

**Corsham Community Area Network
&
Transition Community Corsham

Street Lights Project

January 2011**



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Executive Summary

In June 2010, the Corsham Area Board requested volunteers to assist with the 'Part Night Lighting' project which is being implemented across Wiltshire following successful piloting in Urchfont and Tidworth. The aim of this project is to switch off selected lighting for part of the night (00.00-05.30), where that lighting meets strict criteria set by Wiltshire Council to ensure continued safety and security of residents. The consequent reduction in electricity consumed will reduce Wiltshire Council's costs and carbon emissions, and the investment required in installing switching equipment will pay back within two years.

CCAN (Corsham Community Area Network) volunteered to co-ordinate the project through its Energy and Environment working group, which is jointly run with Transition Community Corsham (Transcoco), a local environmental group.

In September 2010, a group of 12 volunteers from across the Community Area, co-ordinated by CCAN and Transcoco, conducted a survey of street lights across the whole area, using maps and selection criteria provided by the central project team within Wiltshire Council. The team identified lights that in their view met the selection criteria provided.

The recommendations of the team were reviewed by Wiltshire Council's technical officers and revised proposals issued. Following this review, a total of 419 lights were identified, representing 22% of the total in the Area. This would achieve annual savings of £3,400 on the Council's electricity bills and 24 tonnes of CO₂.

These proposals were then issued for consultation through Corsham Town Council and Box, Colerne and Lacock Parish Councils in December 2010. 111 responses have been received, of which 73 were supportive, 3 neutral (asking for specific lights to be left on) and 35 against. NB the Colerne findings have not yet been reviewed by Colerne Parish Council. Colerne proposed that the time period was set to 00.00-05.30, and Lacock 00.30-05.00.

This report contains:

1. Background to the project
2. Findings of the project
3. Results of local consultations.

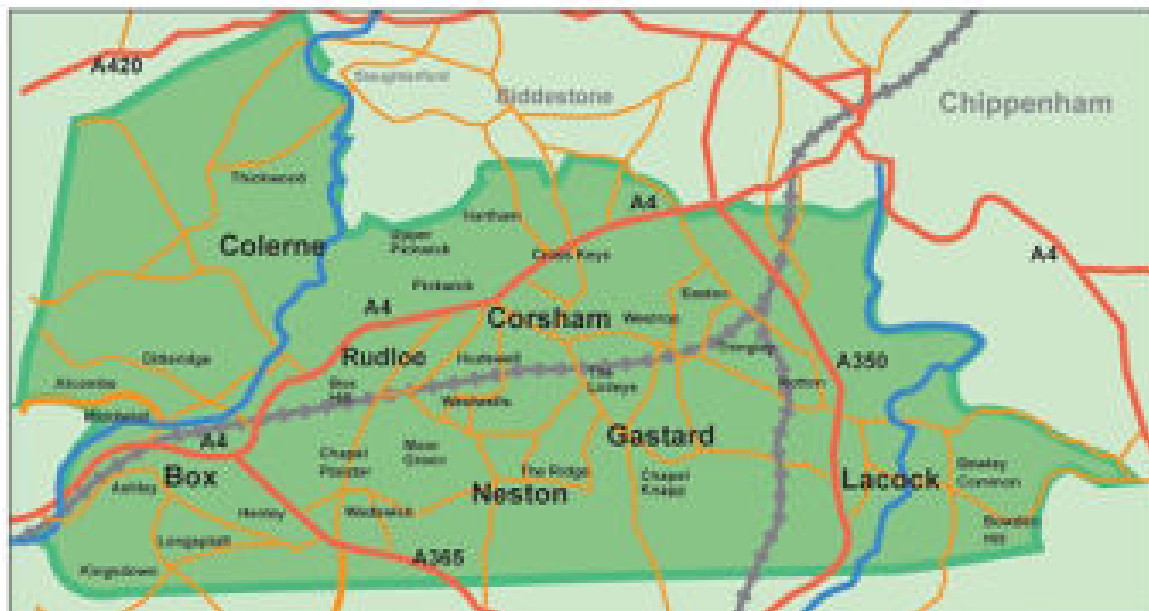
Maps showing the proposed candidate lights (following Wiltshire Council technical review) are available separately.

Recommendation to Area Board

We recommend the Corsham Area Board accepts the proposed lighting changes (subject to the final consultation findings from Colerne) and implements the recommended part night lighting reductions.

1. Background to the project

The project was established in September 2010 as part of the Wiltshire wide Part Night Lighting Project, to identify candidate street lights for part night lighting in the Corsham Community Area (see map below).



Twelve volunteers from across the Community Area joined the project team, co-ordinated by Adam Walton from CCAN. These volunteers included representatives from Corsham Town Council and the Parish Councils of Box, Colerne and Lacock.

The volunteers were provided with guidelines and maps by Wiltshire Council and conducted street-by-street surveys to identify candidate lights. The guidelines provided by Wiltshire Council included criteria for which lights should be left on, as follows:

- Main traffic routes with pedestrian movement and/or conflict areas such as junctions and roundabouts. (Dimming of streetlights may be introduced if appropriate).
- Areas with above average night time injury accident record.
- Areas with above average record of crime.
- Areas provided with local authority/police surveillance equipment such as CCTV
- Areas with above average night time pedestrian activity such as Town Centres or near to 24hr / early morning facilities.
- Areas with sheltered housing and/or other residences accommodating vulnerable people.
- Areas with 24hr operational emergency services sites such as hospitals, fire stations etc.

- Street lights local to uncontrolled pedestrian crossings (zebra, informal) or within subways, stairways and ramps, enclosed footpaths and alleyways.
- Street lights local to potential hazards on the Highway (roundabouts, central carriageway islands, build-outs, speed-humps, etc.)
- To maintain the legality of 30 mph speed limits at least 2 streetlights in any 200 yard section of road must remain lit all night.

The volunteers reviewed street lights in the Community Area using the maps provided. The marked up maps were then given to Wiltshire Council's technical officers on the project (co-ordinated by Stuart Brown) who independently reviewed the volunteers' findings and either approved or rejected the proposed lights. There were few changes identified at this stage, mainly around junctions or crossings where the technical officers decided it would be safer to leave more lights on than had been originally proposed.

The proposals were then put out to consultation, in a process co-ordinated by the representatives from the Town and Parish Councils (see section 3).

Following completion of the consultations, the findings will be passed to the Wiltshire Council central team so that the feedback can be taken into account and any specific lighting issues mentioned can be addressed.

2. Project Findings

The following table shows the number of lights identified (following Wiltshire Council review and outcome of the consultations) as a % of total lights and showing the electricity and CO2 savings that will result:

Area	Total	Identified	% total	CO2 saved (tonnes pa)	Electricity saved (£ pa)
Box	329	71	22%	4	580
Coleme	204	89	44%	5	727
Corsham	1246	228	18%	13	1,863
Lacock	98	31	32%	2	253
Total	1877	419	22%	24	3,423

A small number of the identified lights require some further evaluation and local consultation, for example the lights on the Leafield Industrial Estate. This will be conducted by the Wiltshire Council team.

3. Results of Local Consultations

The proposals, following the technical consultation, were issued for consultation through Corsham Town Council and Box, Colerne and Lacock Parish Councils in December 2010. The consultation process followed varied by area, because of the differences in size of each area and the number of street lights actually affected, but in each case, maps showing the proposed lights were displayed in council offices and on websites where available, and the consultation was publicised through the usual channels.

The number of responses received overall was low compared to the total number of households in the area. The responses were highest in Colerne because the Parish Council decided to do a comprehensive leafleting of all households, whereas in other areas posters and website publicity was provided but not individual household leafleting, because of the large number of households involved.

Responses in support of the proposals outweighed those against by over 2:1.

Summary of consultation responses			
Area	Supportive	Neutral	Against
Box	0	2	2
Colerne	70		33
Corsham	3	1	0
Lacock	0		0
Total	73	3	35

The supportive comments tended to be general support for the concept, and in some cases people requested additional lights to be considered.

The neutral comments were requests for specific individual lights to be left on. These have been identified and removed from the total (3 lights in total).

The opposing comments came predominantly from Colerne. These were mainly general comments on the grounds of safety and crime impacts, with some criticism of the financial case for the project. In some cases specific requests were made for lights to stay on. These have been accepted and included on the updated maps. This reduced the total lights identified in Colerne by 22, from 111 to 89.

We checked specifically with the police regarding crime and safety issues, and received the following statement from Alex Reid at Wiltshire Police: *'I can confirm that I do not anticipate any likely increase in crime across Corsham if this scheme were implemented, our rates of criminal damage etc are fairly low and I suspect would remain so.'* There was also no evidence from the Tidworth and Urchfont pilots of any impact on safety or crime.

Colerne Parish Council has not yet reviewed the findings of the consultation, so there may be some further changes – this review should be completed before the February Area Board.

The Parish Council in Colerne proposed that the timing of the switch off should be 00.00-05.00, and in Lacock, 00.30-05.30. The Wiltshire team confirmed that the timers could be set for these time periods.