

Christmas Decorations

Most of the Christmas decorations are up and working, there are one or two that need attention when the weather improves and one erecting at Jacks (Formally the Victoria Hotel). This year the number of trees has increased to 64 trees with the addition of lighting to the Fountains and others. This year four trees have not been fitted through power supply problems, which hopefully can be rectified in time for next year.

The Council has used most of the trees that were growing at Lowerclough and the Clerk will arrange for the stumps and roots to be removed with the beds being returned to allotments. The Clerk suggests that next year all trees are bought in and that five feet be the desired height. Buying trees may limit expansion of the scheme through cost but with the approved budget for 2009-10 and any carried forward balance from the current year the provision of trees could be extended to 85 next year and still remain within budget.

Additional Payments for Employees: Due to the increased workload of the handyman because of extensions of the planter schemes and additional Christmas decorations it has reached a stage where he still has all his annual holiday entitlement intact and is 50–60 hours in advance on his work. The opportunities to take the time off in lieu are scarce at this time of year and the situation will only increase through January. The Clerk recommends that the Council should pay the handyman an additional 25 hours on his December wage to at least help reduce the advance hours owed to the handyman. This could be funded from the Christmas decoration budget and if there is a consensus to this proposal the Clerk will add it to the December Council agenda for discussion and formal resolution.