

TO: SWALE RURAL FORUM
DATE: 14 April 2009
SUBJECT: PARISH COUNCIL LIGHTING
BY: HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The report explains the responsibilities of Kent County Council for the provision of street lighting that meet certain lighting standards to be considered suitable for adoption as highway lighting. The report also provides the result of the analysis of information provided by a number of Parish Councils which shows that 94% of the lighting provided by these Councils lights the highway but does not meet the standards for adoption.

Implications: Human Resources Implications: Nil

Finance Implications: Swale Borough Council contribute a total of £41,000 per annum to 18 Parish Councils for the maintenance of Parish Lighting.

Legal Implications: Nil

Crime & Disorder Implications (Section 17): Nil

Equalities & Diversity Implications: Nil

Sustainability Implications: Nil

Risk and Health and Safety Implications: Although the lighting provided by Parish Councils does not meet the standards for adoption by the County Council as Street Lighting it helps improve the safety of both pedestrians and drivers in rural areas.

Corporate Plan Implications: Priority 3: Promoting a Safer and Stronger Community.

Decision Required: For Members Information.

Introduction/Background

1. Kent County Council are responsible for street lighting which is defined as lighting on adopted highways which meets highway lighting standards. To meet adoptable standards the lighting has previously been required to be of a set type, height and spacing. With the development of modern street lighting lanterns the adoption criteria is now also based on meeting set levels of illumination for particularly classification of roads.
2. Kent County Council as Highway Authority is not responsible for the maintenance of lighting on unadopted roads and footpaths or lighting to the highway that does not meet the adoption standards. This unadopted lighting is referred to as Footway Lighting.
3. Swale Borough Council is responsible for the maintenance of lighting to parks and open spaces, car parks and a number of alleyways and footpaths.

4. Information was requested from Parish Councils on the location and type of lighting they provide within their Parish Areas. Details were received from Borden, Teynham, Ospringe, Upchurch, Bapchild, Selling, Oare, Graveney & Goodnestone and Iwade Parish Councils.

5. An analysis of this data shows that Parish Councils provide lighting to a mixture of areas including alleyways, footpaths, unadopted areas and to the highway. However, of the Parish Council who provided information the majority of lighting (94%) is to the adopted highway although it does not meet adoption standards.

6. This Parish Council lighting information showing the extent of lighting provided to the highway has been passed to the County Council. However, as the lighting does not meet adoptable standards the County Council is not prepared to take over the responsibility for maintenance.

Recommendation

7. For information.

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27th March 2009