



### **Festive surprise planned to bring Christmas cheer, following cancellation of annual lights switch on due to Covid-19**

The Christmas Pops concert and Rhyl Christmas Lights switch on have been cancelled to ensure the safety of the public amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The events, traditionally organised by Denbighshire Leisure Ltd and supported by Rhyl Town Council, have been cancelled to protect the health of everyone involved.

Last year, excited crowds gathered on the high street to see former Coronation Street star Catherine Tyldesley turn on the Christmas lights in Rhyl town centre. The Christmas Pops concert brought in hundreds of party-goers for an evening full of music and entertainment.

Jamie Groves, Managing Director of Denbighshire Leisure Ltd, said: "We have been monitoring government advice closely, and after much discussion and careful deliberation we have arrived at this inevitable conclusion. Our decision has been made in light of the challenges presented by Covid-19, and the continuing expectation of social distancing measures.

"Unfortunately, we feel we would not be able to guarantee the safety of staff, volunteers and visitors attending both of these events, or wish to risk putting additional stress on the emergency services at such a difficult time. The entire Denbighshire Leisure Ltd team are naturally disappointed, but will now set their sights on making next year's events programme better than ever.

Rhyl Mayor Cllr Ellie Chard has given a glimmer of festive cheer to residents and visitors as she has revealed that the town council is working on an alternative event for this year.

Rhyl mayor Cllr Ellie Chard said: "The lights switch on and Christmas Pops concert are usually two of the highlights in Rhyl's festive countdown. But we thoroughly understand and support the reasons for not going ahead this year. Although disappointing, our town will still be lit up and magical throughout the festive period. The town council also has a little something up its sleeve which will bring Christmas cheer to children everywhere, enabling them to enjoy a festive treat from the comfort and safety of their own homes. Watch this space as we'll be releasing details soon."