

Report to: Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board
Date of Meeting: 30 th November 2011
Purpose of the Report: To ask Councillors to consider 1 application to reduce street lighting in the designated areas of Cricklade

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.

Funding allocated

The Council has set aside £5,000 for each Area Board to introduce part- light switch - off schemes in their areas this year.

Should the initiative be successful, more funds could be allocated to switch off more lights in future years.

Method utilised

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.

Cost to convert

Typical cost for replacement of photocell to one that operates on a part night basis is £50, however consideration has been given to revising the photocell specification to another manufacturer which provides the equipment at a cheaper cost. The payback will vary depending upon times of switching (usually midnight to 5.30am) the wattage of the lantern and the current rate of electricity per Kwh. i.e. the lower the wattage the longer the payback.

A typical example in a residential area would be to convert a 35w SOX lantern to part night lighting between midnight and 5.30am. The payback for this conversion would be 4 years. For a higher wattage (70w SON) the payback would reduce to 3 years.

It should be noted that payback is not totally proportionate to the wattage as it depends on losses within the gear and how much power the lamp draws.

35w SOX lamp = 65w actual power consumed (30w in losses)

50w SON lamp = 62w actual power consumed (12w in losses)

70w SON lamp = 90w actual power consumed (20w in losses)

The initiative has been publicised through the Area Board, Town and Parish councils and the community area network

Lights to be switched off

Cricklade has expressed interest in taking part in this initiative and would ask that a decision is made to enable the following lights to form part of this initiative:-

Hallsfield 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 4211, 4214, 4215, 4218

Branders 462

Pleydells 442

Kitefield 452

North Meadow Road 341, 343, 345, 347, 349

Keels 352

West Mill Lane 2712 and 2714

Bailiffs Piece 2

Consultation Requirements

Initially an article was placed in the October 2010 Cricklade Town magazine asking residents to nominate areas they felt would be suitable. A number of responses were received mostly requesting ALL lights to be turned off.

Following this, Cricklade Councillors agreed that one area should be selected and the North Meadow/Hallsfield area of the Town was identified.

CCAN (Cricklade Climate Action Network) undertook to identify individual lights that were appropriate.

A letter was then hand delivered to approx 200 houses in the Cricklade vicinity informing them of the proposals and asking for comment. Several comments supporting the scheme have been received as a result as well as further suggestions for lights to be turned off.

Recommendation

The technical officer confirms there is funding available to switch off these lights and to switch off more lights in the coming months. Officer recommends that this application meets the criteria.

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