

## Report to Felixstowe Town Council – Christmas Lights

Prepared by The Lions Club of Felixstowe CIO

This was the 47<sup>th</sup> year that the Lions Club has maintained, designed and erected the Christmas Lights in Felixstowe.

### Funding

The annual grant from Felixstowe Town Council is £8000 and we supplement this with sponsorship (£3622), advertising feature which this year was published in the Felixstowe Flyer (nett £683) and donations (£300).

### Maintenance

All of the light displays are now completely LED which reduces the power consumption and improves reliability. Given the amount of rain that fell in December we were pleased with the small number of times we needed to get the ladders out and fix displays!

### New Displays

We now have set aside sum of the budget to produce new displays. This year we introduced two 6m cone trees created using the support poles of the existing displays. These together with additional mistletoe balls in the trees drew a remarkable reaction from the unprecedented crowds on Light Up Day.

### Unmetered Electricity Supply

We have obtained certificates from UK Power Networks for the past two years. These certificates have been passed to EDF who should then invoice us. We have made strenuous efforts to obtain invoices from EDF including recorded delivery letters to their head office in London. We have received a three line response which, in essence, says they can't be bothered to collect the money! We estimate the cost of electricity to be £2000 in 2023/24 and £2500 in 2024/25.

### Future Developments

In addition to new displays we have started a long term programme to renew the existing displays. We are currently running a competition for Y5 pupils at all the primary schools in the Felixstowe area to design a new lamp post display. Over the coming years the winning display will be displayed at the Triangle and the following year will be moved elsewhere in the town. It is our intention to run this competition until all 20 'window' displays are replaced by winning designs.

