

From: [REDACTED]
To: [clerk](#)
Subject: Christmas Eve Carol Concert - with a 2020 difference
Date: 22 October 2020 15:39:07

Dear Belper Town Council,

I have spoken to the Clerk, and believe this item has been placed on the agenda for a meeting on November 10th, 2020. I hope the brief outline provided below gives enough detail to make sense, and I will of course be very happy to speak with you and answer questions at the meeting itself.

I have lived in Belper for 45 years, and think I have attended almost every one of the Christmas Eve carol concerts. It is one my favourite things about this town. Collective singing connects and brings people together.

We all know Christmas will be different this year. We can anticipate that the differences will be many and impact variously, but there is a strong sense that isolation and separation will be experienced by many.

My proposal is that we reimagine the carol concert so that it can go ahead in a creative form, to allow those who would normally attend the market place event, and to engage anyone else who would like to participate too.

Brief Idea Outline:

Announce a carol concert on Christmas Eve 2020 will be going ahead — but with a difference (“Carolling from your armchair, doorstep or garden”). Advertise it as a way of supporting or participating as a family and as a way of supporting neighbours who may be living alone/may have been living alone for many months.

Send out a survey to gather suggestions for songs to sing which may be carols, or songs associated with Christmas, family or winter; and readings to be read or included.

Ask for individuals to volunteer to be the bank of selectors (we will need as wide an age range as possible for this).

(The idea is for a fairly agnostic carol concert in order to be widely representative, but the survey responses will be the guide of the song /reading content. Ideally the readings will be accessible to non-church going members of the community.)

Select the songs — as a measure of their accessibility, they must be familiar to the bank of people who will select them.

Identify the person to lead from zoom, and to deliver any messages/readings.

Letter box the town with song sheets (the town council may choose to place some adverts on the sheets) a zoom link, and suggestions for streets or house clusters to sing from their armchair, garden or door step.

Identify the kind of musical accompaniment.

Make technical/zoom licence arrangements

(There are any number of ideas we could add from arranging for the brass band to perform socially distanced from the market place and live stream it. To, delivering hot chocolate to

houses known to be elderly / single occupant.)

I look forward to speaking to you on November 10th.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]