RECOMMEND WALL MOUNTED MOTIFS FOR THE TOWN HALL (not currently included)**

# Products

## 352W - Icicles

Colour: LED+ Warm White

Animation: Static

Dimensions: L: 4.5m x H: 0.7m

## 558W-FX - Nicia Braids

Colour: LED+ Warm White

Animation: Flash

Dimensions: L: 6m x H: 0.6m

## ITL327W - BOHO Suspension

Colour: LED+ Warm White

Dimensions: H: 1m x W: 0.8m

## IPL324W - BOHO Grand Column Motif

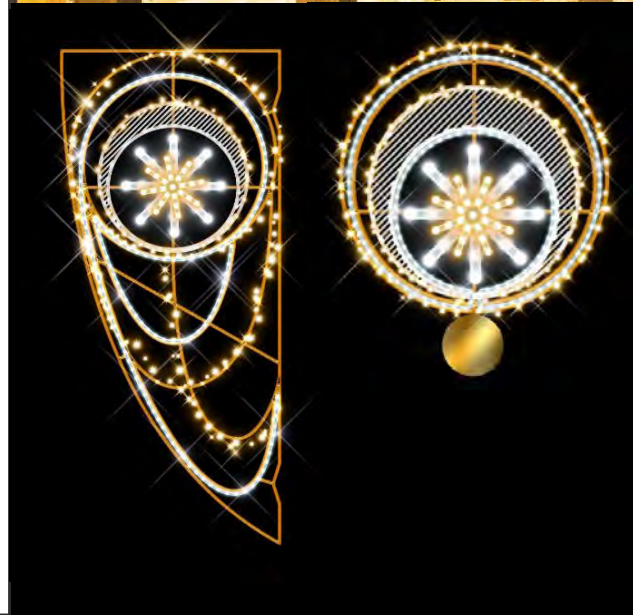
Colour: LED+ Warm White

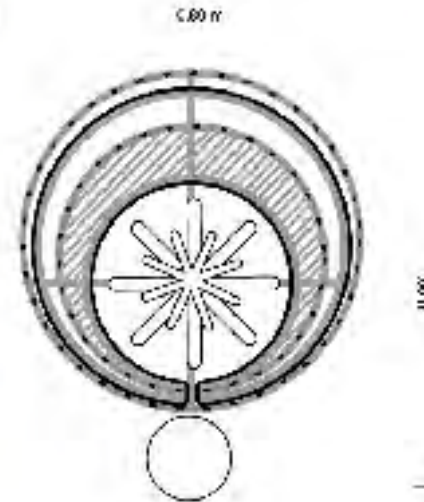
Dimensions: H: 2.3m x W: 0.9m

## IPL325W - BOHO Column Motif

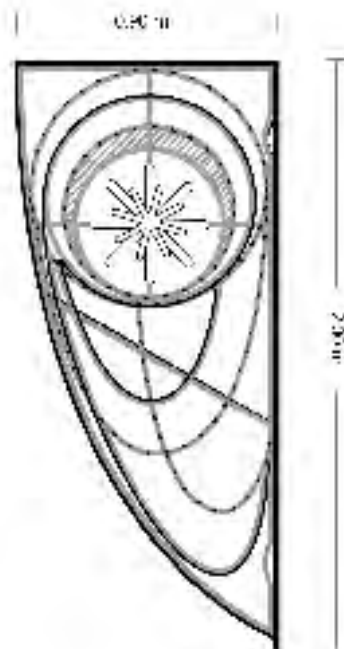
Colour: LED+ Warm White

Dimensions: H: 2m x W: 0.9m

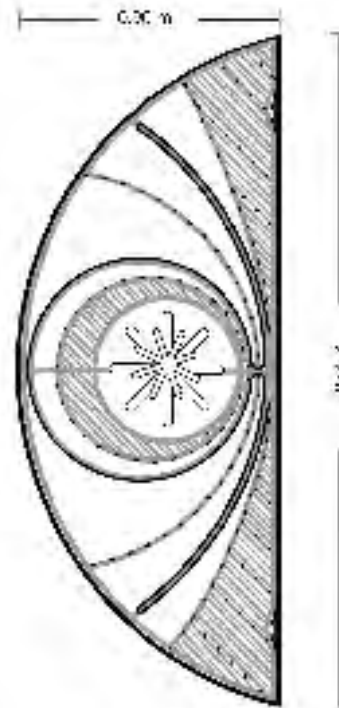




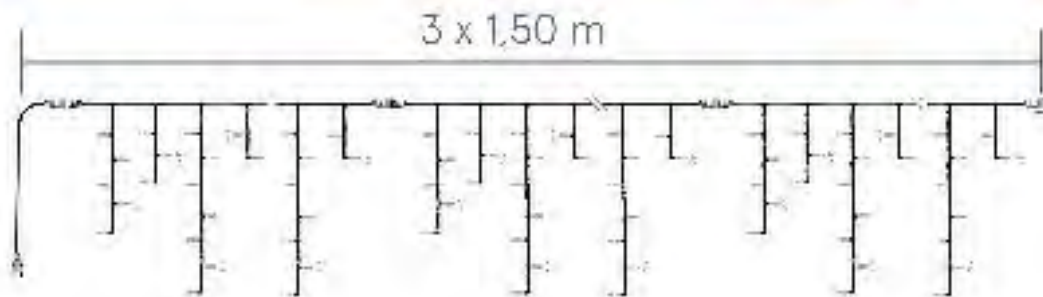
|                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Type of item                      | 2D transverse motif      |
| Dimensions                        | L: 0.80 h: 1.00          |
| Garlande voltage (V)              | 230                      |
| Wattage (W)                       | 25                       |
| Connection                        | Octopus 2,50m sans prise |
| Weight (kg)                       | 4,4                      |
| Nb of fixing points               | 2                        |
| Nb of lighting points             | 325 / 1053 lumens        |
| Ratio No. luminous points / Power | 13                       |
| Electrical classification         | 2                        |
| Waterproof level (IP)             | IP55/IP69                |
| Main color                        | -                        |
| Structure Material                | Alu/Recyprint            |



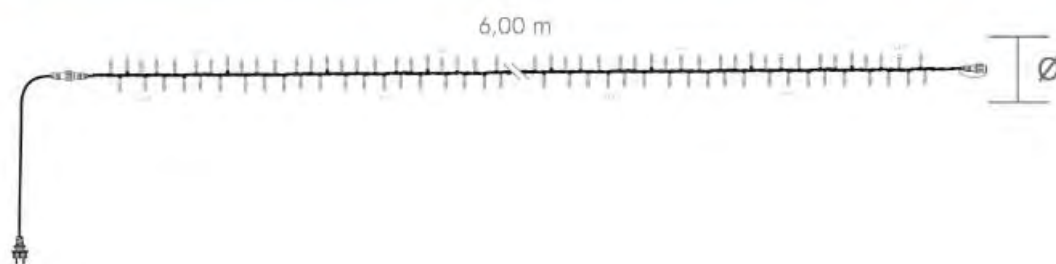
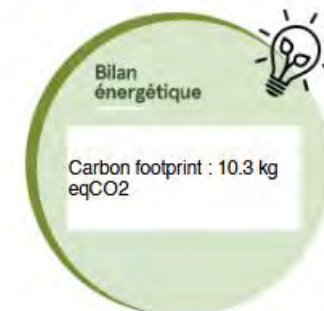
| Tipo de artículo                  | Diseño luminoso de candelabro |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Dimensiones                       | L: 0.90 h: 2.00               |
| Tensión de las guías de luz (V)   | 230                           |
| Potencia eléctrica (W)            | 45                            |
| Alimentación                      | Octopus 1,50m sans prise      |
| Peso (Kg)                         | 7,1                           |
| Número de fijaciones              | 2                             |
| Número de puntos luminosos        | 495 / 1603.8 lumens           |
| Ratio puntos luminosos / Potencia | 11                            |
| Clase eléctrica                   | 2                             |
| clasificación de impermeabilidad  | IP55/IP69                     |
| Color dominante                   | -                             |
| Materia de la estructura          | Alu/Recyprint                 |



| Tipo de artículo                    | Diseño luminoso de candelabro |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Dimensiones                         | L: 0.90 h: 2.30               |
| Tensión de las guarniciones (V)     | 230                           |
| Potencia eléctrica (W)              | 40                            |
| Alimentación                        | Octopus 1,50m sans prise      |
| Peso (Kg)                           | 7,4                           |
| Número de fijaciones                | 2                             |
| Número de puntos luminosos          | 455 / 1474.2 lumens           |
| Ratio puntos luminosos / Potencia   | 11.38                         |
| Clase eléctrica                     | 2                             |
| clasificación de impermeabilización | IP55/IP69                     |
| Color dominante                     | -                             |
| Materia de la estructura            | Alu/Recyprint                 |



| Tipo de artículo                  | Guiraldas profesionales y accesorios |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dimensiones                       | l: 4.50 h: 0.70                      |
| Tensión de las guiraldas (V)      | 230                                  |
| Potencia eléctrica (W)            | 10                                   |
| Alimentación                      | Standard                             |
| Peso (kg)                         | 1.7                                  |
| Número de fijaciones              | -                                    |
| Número de puntos luminosos        | 180 / 583.2 lumens                   |
| Ratio puntos luminosos / Potencia | 18                                   |
| Clase eléctrica                   | 2                                    |
| clasificación de Impermeable      | 66                                   |
| Color dominante                   | -                                    |
| Material de la estructura         | -                                    |



| Type of item                      | Professional garlands and accessories |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Dimensions                        | L: 6.00 d: 0.60                       |
| Garlands voltage (V)              | 230                                   |
| Wattage (W)                       | 23                                    |
| Connection                        | Standard                              |
| Weight (kg)                       | 2                                     |
| Nb of fixing points               | -                                     |
| Nb of lighting points             | 480 / 1555.2 lumens                   |
| Ratio No. luminous points / Power | 20.87                                 |
| Electrical classification         | 2                                     |
| Waterproof level (IP)             | 66                                    |
| Main color                        | -                                     |
| Structure Material                | -                                     |





# Budget

- Breakdowns are supplied in the official quotations
- Subject to contract confirmation
- For Budget Purposes only
- Prices based on Ex-Hire and availability of products
- Product maintenance does not include vandalism or adverse weather damage

| Marlborough Town Council                                                                                            | Year One          | Year Two          | Year Three        | Year Four         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>4 YEAR HIRE - REPLACEMENT</b><br>Includes Hire, Delivery, Collection, Storage & PAT Testing/Product Maintenance. | <b>£7,376.00</b>  | <b>£7,376.00</b>  | <b>£7,376.00</b>  | <b>£7,376.00</b>  |
| <b>4 YEAR HIRE - EXTENDED</b><br>Includes Hire, Delivery, Collection, Storage & PAT Testing/Product Maintenance.    | <b>£12,263.60</b> | <b>£12,263.60</b> | <b>£12,263.60</b> | <b>£12,263.60</b> |

# Company Profile

## WHO WE ARE

- Leading provider of creative lighting and visual display solutions in the UK
- Delivering displays since 1994 in the UK
- Part of the global Blachere Group, founded in France in 1973

## WHAT WE DO

- Design, manufacture, and install decorative lighting in urban/retail spaces
- Specialists in bespoke sculptures
- We create experiential installations, not just for Christmas
- We provide over 250 festive installations annually across the UK
- Provide a turnkey solution, creating magical displays that increase footfall

## VISION & VALUES

- Creativity, sustainability, and community engagement at the core
- Strive to transform public spaces into memorable experiences
- Pioneers in low-energy, eco-friendly design using recycled materials



# Experience

Blachere Illumination UK is a trusted leader in festive lighting, delivering exceptional displays across multiple sites year after year.

With a proven track record of **creating stunning, high-quality Christmas illuminations**, we bring expertise, innovation, and reliability to every project.

Our **commitment to excellence** ensures that each installation enhances the festive atmosphere, delighting communities and visitors alike.

The Blachere Illumination Group boasts **over 50 years of experience** as a **global leader** in festive and decorative lighting. Since its founding in 1973 in Apt, France, the company has built a reputation for combining creativity, technical expertise, and environmental responsibility. With installations in more than **120 countries**, and **over 250 installations each year in the UK**, Blachere's work ranges from charming town and city centre illuminations to large-scale commercial displays for **global brands**.

Our **extensive knowledge of lighting design**, production, and project management, paired with continuous innovation like **sustainable materials** and **energy-efficient LED technology**, ensures we deliver captivating, high-quality displays that transform spaces while reducing environmental impact.

We have **decades of experience** and a **passion for artistic light design**, which has made us a **trusted partner** for communities and businesses worldwide.

Trafford Centre  
Manchester



Harrods  
London



The Shard  
London



Mandarin Hotel  
London





Marylebone Village  
London



Full Town Council  
Banbury  
Marlborough Town Council



Andover



Weston-super-Mare

# Who We Work With

APPENDIX 2



We work with councils, BIDs, shopping centres, designer outlets, property management companies & corporates across the UK



# Innovative, Sustainable Design

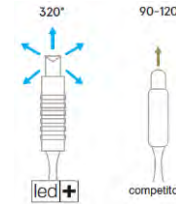
Blachere Illumination is a **global leader in decorative lighting**, renowned for its **creative designs** and strong **commitment to both innovation and sustainability**. We blend artistic vision with cutting-edge technology to create captivating light displays for commercial spaces worldwide.

At the heart of Blachere's ethos is a **deep respect for the environment**, demonstrated through our use of eco-friendly materials, energy-efficient LED solutions, recycling initiatives and our patents like RecyPrint, which transform plastic bottles into new creations.

We continuously **push the boundaries of design** and **responsible manufacturing**. Blachere Illumination proves that beautiful lighting can also be **kind to the planet**.



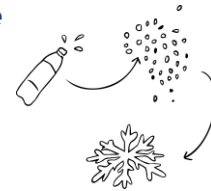
Our exclusive **LED+ Technology** is the result of a long-standing partnership with **Nichia®**, the global leader in **LED innovation**. This collaboration ensures our LEDs offer a **longer lifespan**, **superior brightness**, and **consistent colour uniformity** – all while maximising **energy efficiency** and delivering dependable performance. With a **320° light projection**, our LEDs outperform conventional alternatives by producing brighter, more even illumination while consuming less energy.



Our journey began in 2018, leading the way in **crafting sustainable, vibrant decorations** designed to be **lighter**, **visually appealing by day**, and **gentle on the planet**. The introduction of our patented **BioPrint technology** marked the beginning of our **3D printing evolution**, allowing us to create striking designs using plastic derived from **sugar cane**. These elegant, **biodegradable decorations** are fully reverse-engineerable, ensuring nothing is sent to landfill.



At Blachere, we have found a way to transform **waste plastic into decorations** that are as stunning as they are innovative! **Recycled bottles** in PET (polyethylene terephthalate) are sorted by colour and ground into flakes. The resulting granules are then **injected into our 3D printers** to produce **beautiful, unique decorations** which are as **eye-catching** during the day as at night. Our innovations, including **RecyPrint**, are protected by numerous patents.



**FlexiPrint** is Blachere's **breakthrough in 2025** for sustainable decorative design. It's a **flexible, durable material** made from **recycled plastic waste**. Lightweight yet **robust**, it allows for **bold colours** and **creative shapes**, all while supporting Blachere's mission to reduce environmental impact. As a **pioneer in the UK** this material will start to replace our 3D features, providing **more security against vandalism** while being **kind to the planet**.





Thank you

**Matt Jonsmyth**  
Regional Sales & Project Manager  
[m.jonsmyth@blachere-illumination.co.uk](mailto:m.jonsmyth@blachere-illumination.co.uk)  
07717 678162