



Addiscombe & Shirley Park Residents' Association

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an independent, non-politically aligned organisation run for and by the residents of Addiscombe

ASPRA Projects Report for the AGM

Throughout the challenging year of 2021 the ASPRA Committee have covered the role of the project's manager, a vacancy they are very keen to fill and will offer full support to any new volunteer.

Our summer hanging baskets grew and bloomed beautifully and lasted a very long time, not coming down until 12 November.

Our bright new replacement poppies looked splendid with one on each lamppost facing the traffic. Luckily the lampposts were able to take the poppies whilst the hanging baskets were still in position.

Once again, we had a lovely set of Christmas lights along the shops provided by Festive Lighting under a one-year contract.

Unusually 2021 saw our lampposts have all three related projects on them at the same time, that is hanging baskets, poppies and Christmas lights.

Planning permission was applied for, and received, from Croydon Council for the ASPRA noticeboard at the Black Horse to remain in place for the next five years. ASPRA volunteers continue to manage the noticeboard ensuring relevant current information is on display and changed regularly as required. Two of the key holders, Jenny and Sheila refreshed our noticeboard, taking out of date and faded notices down and, as things began to open up after Covid lockdowns, adding new notices as they started being received.

With our councillors no longer having community budgets, Colin has worked hard to obtain contributions to ASPRA's projects from local businesses and community groups. Steve has also obtained major funding from three local businesses. ASPRA is very grateful for all the financial support received including the generous donations from members which is enabling us to continue with these projects allowing us to enhance the Addiscombe area.

We applied to the Co-Op for a grant from their supporting the community and were advised that they had received an overwhelming response, (more than 10,000 applications) and they were sorry to say that our application has not been successful on this occasion.

ASPRA is supporting a local project with a donation to provide a bench. In 2021 St. Mildred's Church created a community garden in a concreted area that was unused and neglected. In addition to food production, there is a small area given over to wildflowers and grasses, with bird boxes and a 'bug hotel' to support nature and to provide the opportunity for individuals to just sit and observe different species including bees and butterflies. Our bench is due to arrive at the end of March 2022.

We finished the year in a financial position that will allow us to continue these projects next year.