

CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Decision:

Petitions

(i) Details of decision

That the response, attached to this decision sheet as Annex 1, be approved.

(ii) Reasons for decision

To respond to the petition.

Decision taken by:

(i) Name: Matt Furniss

(ii) Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Highways

Date of Decision: 2 July 2019

Date of Publication of Record of Decision: 3 July 2019

Date decision effective (this decision cannot be called in): 3 July 2019

Annex 1

Cabinet Member for Highways Decisions

2 July 2019

RESPONSE TO PETITION REGARDING STREET LIGHTING IN CAPEL:

For years, residents of Capel have been demanding installation of street lighting in Capel but the local authority hasn't taken any steps to ensure street lights in the area.

Roads are dark and lack visibility post-sunset, especially when it's raining and during winters. Street lights are important to reduce crime and ensure our safety and security, especially women and children.

Due to the spate of crime in the area recently, residents are tired of trying to reach out to local authorities, who take no action to ensure our safety.

Submitted by: Ms Natasha Forrest-Dunn

Signatures: 217

Response:

There is no statutory requirement on local authorities in the UK to provide street lighting. The Highways Act empowers local authorities to light roads but does not place a duty to do so.

The street lights in Surrey are maintained through a PFI contract which runs until 2035. The contract included an investment period which saw the replacement of 70,000 lighting columns and the refurbishment of a further 19,000.

Aside from this initial investment, the County Council does not have any funding available to install additional street lighting. The budget is allocated to maintain the lighting that is currently installed.

In certain circumstances, it may be possible for groups (such as residents associations or parish councils) to install additional lighting. If they are in the public highway, it may be possible for the County Council to adopt these into the PFI providing all costs are covered by the third party.

If you are interested in pursuing the installation of additional street lighting, we can arrange for our service provider to prepare a quotation. It is also recommended that you get in contact with the local parish council.

Matt Furniss

Cabinet Member for Highways

2 July 2019