



## Projects Report for November 2023

The hanging baskets looked lovely all summer and lasted well. They came down as the festive lights went up followed shortly after by the poppies. Thank you to Colin, Gay and Steve who this year decided to put up every poppy they had so not only do we have them along the shops in Addiscombe but also the shops in Shirley Road. This year we were asked to pick a switch on dates for the lights (at no extra cost to us) and we chose the 15 November which was a few days after remembrance weekend, whilst also making the most of the time we have the lights up. The switch on happened as planned and the lights which are all one design this year look very good. The banner, pinned each year under our noticeboard was renewed due to wear and tear over the last few years and this also gave us the opportunity to update the Skanka logo to Milestone who have taken over from them. This year we had an additional cost for 82 (£3.20 each) Tamtorque bands that attached the lights to the lampposts, the previous ones having come to the end of their life. We are advised the new ones will last the life of our five-year contract.

In September I met with Robert, PFI (Private Finance Initiative) Contract Monitoring Engineer for Croydon Council, covering Croydon and Lewisham Street Lighting. Interestingly Robert made a passing comment that we were sensible to rent the lights as several areas who had bought theirs some years ago are now having problems maintaining their elderly lights. Nice to know we are doing it right. Another bit of good news is that the contract (originally Skanska which was taken over by Milestone) for our lampposts, which includes free erection of lights, various socket fittings and associated electrical things, runs for a further 13 years.

The lights should be on each day from 3pm to midnight however some of the time clocks are broken so these will be on 24 hours a day which nobody seems bothered about as the cost of the electricity required for our LED displays is very low.

We have six lampposts that include cellular mobile phone technology with nodes whose size and positioning means there is no option but to have the lights the opposite way round from all the others. If you notice a problem with the lights there is a specific site on Croydon Council's website to report lamppost issues.

**If you notice any problems with our festive lights, please contact Croydon Council via [cl.customerservices@milestoneinfra.co.uk](mailto:cl.customerservices@milestoneinfra.co.uk)**

**tel: 08000 285 986**

Robert also does a weekly evening patrol to check and make sure the lights are ok and not twisted round or anything. As always, a very big thank you to all those members and businesses supporting ASPRA Projects.

More details on our projects can be found in the Vice Chair report.

Gill

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