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October 2021

## **Christmas Parade Update**

Citing ongoing public health concerns and a lack of clarity on Covid safety, Maesteg Town Council has made the regrettable decision not to proceed with the usual Christmas parade through the town centre. A number of other towns across Wales and the rest of the UK have come to the same conclusion.

Initial advice provided to the council suggests safety concerns, with a significant number of people - up to 2,000 by previous estimates - packed in closely in the town centre. The event also doesn't lend itself to introducing a ticket-only option as there are a number of entry points to the main streets.

The council does not wish for the event to become a 'super-spreader' in the run up to Christmas. At the same time last year, Covid infection rates in the Llynfi Valley were some of the highest in the whole of Europe.

Maesteg Town Council is actively exploring alternative options for how Christmas can be recognised and celebrated in the Llynfi Valley where we can properly balance public safety and embrace the festive spirit. To that end the council is working with both BCBC and local community groups. Further information will be shared in due course.

Meanwhile, The Town Council will continue with its traditional lighting display which will throng both Commercial Street and Talbot Street. Again, this year will also feature a Christmas tree directly outside the Council Offices as a result of the ongoing renovation works to Maesteg Town Hall. Council will again waive the donations appeal. The lights will be switched on in early December.

Councillors are again keen to encourage local shops and traders to continue to dress their shop windows festively this year to bring as much Christmas cheer and spirit to the town centre after a difficult year. The window competition will once again be judged by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Past Mayor.

Further info on WG event guidance as a result of Covid-19:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

<https://gov.wales/alert-level-0-frequently-asked-questions>