

**STANLEY AND STANLEY COMMON
PARISH COUNCIL**

CLERK: Amanda Skidmore, 8 West Close, Darley Abbey, Derby, DE22 2BT
Tel: 07763 832661 parishclerk@stanleyandstanleycommon-pc.gov.uk

March 2026

Dear Resident,

The Parish Council has recently received a petition from residents expressing a desire for the Christmas Tree to be returned to its former location on Hurst Drive from the White Hart Public House.

This petition did not seek the views of residents in certain parts of the village.

This is an issue relevant to the whole village, and we wish to ensure that all residents are fully aware of the reasons the tree has moved from its former location to the present one.

History

The Parish Council has provided a Christmas Tree in both Stanley and Stanley Common since the early 2000's, though it has no statutory duty to do so. We ensure the provision is the same for both villages.

The Parish Council also provides the lights to decorate the tree, and holds a celebratory switch-on in early December.

In early 2024 the Council was advised by the contractor who installed the tree that the chamber housing the tree was collapsing and had become unsafe. Cost estimates were sought for the replacement of the chamber, which includes installation, testing and certification of the unmetered electrical supply from the street lighting circuit. Problems also emerged with the chamber in Stanley Common.

It was also apparent that new regulations had come into force requiring permits and specialist installers for all electrical works.

In recent years escalating costs associated with installing, lighting and removing the Christmas Tree began to cause concern within the Council, which has a duty to spend residents' money prudently. Additionally, a significant amount of financial support from Erewash Borough Council, formerly received by all parishes, was withdrawn.

As a result, an analysis was undertaken of the relative costs of retaining the tree at Hurst Drive and relocating the tree to the White Hart.

This showed a much-reduced cost to the Parish to move the tree to the White Hart. The decision was taken to move the tree to the White Hart on a temporary basis. Following the results and analysis of a resident Parish Survey and some months later, a resident Christmas Survey, the Parish Council decided to continue to host the tree at the White Hart. In Stanley Common, their tree was moved to Top Club.

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Advantages of the new location

The Parish Council did not solely look at costs when relocating the tree to the White Hart. This location has many advantages over Hurst Drive:

- The White Hart is a central focal point in Stanley where Derby Road, Station Road and Morley Lane meet.
- The location provides better shelter during inclement weather for participants at the annual switch-on.
- Food, refreshments and entertainment are available for more of a community feel.
- It supports a popular local business, which has struggled recently.
- As with the move to Top Club, the switch-on event has proved popular at the new venue

Importantly, The White Hart (50%) was preferred to Hurst Drive (25%) by those who left comments in our village-wide Christmas Survey conducted in early 2025.

Conclusion

Based on survey evidence and local feedback, it is clear that many villagers are happy with the current location.

In the interest of the Parish, we believe that the current Christmas arrangements should remain as they are.

The Parish Council appreciates the time residents have taken to share their views on this matter. The issue has been discussed and considered carefully by councillors over the last few years, and has taken into account the feedback received from the surveys. The Council has reached its decision and will continue to proceed on that basis, hosting at the White Hart for the foreseeable future. We recognise that there may be differing perspectives and thank residents for engaging constructively in the discussion.

Stanley and Stanley Common Parish Council