

Safe and Sensible Street Lighting Project - Review of Trial Switch-Off – Dartford District

Date of Review:

Sites originally proposed for inclusion in the trial switch-off but subsequently withdrawn:

Hawley Road (North)

Hawley Road (South)

Bob Dunn Way (East)

Bean Lane (North and South)

Cotton Lane

Sites originally proposed for inclusion in the trial switch-off but subsequently modified to part-night lighting:

Shepherd's Lane, Dartford (6 lights)

Old Bexley Lane, Dartford (6 lights)

Leyton Cross Road (North and South) (12 lights)

Sites included in the trial switch-off:

Bob Dunn Way (West) (32 lights)

Bob Dunn Way (Mid) (17 lights)

Watling Street (13 lights)

Barn End Lane (12 lights)

Birchwood Road (21 lights)

Site location	Bob Dunn Way (West)	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	32	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	25/03/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 25 th Mar 2014-25 th Mar 2015	One year period prior to switch-off: None reported. One year period since switch-off: None reported.	The absence of light at this site has not caused an increase in crime.
Police remarks	None.	-
Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 10 SLIGHT, 3 SERIOUS. After switch-off: 14/04/2014 – SLIGHT – LIGHT: V1 collided with rear of V2. Low speed impact.	The absence of lighting at this site has not led to an increase in crashes, the only crash recorded having occurred during daylight hours.
Traffic Schemes remarks	None.	-
Enquiries received following implementation (site specific)	Enquiry no. 17440740 16/04/2014 – customer calling to report lights out. Informed they were in trial and was very concerned about safety for cyclists. Enquiry no. 132937 02/12/2014 – customer calling to express concern over switching off of light. Concerned about safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Enquiry no. 15810001 21/05/2015 – Enquiry from Gareth Johnson MP regarding letter from constituent. Letter refers to lights switched off and horses wandering on the highway, and the safety concerns involved with	Note these enquiries may apply to either or both sections of Bob Dunn Way.

	both. See enquiry for more detail.		
Street Lighting	Inventory shows these columns installed in 1994.		At 21 years old, these columns are just over two-thirds of their way through their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	“The only issue I have with the list of sites is Bob Dunn Way. This is a known site for fatal collisions over the years and we have has a number of recent incidents of live horses on the carriageway during the night which has led to serious collisions. Add in the fact that we have recently had the Bridge Development open which has increased vehicle movements in the area, I would encourage the streetlights to be switched back on along the whole length of Bob Dunn Way.”		Noted.
Developments	No issues raised.		-
Other relevant issues	None.		-
Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?	YES		NO ✓
Options and financial implications	Option		Cost over 15 years
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£70,240
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£69,440
	Remove columns		£32,000
Remarks	<p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes, and the number of enquiries received is small in proportion to the number of people using this road, suggesting that Kent’s residents are largely accepting of the switch-off.</p> <p>These columns are over half-way through their expected lifespan and are likely to need replacing during the next 15</p>		

	years, so removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £38,000 over this period, with further savings in the longer term. Taking this into consideration, it is recommended that these columns be removed.
Recommendation	Remove columns.
JTB Remarks	<p>Both Mr Maddison and Councillor Page raised issues relating to Bob Dunn Way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was felt that the turn off and removal of lamp columns would be premature given that traffic levels on this road were bound to increase due to developments in neighbouring boroughs and the use of Bob Dunn Way as an access route to the River Crossing. • That a further consultation exercise would be wise to gain a feeling for residents wishes at the turn off. • Although there was no apparent increase in crime and disorder in the area, there was a definite perception amongst local people that levels of such had increased. • It would be useful to consult the local Police Service / Community Safety Officers to find out if there were increases in low level crime / anti - social behaviour, their views on the reduced lighting, and the feeling “on the streets” • There had been adverse comments relating to the proposals from local people.
Response to JTB Remarks	<p>Re. traffic, if we were building this scheme today it would not be lit. There are many roads in Kent carrying similar volumes of traffic which are unlit. The junctions remain lit, and will serve as access points to any future developments.</p> <p>Experience in other areas of the County where lights have been switched off as part of the trial clearly demonstrates that where there are concerns, these have been very quickly made known to us. No such concerns have been received about Bob Dunn Way.</p> <p>Telephoned Mark Salisbury 01322 336336 and received a return call from Richard Cherry, the Enforcement Manager. Richard is collocated with the Police in the Community Safety Unit CSU. Richard works closely with Martin Sharp of Kent Police who is also located at the CSU and they meet every morning. Bob Dunn Way is not a site that has caused them any concerns. Richard advised that occasionally there is criminal activity on adjacent development areas, Welcome works or the Bridge Development but these are mostly restricted to those sites and</p>

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	not influenced by the lack of lighting on Bob Dunn Way.		
SRO Sign-off		Date	
Cabinet Committee Remarks			
Cabinet Member Decision		Date	

Site location	Bob Dunn Way (Mid)	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	17	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	25/03/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 25 th Mar 2014-25 th Mar 2015	One year period prior to switch-off: None reported. One year period since switch-off: None reported.	The absence of light at this site has not caused an increase in crime.
Police remarks	None.	-
Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 7 SLIGHT After switch-off: 20/09/2014 – SLIGHT – DARK: Stray horse ran into unlit road into path of V1, V1 collided with horse, which collapsed into road where it was struck again by V2.	The only crash after switch-off took place in the area where streetlights were switched off; however, it appears likely that this incident would have occurred with or without the presence of lighting.
Traffic Schemes remarks	None.	-
Enquiries received following implementation (site specific)	Enquiry no. 17440740 16/04/2014 – customer calling to report lights out. Informed they were in trial and was very concerned about safety for cyclists. Enquiry no. 132937 02/12/2014 – customer calling to express concern over switching off of light. Concerned about safety for cyclists and pedestrians.	Note these enquiries may apply to either or both sections of Bob Dunn Way.


	Enquiry no. 15810001 21/05/2015 – Enquiry from Gareth Johnson MP regarding letter from constituent. Letter refers to lights switched off and horses wandering on the highway, and the safety concerns involved with both. See enquiry for more detail.		
Street Lighting	Inventory shows these columns installed in 1994.		At 21 years old, these columns are just over two-thirds of their way through their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	“The only issue I have with the list of sites is Bob Dunn Way. This is a known site for fatal collisions over the years and we have has a number of recent incidents of live horses on the carriageway during the night which has led to serious collisions. Add in the fact that we have recently had the Bridge Development open which has increased vehicle movements in the area, I would encourage the streetlights to be switched back on along the whole length of Bob Dunn Way.”		Noted.
Developments	No issues raised.		-
Other relevant issues	None.		-
Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?	YES		NO ✓
Options and financial implications	Option		Cost over 15 years
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£37,315
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£36,890
	Remove columns		£17,000
Remarks	The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime, and the only crash appears unrelated to the absence of lighting, whilst the number of enquiries received is small in proportion to the number of people using this road,		

	<p>suggesting that Kent’s residents are largely accepting of the switch-off.</p> <p>These columns are over half-way through their expected lifespan and are likely to need replacing during the next 15 years, so removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £20,000 over this period, with further savings in the longer term. Taking this into consideration, it is recommended that these columns be removed.</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Remove columns.</p>
<p>JTB Remarks</p>	<p>Both Mr Maddison and Councillor Page raised issues relating to Bob Dunn Way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was felt that the turn off and removal of lamp columns would be premature given that traffic levels on this road were bound to increase due to developments in neighbouring boroughs and the use of Bob Dunn Way as an access route to the River Crossing. • That a further consultation exercise would be wise to gain a feeling for residents wishes at the turn off. • Although there was no apparent increase in crime and disorder in the area, there was a definite perception amongst local people that levels of such had increased. • It would be useful to consult the local Police Service / Community Safety Officers to find out if there were increases in low level crime / anti - social behaviour, their views on the reduced lighting, and the feeling “on the streets” • There had been adverse comments relating to the proposals from local people.
<p>Response to JTB Remarks</p>	<p>Re. traffic, if we were building this scheme today it would not be lit. There are many roads in Kent carrying similar volumes of traffic which are unlit. The junctions remain lit, and will serve as access points to any future developments.</p> <p>Experience in other areas of the County where lights have been switched off as part of the trial clearly demonstrates that where there are concerns, these have been very quickly made known to us. No such concerns have been received about Bob Dunn Way.</p> <p>Telephoned Mark Salisbury 01322 336336 and received a return call from Richard Cherry, the Enforcement Manager. Richard is collocated with the Police in the Community Safety Unit CSU. Richard works closely with</p>

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	<p>Martin Sharp of Kent Police who is also located at the CSU and they meet every morning. Bob Dunn Way is not a site that has caused them any concerns. Richard advised that occasionally there is criminal activity on adjacent development areas, Welcome works or the Bridge Development but these are mostly restricted to those sites and not influenced by the lack of lighting on Bob Dunn Way.</p>		
<p>Cabinet Committee Remarks</p>			
<p>Final Recommendation</p>			
<p>Cabinet Member Decision</p>		<p>Date</p>	

Site location	Watling Street	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	13	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	10/02/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 10 th Feb 2014-10 th Feb 2015	1 Drug Offence.	Compared to the one year period prior to switch-off, crime has risen from none to one. This is not enough of a rise to be significant or warrant consideration for reinstatement.
Police remarks	None.	-
Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 6 SLIGHT, 1 SERIOUS (1994) After switch-off: No crashes reported since switch-off.	The absence of lighting at this site has not led to an increase in crashes.
Traffic Schemes remarks	None.	-
Enquiries received following implementation (site specific)	None.	Kent's residents have not commented on these lights being switched off.
Street Lighting	Inventory shows these columns installed in 1985.	At 30 years old, these columns are at the end of their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-
Developments	No issues raised.	-
Other relevant issues	Switch-off area is in close proximity to Darent Valley Hospital.	The hospital site has its own lighting, and the absence of enquiries would suggest that people travelling to and from the hospital are unaffected by the switch-off.

Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?	YES		NO	
Options and financial implications	Option		Cost over 15 years	
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£24,635	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£24,310	
	Remove columns		£9,750	
Remarks	<p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crashes or a significant increase in crime, and Kent's residents have not commented on these lights being switched off, suggesting that there is no need to continue providing lighting to this part of the highway.</p> <p>These columns are at the end of their lifespan, and removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £15,000 over the next 15 years, with further savings in the longer term.</p>			
Recommendation	Remove columns.			
JTB Remarks	Members noted the report. No issues were raised.			
Cabinet Committee Remarks				
Final Recommendation				
Cabinet Member Decision			Date	

Site location	Barn End Lane	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	12	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	10/02/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 10/02/2014-10/02/2015	One year period prior to switch-off: None reported. One year period since switch-off: None reported.	The absence of light at this site has not caused an increase in crime.
Police remarks	None.	-
Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 4 SLIGHT After switch-off: No reported crashes since switch-off.	The absence of lighting at this site has not led to an increase in crashes.
Traffic Schemes remarks	None.	-
Enquiries received following implementation (site specific)	Enquiry no. 139489 16/01/2015 – Customer called to report lights not coming on at this site. Advised of SSSL scheme. Customer expressed concerns over safety of pedestrians and lack of consultation.	Noted.
Street Lighting	Inventory shows all but one of these columns installed in 1985 (the other in 2005).	At 30 years old, these columns are at the end of their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-
Developments	No issues raised.	-
Other relevant issues	None.	-

Conclusion	The trial switch-off has had an adverse effect		The trial switch-off has not had an adverse effect	✓
Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?	YES		NO	✓
Options and financial implications	Option		Cost over 15 years	
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£19,340	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£19,040	
	Remove columns		£6,000	
Remarks	<p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes, and the single enquiry received suggests that Kent's residents are largely accepting of the switch-off.</p> <p>These columns are at the end of their lifespan, and removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £13,000 over the next 15 years, with further savings in the longer term. Taking this into consideration, it is recommended that these columns be removed.</p>			
Recommendation	Remove columns.			
JTB Remarks	Members noted the report. No issues were raised.			
Cabinet Committee Remarks				
Final Recommendation				
Cabinet Member Decision			Date	

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Site location	Birchwood Road	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	21	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	11/02/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 11/02/2014-11/02/2015	One year period prior to switch-off: 1 crime reported. One year period since switch-off: None reported.	Compared to one year period prior to switch-off, crime has fallen from 1 to none in the year after switch-off.
Police remarks	None.	-
Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 13 SLIGHT, 1 SERIOUS, 1 FATAL After switch-off: 24/04/2014 – SLIGHT – LIGHT: V1 had a tyre blowout which caused the car to roll.	The absence of lighting at this site has not led to an increase in crashes. The only crash reported since switch-off was not lighting-related.
Traffic Schemes remarks	None.	-
Enquiries received following implementation (site specific)	Enquiry no. 11002113 10/03/2014 – customer expressing concern over safety at this site.	Noted.
Street Lighting	Inventory shows these columns as installed between 1985 and 1994.	At between 20 and 30 years old, these lights are in the last third of their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-
Developments	No issues raised.	-
Other relevant issues	None.	-

Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?	YES		NO	✓
Options and financial implications	Option		Cost over 15 years	
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£35,595	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£35,070	
	Remove columns		£10,500	
Remarks	<p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes, and the single enquiry received suggests that Kent’s residents are largely accepting of the switch-off.</p> <p>These columns are over half-way through their expected lifespan and are likely to need replacing during the next 15 years, so removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £25,000 over this period, with further savings in the longer term. Taking this into consideration, it is recommended that these columns be removed.</p>			
Recommendation	Remove columns.			
JTB Remarks	Members noted the report. No issues were raised.			
Cabinet Committee Remarks				
Final Recommendation				
Cabinet Member Decision			Date	