

Environmental & Community Services Select Committee

Extract from 26 February 2014 – At a meeting of the Select Committee held at 10.30 am at County Hall, Chichester.

Present:

Mr Barrett-Miles	Mr M Jones	Mr J Rogers (Vice Chairman)
Mrs Brunsdon	Mr R Oakley	Mr Tyler (Chairman)
Dr Dennis	Mr S Oakley	Mr Whittington
Mr G Jones	Mrs Phillips	

In attendance by invitation:

- Mr Montyn (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport)

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Mr Circus

Call-in – Amendment to the Street Lighting Policy for Part Night Lighting

116. The Committee considered a report (and addendum) by the Executive Director Service Operations and Head of Highways and Transport (copies appended to the signed minutes.)

117. Mrs Millson outlined the reasons for the call-in: -

- There had been a spate of complaints about the light replacements
- People travelling to and from night businesses would be less likely to use public transport if the street lights were turned off
- Local consultation was inadequate and not all local councillors were aware it was taking place
- Some small parishes wanted all night lighting, but will not be getting it
- Some residents had either had too little notice of the replacement programme, or had had notice, but were still awaiting replacement

- The call-in request did not request all night lighting everywhere, but fewer hours when lights were switched off, having first checked local needs for appropriate timing
- If there was no central automated system that could set different light times in different areas this could lead to problems in the future as needs/expectations changed
- The call-in request recognised there would be savings from part night street lighting, and environmental benefits, but felt the consultation was flawed and asked the Cabinet Member to reconsider his decision to address the concerns of residents

118. Mr Montyn, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, responded making the following comments: -

- There had been part night street lighting in the county since the 1970s, but it hadn't been uniform, which led to problems maintaining the 33,000 units in residential areas in towns where this occurred
- The decision would increase the number of units operating part night lighting by about one third
- Consultation had been carried out at parish/town council level to get a cross-section of views
- The private finance initiative (PFI) contract could adapt to changing circumstances
- Regarding safety concerns from part night street lighting: -
 - Part night street lighting would only be in residential areas in towns
 - Pedestrian areas, road crossings, A, B, and C roads where necessary, would still be fully lit
 - Crawley town would have all night lighting
 - All night lighting could be reintroduced if crime and disorder issues became a problem in part lit areas
- Statistics from areas which operate part night street lighting showed that reduced lighting did not lead to increased crime or road accidents
- Attitudes to energy savings had changed in recent years with some areas wanting a return to part night street lighting
- Lights would come on around 5.30am which would help those going to/from night/shift work
- The control system responded to light levels, so an exact on/off time was not possible to control
- The need for lighting to be timed around train/bus timetables was mitigated by the fact that lights would be on in town centres
- The proposal would be explained again to parish/town councils with local members involved – where the local view was for all night lighting, this would be considered

119. Summary of responses to Members' questions and comments: -

- Crawley asked for all night street lighting, whereas Horsham and Bognor Regis asked for part night street lighting
- The consultation in the Horsham area had not been restricted to the rural parts of the area – local neighbourhood councils were consulted
- Consultation would take place in areas which currently had all night lighting before changes were implemented

Agenda Item No. 2

The meeting ended at 13.43

Chairman.