

ASPRA PROJECTS REPORT
AGM - APRIL 2018

Noticeboard

Last August the Mayor of Croydon, Cllr Toni Letts, kindly unveiled the Addiscombe “Village “ Noticeboard for us at Blackhorse Corner. This was organised by ASPRA, but largely sponsored by our Cllr Andrew Rendle through his Ashburton Ward Fund Budget & with his personal support – so very grateful thanks to him.

In spite of rain, this proved to be a very pleasant event & the Noticeboard is now increasingly in demand for information & announcements & promoting local events & activities. The Keyholders liaise well together to keep it up-to-date & fresh.

Christmas Lights

Our Ashburton Cllr Stephen Mann contributed £1,000 towards last year’s Xmas Lights from his Ward Fund Budget & has already donated a further £1,500 towards this year’s Lights, again from his Ward Budget. This is greatly appreciated & many thanks to him.

Last year we also received £500 from Harrison Bailey & a number of donations from smaller local businesses – for which we are very grateful.

We have asked the Festive Lighting Company for a selection of Light Units to choose from for this year, as they advised us to start early, & await their reply.

War Memorial/Peace Garden/Poppies

Last November ASPRA received a proposal for a War Memorial in the Addiscombe area. Following wide consultations amongst our own Members, neighbouring Residents’ Associations & other groups, this evolved into the preferred idea of a “Peace Garden”.

The most appropriate site was thought to be the grassy triangle at the corner of Ashburton Road & Lower Addiscombe Road, which proved to be Council owned & therefore a possibility, but this was outside the ASPRA boundaries, within the East India Conservation Area & that of H.O.M.E. Residents’ Association.

Due to fears of vandalism, H.O.M.E. Members preferred not to have any stone monument or seating, for which ASPRA had been offered funding, but rather to make an attractive garden. One of their members is a professional landscape designer & we have recently heard that they have now secured their own funding for this project, from their Addiscombe Ward Councillors. They are liaising with the Council to plant some extra trees, bulbs etc., & possibly arrange a noticeboard there also.

(After the elections in May & boundary changes, Addiscombe & Ashburton Wards will change so that we shall all come under “Addiscombe East” & H.O.M.E. have already expressed their wish & willingness to work with ASPRA in the future).

Members of ASPRA meanwhile voted to go ahead with an alternative proposal for commemorating the Centenary of the end of WW1 in November this year by putting large British Legion Poppies on the lamp-posts along Addiscombe "Village" shopping area – x50 in all. Again, Cllr Stephen Mann's has kindly donated £150 towards the cost of buying these from his Ward Fund Budget, & Skanska have given us the necessary permissions & even offered to help tying them on!

The Poppies have now been ordered & we shall liaise with Members later in the year as to when they should appear & for how long they should stay etc.

Christmas Tree

Having again investigated the possibility of putting a Xmas Tree at Blackhorse Corner, we decided against it due to the costs & problems involved & the fact that Skanska were unable to help with the power supply.

However, at the suggestion of our Chairman, Steve, we are currently looking into the possibility of asking the Council if it might be possible to replace the existing plane tree (which is damaging the pavement with its roots) there with a conifer of some sort, which we could then decorate over the Festive Season.

Hilary Chelminski
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