

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

Date of Review:

Sites originally proposed for inclusion in the trial switch-off but subsequently withdrawn:

Otford Road, Sevenoaks

Orpington Bypass

Button Street, Swanley

Ash Road, Ash

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

Goldsel Road, Crockenhill (14 lights)

Top Dartford Road, Hextable (12 lights)

Tonbridge Road, Sevenoaks (13 lights)

Sites included in the trial switch-off:

Wheatsheaf Hill, Halstead (6 lights)

Polhill/London Road (60 lights)

Morants Court Road, Dunton Green (19 lights)

A20 Maidstone Road, Swanley (10 lights)

London Road, West Kingsdown (25 lights)

Farningham Hill Road, Farningham (27 lights)

Tonbridge Road, Sevenoaks (26 lights)

Site location	Wheatsheaf Hill, Halstead	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	6	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	27/06/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 27/06/2014-27/06/2015	One year period prior to switch-off: None reported. One year period since switch-off: None reported.	The absence of lighting at this site has not caused an increase in crime.
Police remarks	None.	-
Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 2 SLIGHT. After switch-off: None.	Both crashes before switch-off took place during daylight hours so the absence of street lighting was not a contributory factor. 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 does not show installation dates for these columns, suggesting that they were installed before 1975.	At 40 years old or older, these columns are at, if not past, the end 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)		£10,170	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£10,020	
	Remove columns		£3,000	
Remarks	<p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes, 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 £7,000 over the next 15 years, with further savings in the longer term.</p>			
Recommendation	Remove columns.			
JTB Remarks	Mr. Parry objects to these lights being removed. He said the public residents want these lights back on.			
Response to JTB Remarks	No enquiries have been received, and there appears no reason to change the recommendation.			
Cabinet Committee Remarks				
Final Recommendation				
Cabinet Member Decision			Date	

Site location	Polhill	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	60	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	02/09/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issue Period: 02/09/2014-Present	One year period prior to switch-off: None reported. One year period since switch-off: None reported.	The absence of lighting at this site has not caused an increase in crime.
Police remarks	None.	-
Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 43 SLIGHT, 11 SERIOUS, 6 FATAL. After switch-off: None.	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. 17033807 (22/12/2014) – Customer reporting lights not working at this site. Advised this is a trial switch-off site. Customer concerned about safety as this is a busy road close to the M25. Enquiry no. 17034429 (06/01/2015) – Customer reporting incorrect contact info and street lights not working at this site. Informed of trial-switch off, expressed concerns for cyclists turning onto London Road at night.	Noted; however, whilst understandable, these concerns would not appear to be supported by the crash data.
Street Lighting	Inventory either does not show installation dates for these columns or shows them as having been installed before 1975.	At 40 years old or older, these columns are at, if not past, the end of their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	"There have been no issues that I am aware of as a result of the switch off in these areas, and the only	See below.

	comment I have is that there is a large development planned for Fort Halstead at the top of Polhill which may have an increase in the amount of cyclists on Polhill."		
Developments	No issues raised.		This development is in the early stages of planning so details of the proposals are not yet available.
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)		£113,700
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£112,200
	Remove columns		£45,000
Remarks	<p>Although there has been no increase in crime or crashes since switch-off, and few of Kent's residents have commented on these lights being switched off, the proposed redevelopment of Fort Halstead raises the possibility that there may be a future need to provide lighting to this part of the highway.</p> <p>Set against this, the columns at this site are at the end of their expected lifespan. Some have already been 'necked' to make them safe, and the remainder are likely to need replacing within the next 15 years, so removing them would result in savings to Kent County Council of around £69,000 over the next 15 years, with further savings in the longer term.</p> <p>Considering both these points, and noting that works on major roads such as Polhill are unlikely to start within the first 14 months of the LED project, it is recommended that the trial be extended until a decision needs to be taken on whether to fit these columns with LED lanterns or to remove them. At that time it is likely that more information on the Fort Halstead proposals will be available, enabling this to be taken into consideration when reviewing the trial and making a recommendation.</p>		

Recommendation	Extend the trial and review the need for lighting at a later stage when more information on the Fort Halstead development proposals may be available.		
JTB Remarks	The question was how long the trial would be left on, and Members were happy that the lights would not be removed for at least six months. The Members do not want these lights removed as residents who cycle want the lights on.		
Response to JTB Remarks	As we have said, there appears to be no reason to change the recommendation. However, this site will need to be closely monitored in respect of the progress of the development and the progress of the LED replacement project.		
Cabinet Committee Remarks			
Final Recommendation			
Cabinet Member Decision		Date	


Site location	Morants Court Road, Dunton Green	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	19	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	25/06/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 25/06/2014-25/06/2015	One year period prior to switch-off: 1 crime. One year period since switch-off: None reported.	Compared to one year period prior to switch-off, crime at this site has fallen from 1 to none.
Police remarks	None.	-
Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 5 SLIGHT, 1 SERIOUS. After switch-off: 1 SLIGHT, LIGHT, WET. Veh1 tried to turn in road, didn't see Veh2 travelling opposite direction, Veh2 collided with Veh1.	All crashes occurred during daylight hours or on lit areas of road, so absence of lighting was not a contributory factor.
Traffic Schemes remarks	None.	-
Enquiries received following implementation (site specific)	Enquiry no. 119713 (05/09/2014) – Caller asking why lights have been switched off on this road. Reported there was an armed robbery on this road, and the footpath is very dark and dangerous.	Noted; however, no crime or anti-social behaviour issues have been raised by the Police.
Street Lighting	Inventory shows these columns as having been installed before 1975.	At 40 years old or older, these columns are at, if not past, 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 ✓
Options and financial implications	Option		Cost over 15 years
	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course)		£32,205
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£31,730
	Remove columns		£9,500
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 at the end of their lifespan, and removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £23,000 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	Mr.Parry and the Chairman (Cllr London) object to the lights at this site being removed. He said the public residents want these lights back on.		
Response to JTB Remarks	One enquiry relating to crime has been received; however, this has not been corroborated by the police, and there appears no reason to change the recommendation.		
Cabinet Committee Remarks			
Final Recommendation			
Cabinet Member Decision		Date	

Site location	A20 Maidstone Road, Swanley	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	10	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	28/05/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 28/05/2014-28/05/2015	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, 1 SERIOUS, 2 FATAL. After switch-off: None.	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. 17038693 (27/02/2015) – Customer reporting fly-tipping due to lights being switch off at this site. Advised of trial switch-off, was very unhappy with policy as Sevenoaks District Council refuse to deal with fly-tipping. Expressed concern for safety and pedestrians and animals locally.	Noted.
Street Lighting	Inventory shows these columns as having been installed before 1975.	At 40 years old or older, these columns are at, if not past, the end 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)		£18,950	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£18,700	
	Remove columns		£7,500	
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 at the end of their lifespan, and removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £11,000 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 raised.			
Cabinet Committee Remarks				
Final Recommendation				
Cabinet Member Decision		Date		

Site location	London Road, West Kingsdown	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	25	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	28/05/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 28/05/2014-28/05/2015	One year period prior to switch-off: 6 crimes. One year period since switch-off: 2 crimes.	The absence of lighting at this site has not caused an increase in crime. In fact, crime appears significantly lower after switch-off than before.
Police remarks	None.	-
Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 5 SLIGHT, 3 SERIOUS, 1 FATAL. After switch-off: None.	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 does not show installation dates for these columns, suggesting that they were installed before 1975.	At 40 years old or older, these columns are at, if not past, the end of their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-
Developments	No issues raised.	-
Other relevant issues	None.	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)		£47,375	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£46,750	
	Remove columns		£18,750	
Remarks	<p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes, 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 £29,000 over the next 15 years, with further savings in the longer term.</p>			
Recommendation	Remove columns.			
JTB Remarks	Members noted the report. No issues raised.			
Cabinet Committee Remarks				
Final Recommendation				
Cabinet Member Decision			Date	

Site location	Farningham Hill Road, Farningham	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	27	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	25/06/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 25/06/2014-25/04/2015	One year period prior to switch-off: None reported. One year period since switch-off: None reported.	The absence of lighting at this site has not caused an increase in crime.
Police remarks	None.	-
Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 21 SLIGHT, 6 SERIOUS After switch-off: 1 FATAL – LIGHT – DRY: Veh1 turned right into Farningham Hill Road from London Road against No Right Turn Sign into the path of Veh2.	Fatal crash occurred in switch-off area, but in daylight, so absence of lighting could not have been a contributory factor.
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 all but one of these columns as having been installed before 1975.	At 40 years old or older, these columns are at, if not past, the end of their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-
Developments	No issues raised.	-

Other relevant issues	None.		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)		£49,965	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£49,290	
	Remove columns		£20,250	
Remarks	<p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes, 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 £30,000 over the next 15 years, with further savings in the longer term.</p>			
Recommendation	Remove columns.			
JTB Remarks	Members noted the report. No issues raised.			
Cabinet Committee Remarks				
Final Recommendation				
Cabinet Member Decision			Date	

Site location	Tonbridge Road, Sevenoaks	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	26	-
No. of lights converted to part night	13	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	23/5/2014 13 lights subsequently converted to part-night 15/10/14	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 25/06/2014-25/04/2015	One year period prior to switch-off: None reported. One year period since switch-off: None reported.	The absence of lighting at this site has not caused an increase in crime.
Police remarks	None.	-
Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 43 SLIGHT, 7 SERIOUS, 1 FATAL. After switch-off: 1 SLIGHT – LIGHT – DRY: Veh 1 pulled out of Gracious Lane into oncoming Veh 2. 1 SLIGHT – DARK – DRY: Veh 2 driving along Tonbridge Road swerved to avoid Veh 1 pulling out of Gracious Lane.	Fatal crash before switch-off occurred during daylight, so lighting not a factor. The pattern of crashes since switch-off would suggest that absence of lighting is unlikely to have been the sole or main cause of the crash which occurred during darkness.
Traffic Schemes remarks	None.	-
Enquiries received following implementation (site specific)	Enquiry No. 114978 (22/07/14): Customer concerned about pedestrian safety between Weald Road and Sevenoaks. Enquiry Nos. 116293 (04/08/14), 17232271 (21/08/14) and 17443215 (29/08/14): Customers concerned about the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, particularly school students, using this road, and believes it inappropriate to include it in the trial switch-off.	Some, although not all, of these concerns have been addressed by converting the part of Tonbridge Road between Solefields Road and Weald Road to part-night lighting. At the time of preparing the report to Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board, no enquiries had been received since early 2015, suggesting that Kent residents were largely accepting of the remaining trial switch-off.

	<p>Enquiry No. 119915 (07/09/14): Customer concerned about safety of teenage daughter who walks along this road (between Solefields Road and Weald Road) on the way home from school.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 17232546 (08/09/14): Customer concerned that the footway presents a hazard to pedestrians in the absence of lighting.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 120929 (14/09/14): Customer concerned that the lack of lighting makes it dangerous to walk or cycle along Tonbridge Road at night.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 123872 (02/10/14): Customer reported street lights not working, and was advised this is a trial.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 124119 (04/10/14): Customer concerned about pedestrian safety between Solefields Road and Weald Road.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 17443850 (13/10/14): Customer concerned about lack of lighting at the junction of Weald Road, where water ponds across the road, presenting a hazard.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 11002287 (21/10/14): Customer believes assessment of the risks attached to the trial switch-off was inadequate.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 129615 (31/10/14): Customer concerned about public safety as road is frequently used in the early evening.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 17030636 (13/11/14): Customer has an</p>	<p>However, since the JTB several local residents have expressed their opposition to the proposal to remove lighting from the southern part of Tonbridge Road.</p>
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	<p>number of concerns about the trial switch off.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 17032612 (04/12/14): Customer unhappy about the trial switch-off, particularly its effect on school students walking home from the bus stop near the White Hart public house.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 11002360 (30/12/14): Customer afraid to walk home (to Parkland Close) due to the lack of lighting.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 138046 (09/01/15): Customer reported light not working, and was advised this is a trial.</p> <p>Enquiries received post-JTB:</p> <p>Enquiry No. 15811659 (30/12/15): Customer raised various points in relation to the trial, and is opposed to the proposal to remove lighting from the southern part of Tonbridge Road because of its adverse impact on pedestrians, cyclists, and students using school buses, but would regard part-night lighting as acceptable.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 15811666 (30/12/15): Customers opposed to the proposal to remove lighting from the southern part of Tonbridge Road, in particular because they have a child who uses the school bus which stops outside the White Hart public house, and younger children who will do so in future. They also expressed concerns about using Tonbridge Road to walk to and from the railway station, and about the effect of the lack of lighting on crime.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 15811664 (30/12/15): Customers opposed to the proposal to remove lighting from the southern part</p>	
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	<p>of Tonbridge Road as they regularly walk to and from the White Hart public house and Sevenoaks town centre with their young children, and also run for recreation in this area.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 15811667 (30/12/15): Customer opposed to the proposal to remove lighting from the southern part of Tonbridge Road as the lack of lighting has an adverse effect on safety, particularly for children using the bus stop near the White Hart public house, and also reduces local residents' feelings of security and appears to have led to an increase in speeding.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 15811673 (31/12/15): Customer opposed to the proposal to remove lighting from the southern part of Tonbridge Road due to concerns about safety, particularly that of school children and elderly people.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 15811674 (31/12/15): Customer opposed to the proposal to remove lighting from the southern part of Tonbridge Road, referring to the difficulty of identifying the entrance to Gracious Lane after dark, and to concerns expressed to him as a committee member of the White Hart Estates Residents Association by residents whose children use the bus stop near the White Hart public house.</p>	
Street Lighting	Inventory shows 18 columns installed in 2005 and the remaining 8 before 1975.	Around a third of these columns are 40 years old or older, so at, if not past, the end of their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-
Developments	No issues raised.	-

Other relevant issues	In response to concerns expressed by Kent residents, a pedestrian and cyclist survey was carried out during the morning and late afternoon/early evening periods. This suggested that most pedestrians were using the part of Tonbridge Road between Solefields Road and Weald Road, with numbers elsewhere being considerably lower.	This survey helped to inform the decision to convert the lights in the part of Tonbridge Road between Solefields Road and Weald Road to part-night lighting, but to continue the trial in the remaining part of Tonbridge Road.	
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)		£27,670
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£27,020
	Remove columns		£19,500
Remarks	<p>The data received does not suggest that the trial switch-off has led to an increase in crime or crashes. In response to concerns expressed by local residents, a survey was carried out and 13 lights reverted to part-night lighting in that part of Tonbridge Road which is used by appreciable numbers of pedestrians and cyclists. No enquiries have been received since early 2015, suggesting that Kent residents are largely accepting of the remaining trial switch-off.</p> <p>The remaining columns included in the trial are of various ages, with some at the end of their lifespan, and removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £8,000 over the next 15 years, with further savings in the longer term when the other columns would need to be replaced. Taking this into consideration, it is recommended that these columns be removed.</p>		
Recommendation	Remove columns.		
JTB Remarks	Residents are very scared since this road was plunged into darkness. There was a special mention about the lights around the White Hart pub and Letterbox Lane where there are a lot of local workers who work at night time. The residents do not want to walk in the pitch black. Mrs. Crabtree and Mr. Parry raised these concerns.		

Review of Trial Switch-Off – Sevenoaks District

Response to JTB Remarks	Switch back on (converting to LED in due course).		
Cabinet Committee Remarks			
Final Recommendation			
Cabinet Member Decision		Date	