

**Safe and Sensible Street Lighting Project - Review of Trial Switch-Off - Gravesham District**

**Date of Review:**

**Sites originally proposed for inclusion in the trial switch-off but subsequently withdrawn:**

Thames Way (East, Mid, and West)

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

Crete Hall Road (7 lights)

**Sites included in the trial switch-off:**

Rochester Road, Gravesend (9 lights)

Gravesend Road, Shorne (21 lights)

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Site location	Rochester Road	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	9	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	11/02/2014	-
<b>Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues</b> Period: 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2014-11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2015	One year period prior to switch-off: None. One year period since switch-off: None.	The absence of lighting has not caused any increase in crime.
<b>Police remarks</b>	In Gravesend streets where the lighting has been switched off there has been a noticeable reduction in crime with some evidence of a shift to "vehicle theft" from "burglary other".	Noted.
<b>Crashes</b> (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 1 SLIGHT, 1 SERIOUS (1999) After switch-off: No reported crashes since switch-off.	The absence of lighting at this site has not led to an increase in crashes.
<b>Traffic Schemes remarks</b>	None.	-
<b>Enquiries received following implementation (site specific)</b>	<b>Enquiry no. 17431766 26/08/2013</b> - Customer concerned about proposed switch-off. Worried about break-ins on adjacent allotment sheds. Advised this was a trial. <b>Enquiry no. 15806612 17/02/2014</b> - Customer unhappy with S&SSL policy; feels there was no consultation and the policy is dangerous for residents regarding walking to and from the bus stop in the dark. <b>Enquiry no. 17227618 18/02/2014</b> - Customer concerned about lights switched off. Worried about speed limit and pulling into/out of her property. Agrees with the	Noted; however, whilst understandable, these concerns would not appear to be supported by the crime or crash data.

	scheme but not this site.  <b>Enquiry no. 17439709 14/03/2014</b> - Customer concerned about lights switched off. Supportive of scheme but worried about speed and darkness on road as accidents are common.		
<b>Street Lighting</b>	Inventory shows three of these columns were installed before 1975, the remainder between 1990 and 1995.		3 of these columns are, at over 40 years old, already beyond their expected lifespan, and the others are over two-thirds of the way through their expected lifespan.
<b>Highway Operations</b>	No issues raised.		-
<b>Developments</b>	No issues raised.		-
<b>Other relevant issues</b>	None.		-
<b>Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>NO</b> ✓
<b>Options and financial implications</b>	<b>Option</b>		<b>Cost over 15 years</b>
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£17,055
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£16,830
	Remove columns		£6,750
<b>Remarks</b>	<p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes, and although a small number of residents initially expressed concerns, no enquiries have been received since March 2014, suggesting that Kent's residents are largely accepting of the switch-off.</p> <p>These columns are at or nearing the end of their expected lifespan, and removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £10,000 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.
<p><b>JTB Remarks</b></p>	<p><b>Cllr Theobald</b></p> <p>The lights along the A226 were included due to remedial work as a result of accidents in the area. There are original designs that were the responsibility of District Council which will be sent to us in due course for analysis purposes.</p> <p><b>Cllr Cribbon</b></p> <p>A crematorium (St Mary the Virgin Church) is to be built alongside Rochester Road which causes some concern for the residents and the Councillors. The details of this can be found at <a href="http://www.kentonline.co.uk/gravesend/news/building-work-to-begin-at-39172/">http://www.kentonline.co.uk/gravesend/news/building-work-to-begin-at-39172/</a>. Can we analyse to see how this is affected by the removal of lights.</p> <p>An example of good lighting that we should adopt is that at Brand Hatch which makes it well lit when turning left and right.</p> <p><b>Cllr Caller</b></p> <p>Rochester road has a central reservation prior to the 50mph and is there for safety reasons. Again this is linked to the crematorium and cemetery, and he feels these lights should be left on as per the planning permission.</p> <p>Residents from Lower Shorne want the lights back on as per the Parish Council who submitted an enquiry. It will not be sensible to switch these off.</p> <p><b>Cllr Croxton</b></p> <p>They want to see the report and not to do anything yet. Give them the document and they will come back to us.</p> <p><b>Cllr Sweetland</b></p> <p>It was agreed by the JTB that for 30 street lights, there is no point in removing these lights. It doesn't actually save a lot of money and they should be reinstated.</p>

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<b>Response to JTB Remarks</b>	It is very clear that Members have concerns on both sites, and representations have been received from residents and the Parish Council.. Whilst the recent switch-off has had no adverse impact, details have been provided of the crash remedial measures installed in 1990, which suggests that these two sites may have had a history of crashes. In view of the information provided by the JTB, Officers' recommend that the lights are switched back on and converted to LED in due course.		
<b>Revised Recommendation</b>	<b>Switch back on (converting to LED in due course).</b>		
<b>SRO Sign-off</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>Cabinet Committee Remarks</b>			
<b>Final Recommendation</b>			
<b>Cabinet Member Decision</b>		<b>Date</b>	

Site location	Gravesend Road, Shorne	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	21	A further 6 lights were initially included in the trial, but subsequently reverted to all-night lighting.
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	11/02/2014	-
<b>Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues</b> Period: 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2014-11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2015	One year period prior to switch-off: 6 crimes. One year period since switch-off: 1 crime.	Compared to one year period previous to switch-off, crime has fallen from 6 crimes to 1.
<b>Police remarks</b>	In Gravesend streets where the lighting has been switched off there has been a noticeable reduction in crime with some evidence of a shift to "vehicle theft" from "burglary other".	This site has seen a significant reduction in crime since switch-off.
<b>Crashes</b> (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 11 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.
<b>Traffic Schemes remarks</b>	None.	-
<b>Enquiries received following implementation (site specific)</b>	<p><b>Enquiry no. 14335532 13/02/2014</b> - Customer concerned about lights switched off. Worried about speed limit and cars driving without lights on. Intended to take matter further.</p> <p><b>Enquiry no. 17227568 18/02/2014</b> - Customer asking whether lights could be changed to PN service. Concerned about speed and safety.</p> <p><b>Enquiry no. 17336757 27/02/2014</b> - Customer concerned about lights switched off. Worried about cyclists and pedestrians on fast road. Advised of trial and understood position and reasoning.</p>	Noted; however, whilst understandable, these concerns would not appear to be supported by the crime or crash data.

	<p><b>Enquiry no. 17021173 27/02/2014</b> - Customer concerned about lights switched off. Worried for elderly parents next door, and herself coming home from work in the dark.</p> <p><b>Enquiry no. 17021651 07/03/2014</b> - Complaint about lights switched off on Gravesend Road. Concerned about cars driving into traffic islands.</p> <p><b>Enquiry no. 17344900 29/03/2014</b> - Customer unhappy about lights switched off on Gravesend Road. Worried about safety of cyclists and joggers on road/footway, and that she cannot see her property.</p> <p><b>Enquiry no: 127099 20/10/2014</b> - Customer unhappy about lights being switched off.</p> <p><b>Enquiry no. 131344 22/11/2014</b> - Customer asking for lights to be switched back on because trial is “finished”. Advised of review in May.</p> <p><b>Enquiry no. 17234020 05/01/2015</b> - Customer concerned about lights switched off. Causing problems for residents and pedestrians. Advised of review on May 15.</p> <p><b>Enquiry no. 15809998 25/05/2015</b> – Enquiry from Shorne Parish Council asking that lights be reinstated, following consultation carried out by them from residents of this road.</p>	
<b>Street Lighting</b>	Inventory shows all but two of these columns as installed before 1975.	At 40 years old or older, most of these columns are at, if not past, the end of their expected lifespan.
<b>Highway Operations</b>	No issues raised.	-

<b>Developments</b>	No issues raised.		-	
<b>Other relevant issues</b>	Six lights closer to the Forge Lane/Green Farm Lane crossroads were initially included in the trial but reverted to all-night lighting in response to concerns about their proximity to the junction.		This is likely to have addressed, at least in part, the concerns raised in the above enquiries.	
<b>Has the trial switch-off had an adverse impact?</b>	<b>YES</b>		<b>NO</b>	✓
<b>Options and financial implications</b>	<b>Option</b>		<b>Cost over 15 years</b>	
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£39,795	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£39,270	
	Remove columns		£15,750	
<b>Remarks</b>	<p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes. In response to concerns expressed by local residents, six lights originally included in the trial have been reverted to all-night lighting; however, the crash data would suggest no reason to extend this.</p> <p>The remaining columns included in the trial are at the end of their lifespan, and removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £24,000 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>			
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Remove columns.</b>			
<b>JTB Remarks</b>	<p><b>Cllr Theobald</b></p> <p>The lights along the A226 were included due to remedial work as a result of accidents in the area. There are original designs that were the responsibility of District Council which will be sent to us in due course for analysis purposes.</p>			



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<p><b>Response to JTB Remarks</b></p>	<p>It is very clear that Members have concerns on both sites, and representations have been received from residents and the Parish Council.. Whilst the recent switch-off has had no adverse impact, details have been provided of the crash remedial measures installed in 1990, which suggests that these two sites may have had a history of crashes. In view of the information provided by the JTB, Officers' recommend that the lights are switched back on and converted to LED in due course.</p>
<p><b>Revised Recommendation</b></p>	<p><b>Switch back on (converting to LED in due course).</b></p>

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<b>Cabinet Committee Remarks</b>			
<b>Final Recommendation</b>			
<b>Cabinet Member Decision</b>		<b>Date</b>	