



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL  
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN EPSOM & EWELL  
27 November 2017**

**MEMBER QUESTIONS**

**Question 1: Cllr Tina Mountain**

**Re: Street Lights**

Would it be possible for the street lights to remain on through the night, across the County, on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, to enable residents to return safely to their homes following late night celebrations?

**Officer Response:**

This is something that the Council is already considering, we are working with our technology suppliers to see whether it is practicable.

**Question 2: Cllr Eber Kington**

**Re: Street Lights**

1. Following a spate of burglaries, SCC recently agreed to keep the streetlights on in several roads in Auriol, Stoneleigh and West Ewell. The request came from Epsom and Ewell's Police Inspector who felt that keeping the streetlights on at night would help to protect homes, prevent further offences and provide reassurance to the residents. In the light of this Police request, and the opposition of residents to the streetlight switch-off, will SCC review this policy with a view to abandoning it and finding alternative ways to make the savings?
2. In the absence of any immediate change of policy will SCC agree to keep the streetlights on all night across Surrey on New Year's Eve into New Year's Day to enable residents to enjoy their New Year's celebrations and ensure that people feel safe when travelling home late at night or early morning?

**Officer response:**

1. There are a number of roads in the County where Surrey Police have requested we keep some of the street lights switched on all night. These are short duration trials and Surrey Police are monitoring patterns of criminality in these areas to try and see if there are any actual changes as a result of the part night lighting.

Surrey Police acknowledge that street lighting provides an element of public reassurance which can help people feel safer at night. We will continue to work closely with Surrey Police and if they raise any concerns in the future, these lights will remain on.

Many other authorities have introduced similar part night lighting schemes successfully, without adverse effects and have made significant savings. With rising energy costs and reduced budgets these types of changes to street lighting are becoming more common. Recent independent academic research found no link between street lights being dimmed

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or switched off and any increase in road accidents or crime. More information on this research is available here: <http://lanterns.lshtm.ac.uk/>

The Council has listened to views of residents and has recently announced that from 23 November 2017, the street lights will switch off from 01:00 instead of midnight. Beyond this, the Council does not have any plans to abandon its part night lighting policy.

2. Please see response to the question from Cllr Mountain above.

**Question 3: Cllr Michael Arthur**  
**Re: Broadband Installation**

A resident of Mill Lane KT17 2AG has raised with me the problem of having broadband providers installing fibre optics in Mill Lane due to refusal of SCC to allow a road closure to enable this installation.

The resident further states that the absence of a proper provision is very frustrating leading to poor wifi and constant breakdowns. This is causing worry and stress as employment work has to be done at home.

As central government has a priority for a full roll out of good broadband, could the local committee agree, given goodwill on all sides, to strive to facilitate this connection?

**Officer response:**

The County Council has no record of any request from a broadband provider for a road closure in Mill Lane and has not refused any such request. If specific information on the application can be provided they would be happy to investigate further.