

Report to	Chippenham Area Board
Date of Meeting	22nd November 2010
Title of Report	Reducing Unnecessary Street Lighting

Purpose of Report

To seek Chippenham Area Board's approval of one bid to the "Reducing Unnecessary Street Lighting" budget 2010/11.

1. Background

- 1.1. Wiltshire Council has been approached by a number of communities in the recent past seeking to reduce their carbon footprint and reduce light pollution of the night sky by reducing unnecessary street lighting.
- 1.2. Turning off unnecessary lighting for part of the night has already been successfully introduced in trial sites at Urchfont and Tidworth.
- 1.3. Each of Wiltshire's 18 Area Boards has been allocated £5,000 to introduce part night lighting in their respective community areas in 2010/11. This would enable lights selected by Town and Parish Councils, subject to assessment by highways consultants, to be modified to a unit which automatically switches off around midnight and switches back on again around 5.30pm.
- 1.4. The £5,000 is expected to enable between 100 and 150 lights to be modified.
- 1.5. Part of the consultation process and technical assessments includes the discernment of support or otherwise from residents, local businesses, the police, community safety and highways' officers.
- 1.6. The discernment process includes checking to ensure that where lighting is needed all night for community or highway safety purposes, units are not modified.
- 1.7. In May 2010, Town and Parish Councils in Chippenham community area were invited to consider whether or not they would like to take advantage of this scheme, and, accordingly, to consult with residents.
- 1.8. In response, Kington St Michael Parish Council has so far submitted a bid and it is hoped that other bids will follow later in the year.

2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Kington St Michael Parish Council consulted with all 112 households in the 8 proposed areas.
- 2.2. Two developments in Kington St Michael already enjoy night switch off and the Parish Council would like to add an additional 8 areas as listed below. The additional areas are small residential areas and an unclassified lane.
- 2.3. Resident's responses were supportive of the scheme with one exception where concerns were raised. It was agreed not to proceed with the scheme in this area.
- 2.4. Chippenham Area Board is asked to consider the bid from Kington St Michael to modify 20 lights as detailed below:

Location	Number of lights
Grove Lane	2
Stanton Lane	1
The Orchard	2
The Ridings	6
Kynetton Way	3
The Skillins	3
The Paddocks	2
Stubbs Lane	1
Total	20

2.5. Subject to Chippenham Area Board's approval of this bid, a final assessment will be carried out by highways officers and confirmation given as to the total number of lights to be modified.

2.6. Once final confirmation has been received, the modification of the lights will begin and it is anticipated this will take approximately 3 months.

3. Environmental & Community Implications

The benefits from the upgrade of street lights to part night lighting are:

- Reduced carbon emissions
- Reduced energy cost

It is estimated that for each individual street light conversion there will be a reduction of 40% in both carbon emissions and energy cost.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 Chippenham Area Board has a budget of £5,000 to allocate to reducing unnecessary street lighting in 2010/11, this will fund modification of approximately 100 – 150 lights

4.2 The cost of the alterations to the lighting units will be paid for by the savings in energy consumption, and it is estimated that it will take approximately four years to pay back the cost of installation.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the bid from Kington St Michael Parish Council is approved.

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