

Here are the details documented that I promised to send you, also please see attached a map of Bardney, Blue circles mean that the lights have been Part Nighted, and the blue flowers mean that they are pending. Light green lights are not LCC adopted property.

Thank you for your recent communication and for sharing your concerns about changes to street lights.

The lights that you refer to have been adjusted as part of the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Street Lighting Transformation Project. You may be aware that due to reductions in funding, the Council is having to make substantial reductions in expenditure, so far by more than £100m over the last few years, and we need to save a further £41m this year. We simply can't afford to do everything we've done in the past.

As outlined in County News last year, we are having to make difficult decisions and the consultation feedback from the public gave us our priorities for savings.

It currently costs approximately £5m per year to operate and maintain the county council's 68,000 street lights, with almost £3m of this is spent on electricity. The authority can no longer afford to maintain existing lighting levels and separately have to meet strict targets for carbon reduction, as set out by the Climate Change Act of 2008. We are therefore transforming the way we provide street lighting in Lincolnshire to save over £1.7m per year, reduce LCC's carbon footprint by over 6,000 tonnes of CO₂, reduce light pollution and ongoing maintenance needs.

The changes are being implemented in line with Lincolnshire County Council's street lighting policy which has been approved through the political decision making process, having considered a range of options.

The changes were referred to within the spring and autumn editions of 'County News', copies of which was distributed to all households within Lincolnshire. The project has also been promoted via the LCC website and social media, as well as in local newspapers and radio. Further detailed information, including Frequently Asked Questions, can be found at: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/streetlighting Whilst there is no statutory duty to provide street lighting at all locations, the prime purpose of LCC owned street lights is to provide light to the publicly maintainable highway, based on traffic volumes and levels of use.

Where part night lighting is introduced the lights are set to switch on at dusk and stay on until around midnight. They will then switch off before coming back on at 6am (providing lighting levels require it) until dawn. These times ensure that we provide lighting at the times it is most needed, align with general levels of use and ensure that the required savings can be made whilst minimising the risk of causing inconvenience to, or affecting the safety of, the majority of road users.

It is worth noting that there are significant areas of the county's highway network, including residential areas, where there is no street lighting at all. As with all areas of the county, anyone who chooses to use any unlit road or footpath needs to make their own assessment of the possible risks and take their own appropriate actions to mitigate these risks down to a level acceptable to them.

We are aware that some residents may have an increased fear of crime as a result of the changes. The authority has not taken the decision to implement these changes lightly and have considered information from the Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership, the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership and the Police in doing so. Similar changes have been introduced by Local Authorities across the UK since 2007. In 2014 many Local Authorities contributed their time and effort in providing the national LANTERNS project with historic data, enabling the impact of part night lighting, dimming and the use of LED on accidents and crime to be assessed on an extensive scale. The report found that there is no evidence that reduced street lighting is associated with increases in road traffic collisions or crime. Warwickshire County Council has specifically analysed crime data since the introduction of part night lighting in their area and have reported that domestic burglary has reduced by 24% and anti-social behaviour has reduced by 29%. You can read about these results at <http://news.warwickshire.gov.uk/blog/2014/07/03/15703/>

We recognise that it wouldn't be appropriate to switch lights off in all locations and therefore have a list of exceptions where lights will remain on through the night. If you feel that the street lights on your

road meet the exception criteria listed at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/streetlighting , but are not on all night, please contact us as if you were reporting a fault. If the light does not meet any of the policy criteria for exemption from the part night scheme, we cannot exclude it from the scheme at this time.

I do apologise that the recent changes have prompted you to contact us in this way. The County Council has had to make some difficult decisions in relation to services that we don't have a legal duty to provide. However in making these decisions we have been able to protect services that we have an obligation to provide including Adult Safeguarding and Highways Maintenance.

Faults:

As you may be aware, Lincolnshire County Council is transforming the way it provides street lighting in Lincolnshire to save over £1.7m per year, reduce LCC's carbon footprint by over 6,000 tonnes of CO2, reduce light pollution and ongoing maintenance needs.

In order to achieve this we need to make changes to 58,000 of our 68,000 street lights by the end of March 2017. With this in mind it has been decided that our resources must focus on implementing the changes, in order to enable the authority to meet the required savings. To this effect the authority has stated that individual lamp failures will be considered on a case by case basis but in the main will be attended to when the programme visits the area to introduce LED or Part Night lighting. We are still responding to emergency faults though in accordance with our normal processes.

However, should we receive reports of a significant number of other street lighting faults at this location we will divert one of our crews to investigate them accordingly.

I'm sorry that we are not in a position to address this fault at this time.

Day burners:

Whilst it is accepted that street lights that are on all day don't look, when we are aiming to save money on street lights, they do not actually increase the cost to the authority. This is due to the fact that street lights are not individually metered. Instead, authorities are charged for street lighting electricity based on the hours when street lights are due to be on i.e. from dusk until dawn.

Part-night street lights – Clock change update:

In the early hours of 30 October the clocks are set to go back to Greenwich Mean Time, and we have been asked whether the street lights that have been set to turn off between midnight and 6am will adapt accordingly.

The lights have individual sensors that monitor the number of daylight hours, which is how they set their internal clock. This is then used to adjust for the change to Greenwich Mean Time.

That means the sensors on the part-night lights enter a period of adjustment during autumn, where the lights may start to turn off slightly earlier than normal. Unfortunately, this is unavoidable but should have little or no impact on safety.

For further details on the street light transformation project, please visit:
www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/streetlighting

Yours sincerely,

Jenny

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