

REDUCING UNNECESSARY STREET LIGHTING IN THE AMESBURY AREA

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. To seek the Area Board's approval of X bids to the "reduced unnecessary street lighting" budget 2010/11.

2. Background

2.1. 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. Turning off unnecessary lighting for part of the night has already been successfully introduced in trial sites at Urchfont and Tidworth.

2.2. Each of the 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 parish councils, subject to assessment by highways consultants, to be upgraded to a unit which automatically switches off around midnight and switches back on again around 5.30pm. The £5,000 is expected to enable between 100 and 150 lights to be upgraded.

2.3. 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. This discernment process includes checking to ensure that where lighting is needed all night for community or highway safety purposes, units are not upgraded.

2.4. In May 2010, parish councils in this community area were invited to consider whether or not they would like to take advantage of this scheme, and, accordingly, to consult with residents.

2.5. In response, 3 parish councils have so far submitted bids and a fourth is due to do so later this year.

3. Main Considerations

3.1. The Area Board is asked to consider the bids detailed below:

Table 1

Town / Parish	No. of lights
Figheldean	34
Bulford	4
Durrington	73
<u>TOTAL</u>	111

3.2. Maps showing the location of each of the lights which have been subject to initial assessment by Highways, and found (subject to final assessment) as suitable for conversion will be displayed at the 21st October board meeting.

3.3. Comments have been received regarding the community safety implications of these bids. These confirm that there are no issues relating to the requests for light upgrades in Figheldean and Bulford, but a number of community safety issues associated with certain areas in Durrington. The town council will be working with the police and community safety officers to ensure that only in the most suitable areas will lights be switched off between midnight and 5.30am.

3.4. Subject to the Area Board's approval of these bids, a final assessment will be carried out by highways officers and confirmation given as to the total number of lights to be converted.

3.5. Once final confirmation has been received, the process for upgrading the lights will begin and will take approximately 3 months.

4. Implications

4.1. Environmental Impact of the Proposals

The benefits from the upgrade of street lights to part night lighting are two fold (a) reduced carbon emissions and (b) 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.

4.2. Financial Implications

The Area Board has a budget of £5,000 to allocate in 2010/11.

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.

£5,000 will pay for the upgrading of between 100 and 150 lights.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the town and parish council bids detailed in Table 1 above be approved.

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