

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 20 APRIL 2018

SUBJECT: Public Question: Part time street lights



DIVISION: CATERHAM VALLEY

Annette Evans, resident in Caterham asks:

With regards to the part time street lights in Surrey, I would like to request the following information:

- The cost for keeping the street lights on, split down to Parish Council level for Caterham Valley. With the introduction of the smarter lights and the ability to manage them remotely, if the information on cost cannot be provided at a parish level please can it be explained why?
- Can Parish councils be given the ability to make the choice whether or not they would want to pay for this facility rather than leaving this decision at a District level, if this is not an option please can you explain why?

Response:

1. We do not use parishes as operational areas and therefore do not record this information. However we can make some assumptions to give an approximate saving for Caterham Valley.
 - Initial calculations assumed that 44,000 lights would be included in the part night lighting programme which was estimated to save approximately £210k.
 - There are approximately 450 lights in Caterham Valley which are included in the programme.
 - This suggests that approximately £2,150 is saved by switching off the lights in Caterham Valley.
2. Cabinet agreed in May 2017 to implement an 'Alternative Funding Model' allowing districts and boroughs to request an enhanced level of service by excluding all lights in their area from Part Night lighting subject to agreement to reimburse the County Council in full for any costs associated with delivering the enhanced level of service.

It was recognised in the report that some parish councils had expressed an interest in being able to fund the cost of keeping the street lights in their respective areas on and so exclude them from part night lighting. However retaining the decision at the borough level ensures a greater level of consistency across an area. The complexity of managing change requests and restructuring the street light central management system was also taken into account.

By managing agreements at borough and district level also removes any differences across the county in political structure as some do not have parish councils, which are mainly prevalent in the south of the county.

The full report and minutes are available on our website:

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MId=5107&Ver=4>

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