

## **CULLOMPTON HIGH STREET AND FORE STREET CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2017**

Report for **Community Wellbeing Committee**

Prepared by **Assistant Town Clerk**

### **Introduction**

1. The Christmas Lights were installed as follows:
  - a. The Lime trees were dressed by SparkX Limited with lighting equipment owned by the council.
  - b. The 30' and 20' Fir trees located in the Higher and Lower Bullrings respectively were bought from Bridget Nurseries and dressed by Lamps and Tubes Illuminations Limited with lighting equipment owned by the council.
  - c. The pre-dressed 4' man-made Fir trees in the Higher Bullring were installed by Lamps and Tubes Illuminations Limited with lighting equipment owned by the council.
  - d. The pre-dressed 4' man-made Fir trees in Fore Street were installed by the council outdoor maintenance staff.
  - e. 6 x Shooting Star motifs were installed on lighting columns in Station Road.
2. Installation of all lights and the required trees was completed and tested prior to the Christmas Lights Festival with the formal switch-on taking place as the culmination of this event by Santa and the winner of the Mayoral Christmas Card competition. The event was considered a success and the lighting display has received positive comment.
3. The lighting display was under budget.

### **Positive Aspects**

4. The following are considered positive aspects of the lighting display:
  - a. The 30' and 20' Fir trees in the Higher and Lower Bullrings respectively looked excellent.
  - b. The Lime trees looked good – just! Next season, longer light strings will be required as they will be 50% larger.
  - c. The lighting columns on Station Road looked good. There was a minor issue with them not coming on at the beginning of the season but this was resolved quickly by the contractor – Lamps and Tubes Illuminations Limited.

### **Negative Aspects**

5. The following are considered negative aspects of the lighting display:
  - a. The co-ordination of the wireless signal controlling the 4' man-made Fir trees in High Street was inconsistent throughout the season. It is considered that this has been caused by the layout of the street and the level of traffic experienced. The control units have been placed at the only locations possible (given building owner permissions/listed building status and other factors).
  - b. There were too few 4' both in High Street and Fore Street to add anything to the overall display – the lack of trees in Fore Street could be considered to have detracted from the overall display. This was caused largely because traders in many of the High and Fore Street businesses were unprepared to make a contribution of £30 for the season in order to have a tree installed on the premises occupied by them.

### **Recommendations for Future Displays**

6. The following recommendations are made:
  - a. Remove the DMX controlled lights from the 4' man-made Fir trees in the Higher Bullring. The control of these lights has been sporadic for a couple of years (since installation) and a more reliable method of lighting these trees.  
  
*It is recommended that these lights are replaced by the, simpler, RGB lighting sets as rejected for Fore Street but that would provide a comparable but more reliable lighting display in the 4' High Street trees at c£60 per tree.*

- b. Increase the length and number of lights in the High Street Lime trees.

*It is recommended that 50% more lights are purchased in warm and pure white static LED to extend the light strings installed in the Lime trees in High Street.*

- c. As noted at Paragraph 5b, it is considered that there were too few 4' man-made trees in High and Fore Streets to effectively add to the display. This is more difficult to resolve as it is unfair to install trees on those premises whose occupiers have refused to contribute to the cost of the display.

*It is recommended that either:*

*i. The 4' man-made Fir trees in High and Fore Streets are installed at no cost to the premises occupiers.*

*ii. The 4' man-made Fir trees in High and Fore Streets are removed from the display altogether.*

*iii. The 4' man-made Fir trees in Fore Street are removed from the display and the council takes no contribution from the High Street traders.*

- d. The static white lights in the 4' man-made Fir trees in Fore Street have been in place for approximately 5 years and are showing signs of normal wear and tear. 8 sets required replacement in the 2017 season and the remainder have seen their last or penultimate season in the trees.

*It is recommended that all remaining static white lighting strings in the 4' man-made Fir trees in Fore Street are replaced at c£40 per set.*

Costings for recommendations made will be obtained and presented to the Committee in due course.