



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

PETITIONS – STREET LAMPS, LONG DITTON

19 SEPTEMBER 2011

KEY ISSUE

To update members on the investigations carried out and conclusions, following the two petitions to the June 2011 meeting of this Committee.

SUMMARY

This report provides a response to the petitions received at the June meeting, accompanied by verbal representation by the lead petitioners, against the proposed removal of the Edwardian/Victorian swan necked lamp posts and their replacement with modern standard lighting columns.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of this report

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members are reminded that the following petitions were submitted to the June 2011 meeting of this committee:

“We wish to submit the attached petition, with over 100 signatures, from residents in Kings Road Long Ditton, to the Surrey County Council Local Partnership Team in Elmbridge for inclusion in the Local Committee meeting 20 June 2011.

The petition is against the proposed removal of swan necked Edwardian/ Victorian lamp posts in Kings Road on the grounds that there is no evidence of prior statutory consultation with the residents of Long Ditton.

In relation to the funding for this project, residents have not been made aware of Surrey County Councils commitment to the PFI grant to fund it and the implications for future budgets over the next 25 years.

Further points we wish to raise on addressing the Committee are:

- ***Funding;***
- ***the consultation process;***
- ***cost effectiveness;***
- ***long term maintenance and renewal of lamp posts on cessation of contract;***
- ***have any pecuniary interests been declared;***
- ***and consideration to be given for replacement Heritage lamp posts.***

In the above circumstances we request confirmation in writing that any lamp post replacement in Kings Road does not take place prior to the decision following the address, to be given at the subsequent Local Partnership Team meeting on 19 September 2011.

and

We the residents of Long Ditton are petitioning against the above proposals by Surrey County Council to replace our existing “Victorian Swan Neck” street lighting with modern standard lighting columns.

The proposed columns would not be in keeping with their surroundings if installed in our village where many ‘Victorian’ streets and properties feature. Therefore we urge Surrey County

Council to reconsider their proposals and to replace our existing Victorian ‘Swan Neck’ street lighting with a design of a similar nature (Heritage style), that would be more in character to the roads affected by the scheme. Also, in line with the wishes of the residents of Long Ditton, they should be no taller than 4.5m, have the softer orange lamps or shades as existing and not the harsh bright white lights as proposed.

The roads in Long Ditton and bordering roads that would be affected by the proposed street lighting replacement programme are as follows:

Prospect Road, Cholmley Road, (Upper) Windmill Lane, Ferry Road, Thorkhill Road, Southbank, Rushett Road, Rushett Close, King’s Road, St Mary’s Road, Westville Road and Southville Road.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 After considering the content of the Long Ditton petition and having reviewed the streetlights currently installed within the area, a meeting was scheduled in July with residents and Councillors to discuss the Councils approach to street lighting replacements in the area and the options available to residents to fund alternative designs.

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 Further to the PFI Contract team meeting with residents and Councillors in July, the roads in question were placed on hold for a period of two months in-order for residents to gauge interest from the community to fund the Swan Neck additions for the replacement street lighting columns.
- 3.2 In early August, having considered the special design options, the residents provided notification to the PFI Contract team confirming that residents would be looking to fund the swan neck additions for 57 columns in the following roads:

Kings Rd,
Prospect Rd,
Cholmley Rd,
Rushett Cl,
Howard St,
Thorkhill Rd,
Southbank,
St Marys Rd,
Southville Rd
Westville Rd.

3.3 Fundraising is currently underway and Long Ditton Residents Association anticipates that payment will be made early September. Once payment has been made then works will be scheduled and dates advised to the residents.

3.4 Skanska have undertaken an initial survey of the area and SCC is working with our Contractor in coordinating works.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of £150 per column to be met by the residents for the swan neck additions to 57 columns within the petition area.

4.2 We continue to support the residents in this process and the roads remain on hold while we wait payment of £8550.

4.3 A contribution of £1,000 from Mr Hickman, a Member of the Local Committee in Elmbridge, is to be made from his allocation towards funding this project.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 The response is noted.

8 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

8.1 Once payment has been made then works will be scheduled and column replacement dates advised to the residents.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None