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Reducing Unnecessary Street Lighting in Wiltshire

Pewsey Area Board – 5 July 2010

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Background

- Wiltshire Council has been approached by a number of communities seeking to:-
 - reduce their carbon footprint
 - reduce light pollution of the night sky
 - reduce energy costs
- Street lighting and illuminated signs have been identified as a major use of energy by the Council in a recent review.

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- A start has been made with an invest to save project to replace the lighting units in the county's 1,600 illuminated bollards with new low energy units.

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Trial Schemes

- Dimming and turning off unnecessary lighting for part of the night have already been successfully introduced in trial sites at Urchfont and Tidworth.
- The Council has set aside £5,000 for each Area Board to introduce schemes in their areas this year.

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- Existing Photo-electric cells on street lighting can be replaced by new units to turn some lights off approximately midnight to 5.30am, or lighting can be dimmed for part of the night.



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Considerations

- In urban areas there may be concerns about crime and personal safety, as well as some road safety implications, and it may be more appropriate to dim the street lighting during part of the night.
- In rural areas and villages turning off street lighting for part of the night may have local support, especially where pollution of the night sky is a concern, and there is a desire to preserve the rural environment, as well as concerns about climate change.



Area Boards

- The Area Board is asked to solicit interest from Town and Parish Councils and other interested parties to take part in the scheme.
- The Area Board will decide on which submissions will go ahead in their area.
- The Area Board will be asked to nominate an individual to act as Project Leader.



Project Leader

- The Project Leader nominated by the Area Board will liaise with the community and resolve any subsequent issues with the public.
- The Council's staff and specialists will be available to advise on technical aspects, including the viability of the proposals, and will arrange the installation of the schemes.



The Project Leader will liaise with the community to agree areas for part night lighting and dimming.



Next Steps

- £5,000 would enable over 100 units to be converted to part night lighting so that they would go off at about midnight and come back on at approximately 5.30am.
- The scheme offers the opportunity for communities to demonstrate their commitment to reducing their carbon footprint.
- The Area Boards are in a unique position to encourage communities to take part in the scheme
- If successful more cash will be made available for schemes next year

