

Agenda Item 6

Christmas Decorations 2008-09

The new displays at the fountains and the tree at Carr Hall have received praise from the residents in particular with several adverse comments regarding the now antiquated display on the silver birch at Fountains Square. The overall village display is still eye catching but does show some large gaps between displays.

The Council's provision of trees reached 64 this year this included 9 trees being added to the Fountains and two others to other shops. This has been somewhat counteracted by the reduction of 4 existing retail properties due to electrical supply problems and five trees which have not been consistently lit during the evenings.

Provision for 2009-10

The Council will need to purchase trees next year with an expected tree cost of around £12.00-£15.00 per tree plus lights. The Council has budgeted for the expense of buying trees but possibly re-enforce with retailers the cost and the need to switch the lights on for a meaningful period during each evening. The led sets run at 11w so the outlay to the Council far exceeds the running costs to the retailers. The Council should target one or two of the more prominent buildings within the village, which currently do not participate to persuade the proprietor to provide an electrical supply.

The Council has the capability to install up to eighty trees and if the additions were strategically placed a continuous ribbon of decorations from Newbridge to Halstead Lane could be achieved. The Council has budgeted £1500.00 towards joint projects with Area Committee for 2009-10. The Clerks suggestion would be to replace the ten-year-old set of lights on the tree at Fountains Square because only 50% of the bulbs are still functioning due to degradation of the lighting set.

These lights at a prominent point within the centre of the village could be replaced with colour changing led sets similar to those used at Carr Hall. This would help return the focal point of the village back to a centre, which could be utilised for future carol concerts late night shopping events to promote tourism into the village. The cost would be considerably less than a new project as the infrastructure for the electrical supply is already present. The cost of should be around the £3000.00 mark and would be feasible as a joint venture with the Area Committee.

Larger Businesses abutting Gisburn Road should be asked to contribute towards lighting within their area of the village and could include the larger firms such as AC DC Lighting and Booths. This may help to expand the display within Barrowford whilst defraying the cost to the Parish Council.