

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES WORKING PARTY –
TUESDAY, 18 AUGUST 2026**



Title of Report	EVENTS UPDATE 2026/27
Presented by	Paul Wheatley Head of Property and Regeneration
Background Papers	None.
Financial Implications	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. All proposals are within the 2026/27 events budget.
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes
Legal Implications	There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report
	Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer: Yes
Staffing and Corporate Implications	Staff resources are used to manage and deliver the adopted events programme with the associated costs charged to the Special Expenses budget.
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes
Purpose of Report	To present an update of the 2026/27 events programme.
Recommendations	THAT THE WORKING PARTY NOTES: 1) THE PROGRESS UPDATE ON 2026/27 EVENTS.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The following Events and Christmas Lights Programme is scheduled for delivery in 2026/27 supported by the Coalville Special Expenses budget.
- 1.2 The Music and Picnic in the Park event has been successfully delivered and planning is underway for the Christmas in Coalville event and Christmas Lights Programme for 2026/27.
- 1.3 Planning for the 2027/28 events programme is also underway. No increase or decrease in budget or officer capacity is assumed at this stage.

2. 2026/2027 EVENTS PROGRAMME

- 2.1 The 2026/27 events programme has been set against the budget allocated within the Coalville Special Expenses budget.

2.2 The 2026/2027 events programme is as below:

Date	Event	Description	Allocated budget	Target income	Status
4 and 5 July 2026	Music and Picnic in the Park	A weekend of family focused entertainment and activities in Coalville Park. • An afternoon of sports activities (Saturday) • An evening of song, music, performance and entertainment (Saturday) • A family fun day in Coalville Park, featuring a main stage, music, performances, entertainment, activities, workshops, stalls, food and drink (Sunday)	£20,000 Actual Spend £21,254.44	£2,000 Actual Income £2,198	Delivered
28 Nov 2026	Christmas in Coalville	A day of Christmas festivities in Coalville town centre, including late night shopping and Christmas Light Switch On	£14,600 £ 5,000	£1,000	Advanced Planning
28 Nov 2026 to 3 Jan 2027	Coalville Christmas Decorations	Town centre Christmas decorations, comprising of lamp post mounted decorations, bespoke decorations on Memorial Clock Tower, pea lights in trees (High Street and Memorial Square) and one large Christmas tree in Memorial Square (Nordmann variety as 2025)	£30,000	NIL	Advanced planning – installation contract agreed until January 2027

2.3 Music and Picnic in the Park, 4 and 5 July

The event was successfully delivered over two days in Coalville Park.

Music in the Park was held on Saturday 4 July, 4pm to 9.30pm and Picnic in the Park on Sunday 5 July, 12pm to 5.30pm.

Both events had good weather resulting in very high attendance on both days, with most of the food and drink stalls selling out.

There were no incidents or accidents reported.

Appendix 1 details the positive success and feedback regarding the event.

2.4 Christmas light decorations this year will again include: a Nordmann Christmas tree (the same species as the 2025 tree) in Memorial Square, decorations on the four faces of Memorial Clock Tower, pea lights in permanent trees in Memorial Square and High Street and pole mounted decorations on lamp posts in Memorial Square, Ashby Road, Hotel Street, Marlborough Square and Jackson Street.

2.4.1 The town centre decorations will also include the artificial trees (Marlborough Square) and boa wraps (Belvoir Road) and a Nordmann Christmas tree for Marlborough Square. The maintenance, installation and take down of these decorations are funded by the Council's general fund (Economic Regeneration budget) as they relate to the Council's Coalville Regeneration Framework initiatives.

2.4.2 Works on the Marlborough Centre are now scheduled to commence in 2027, so there will no impact on the Christmas lighting and decorations in Marlborough Square this year. An additional column decoration and artificial trees are being considered, however, for Hotel Street and High Street, to add greater impact to the current existing tree light scheme.

2.4.3 The Christmas lighting contract with Field & Lawn will end in January 2027. The current annual contract price is £23,973.50 plus vat, breakdown as below:

Installation and Removal - £16,867
Storage of main scheme - £3475
Testing of main scheme - £862
(New additions carried over from 2024)
Install/Removal Little Trees - £1,575
Little Trees Storage Cost - £1,042.50
Boa wraps and little tree testing - £152.00

The price for 2027 and 2028 will remain the same, for either a one- or two-year extension and the same fixed pricing model will be honoured.

2.5 **Christmas in Coalville** will take place on Saturday 28 November, at a revised time of 11am until 7pm. This, it is hoped, will encourage greater footfall into the early evening economy and offer a late-night opening opportunity for town centre businesses.

2.5.1 Event planning is already well underway. It should be noted:

- a) A significant amount of the budget is already committed with regards infrastructure, stage, PA system etc.
- b) The use of the preferred venues of the Belvoir Shopping Centre (BSC) and Needham's Walk car park is subject to receipt of formal written permission from the landowner (Gylo), which has been requested.
- c) It is proposed that the following locations will be used:

- i. **Marlborough Square** – main stage for live music and performances throughout the day, including the Christmas Light Switch On itself at 6pm, food and drink traders, Santa's Grotto, Giant Snow Globe, street performers and entertainers.

Most of the Square will remain available again, as last year to create a safe space to accommodate the audience throughout the day/evening. Outside seating will also again be put outside Newmarket throughout the day, to support the food and drink traders and to provide entertainment seating.

The road closure arrangements are already in place.

- ii. **Belvoir Shopping Centre** – Christmas market with local crafters and makers, food and drink traders, street performances, music and entertainment.

iii. **Needham's Walk car park** – Funfair and attractions to include a 12m x 18 synthetic ice rink, which has been funded by the additional £5,000 event budget allocation.

iv. **Market Hall car park** – to be used as a car park.

d) **Christmas Window Competitions** – The Christmas window competitions were well received last year and the same competitions: Best Dressed Window and Best Illuminated Business will be organised again this year. Windows are to be dressed for launch of the competition on Saturday 28 November.

e) **Christmas Trail** – Launch of the popular Find the Elf Christmas Trail on Saturday 28 November, in liaison with local businesses, to encourage footfall and visitors to shop locally throughout the town centre over the festive period.

2.6 **Coalville 200** - Coalville's story will celebrate 200 years of cultural heritage in Coalville in 2028, with a full year's programme of festivals and events now being planned, which will weave together the unique stories and narratives of our place and our communities and co-created with the people that live here.

2.6.1 Coalville's entry into the **UK Town of Culture Competition 2028** was based upon the Coalville 200 anniversary and celebrations planned for 2028. As part of the competition, a Coalville postcard has also been produced, which is now being displayed digitally in the National Museums Liverpool. The full digital map can be found as below:

[Town of Culture 2028 | Applicants – Google My Maps](#)

2.6.2 Whilst not being successfully shortlisted in 2028's competition, the Coalville Cultural Partnership, formed as part of the UK Town of Culture Competition, will continue to project plan and source funding streams for the Coalville 200 celebrations to take place in Coalville throughout 2028. This will include funding applications to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England

2.6.3 It is suggested, as part of the celebrations, that all events planned in 2028 are Coalville 200 themed, with opportunities too, to enhance existing planned events, if additional funding is secured.

2.7 Further event updates will be presented to the next CSEWP meeting on 6 October 2026.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Planning and regeneration
Policy Considerations:	None.
Safeguarding:	None.
Equalities/Diversity:	None.
Customer Impact:	The provision of events and festive lighting, creating pride in our town centres.
Economic and Social Impact:	Additional expenditure generated within a defined area, as a direct consequence of staging events. Access for all to local free and affordable events.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon	Supporting the Zero Carbon agenda through the delivery of local events and renewing Christmas lighting stock to reduce energy consumption.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	Events promoted through websites, social media channels, bi-annual Coalville Town Centre Event Guide and local community publications.
Risks:	None identified.
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