

ASPRA PROJECTS REPORT

AGM – 25th April, 2019

Poppies & Silent Soldier

The big British Legion poppies that we put up attracted much support, & the Silent Soldier figure was also admired.

Members only voted for these to be put up for the Centenary of the end of WW1. It has been proposed that the poppies could be re-used – they are still in good condition & have been cleaned. Another proposal was that they could be made into wreaths, but these would be large so would need careful placing. Or they could simply be re-cycled, or else donated to a neighbouring Residents' Association for use.

Other proposals are invited from members, & if wished we can vote to decide.

Similarly for the Silent Soldier figure (we have one spare silhouette without a base) – Fred suggested that his son's school might possibly be interested(?)

Christmas Lights

Last year's proved a great success, but this year will see the end of the 5-year contract that ASPRA signed with the Festive Lighting Company. So, Members have to decide if we wish to continue organising the Christmas Lights on a similar basis beyond that.

Later in the year we should know the comparative costs of renewing on a year-by-year basis, & 3 or 5 year contracts, but have been told that the price is likely to increase from £2,500 to £3,000 annually.

Bob, Gill & Fred kindly signed the current contract, acting as guarantors for the overall cost of £12,500, which is why it was so important that we raised enough for payment each year, as otherwise they would be personally liable for any loss. A new, similar 5-year contract is likely to cost around £15,000.

Meanwhile, as we were advised to start early this year, Dave has already organised a ballot for this year's choice of lighting designs & Members have chosen the Holly & Berries pattern again, but this time paired with a red spray with a white snowflake.

Due to Steve & Colin's amazing efforts, we had more donations than ever before from local shops & businesses. Our Addiscombe East Councillors, Maddie & Jeet, have also come up trumps with generous donations from their Ward Fund Budgets. In addition, Lyn & Jenny donated all the money from the Jumble Trail towards the Lights, so thanks for all their hard work.

Future Projects

As many of you know, due to my own work commitments I am now going to have to take a back seat from Projects, at least for the foreseeable future, so if anyone else is interested to take over this role it would be wonderful.

There is still one outstanding project that has already been approved by Members: a decorative planting scheme for Addiscombe Village. Hanging baskets have been suggested, & there may be other ideas such as troughs etc.

Some time ago when we were discussing the idea of a Christmas Tree at Blackhorse Corner, & Steve suggested asking the Council to replace the existing tree there with some sort of evergreen/conifer which could be decorated each year, as a way forward.

I have not had time to look into this possibility, but perhaps a new person will like to do so.

Thanks everyone, & I am still happy to help out if needed.

Hilary Chelminski
ASPRA Projects Consultant