

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 3 MARCH 2017

**SUBJECT: MEMBER QUESTION – PART NIGHT STREET LIGHTING IN
TANDRIDGE**

DIVISION: ALL TANDRIDGE



Whilst the need to make savings is well understood, there is some confusion around the plans to introduce part-night street lighting across Tandridge.

Feedback from Parish Councils tells us that the consultation in the summer of 2016 did not give them sufficient opportunity to comment.

Some Parish Councils have indicated that they may be willing and able to contribute financially to keep some or all of the street lights on in their parish.

Could you please bring the committee up to date on the latest plans for the streetlights in Tandridge, and whether Parish Councils are able to contribute to avoid having the lights switched off.

Local Committee Chairman Mr Nick Skellett

Response:

Consultation

The consultation was publicised via a variety of sources including the Council's Social Media pages, libraries and to groups of residents who have subscribed to the Council's Customer Feedback groups.

The purpose of the consultation was to seek views on the principles of part night lighting and not to seek feedback about individual roads or areas.

As detailed in the consultation and later in the Cabinet paper, following extensive research into what other authorities were doing around their lighting strategies, the Council developed a series of avoidance criteria whereby if any of these were present, the lights would not be switched off. This was extended to include lights in close proximity to bus stops and train stations where the last/first bus or train arrives during the proposed hours of switch off.

The final stage of the process was to engage with Officers from the Council's Road Safety Team and Surrey Police to assess any locations where they felt switching lights off could have an adverse effect either on crime or road safety.

Decision Process

The initial desktop assessment excluded roads which are classified as traffic routes and the remaining list of locations is then visited to review each road against the Avoidance Criteria. Finally, meetings are then held with Officers from the Road Safety team and Surrey Police who have a local knowledge of the relevant areas. This is resource intensive and so it was not possible to publish the final list of proposed roads prior to commencing switch off so it was deemed to be best to publish everything that was being considered with the explicit caveat that upon completion of the surveys and review in relation to crime and road safety, some roads would be adjusted either to;

- Start later or finish earlier (due to public transport times)
- Leave some lights on in a road – for example where speed humps are located in one section of a longer road
- Leave all lights on either due to traffic calming measures, or concerns over crime or road safety

Current Position

The list of roads in Tandridge published in early February therefore included all prospective roads at that point. Work has been going on for the last month or so to complete the surveys in Tandridge and collate the outcomes. A more comprehensive update can be provided to the Local Committee at the 3 March meeting to incorporate the most up to date findings.

The final meetings with Surrey Police are not scheduled until the middle of March and so lights will not be switched off in Tandridge until they have been completed. We have found that approximately 10% of proposed lights following site assessment are subsequently excluded and final lists will be published a few days before the switch off is commenced.

Options to keep the lights on

There is a decision review process whereby residents or representative groups can make suggestions for roads to keep the lights on however these will generally only be approved if something has been missed during the above process or new information comes to light such as an increase in crime and Surrey Police request a change.

Regarding the potential for Parish Councils to contribute to the costs to avoid lights being switched off, this is entirely possible. Indicative costs for each ward in Tandridge are being prepared and will be shared in the near future.

A number of locations have already been identified by Parish Councils and/or local representative groups and in many cases these have highlighted roads where either public transport is still operating between midnight and 0500 or where traffic calming is present, the vast majority of these are identified in the process described above and so will either have an amended switch off time or be left on all night.

Part Night Lighting has been in place in some locations in Surrey since early December (as well as being used elsewhere in the Country and becoming ever more widespread) and so it may be beneficial to allow the Part Night Lighting programme to proceed as planned and evaluate the need to pay to keep the lights on at a later date.

The Council does not receive its billing as an itemised breakdown by either light, road or area but for the entire asset as a whole. Although the administrative costs involved in passing the cost of energy to a Parish Council are not exorbitant, to calculate the costs of keeping the lights on in a specific area will require significant resource and so there will inevitably be some form of administration fee although this has not yet been calculated as Tandridge are the first area within Surrey to request this facility.

Although the Council is invoiced monthly, the administration impact (and therefore costs) can be minimised by calculating costs twice per year – we are charged a summer price and a winter price and would link invoicing to these 2 periods. For clarity, whilst this option could be exercised by Parish or District Councils, it would not be available for private residents to pay for a single light or road to be left on.

Officer: Paul Wheadon, Business and Strategic Programme Manager _____