

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

Date of Review:

Sites originally proposed for inclusion in the trial switch-off but subsequently withdrawn:

Church Road, Tunbridge Wells

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

A264 Langton Road, Tunbridge Wells (23 lights)

A264 Langton Road, Speldhurst (22 lights)

Sites included in the trial switch-off but subsequently reverted to all-night lighting:

A26 London Road, Southborough (24 lights)

Sites included in the trial switch-off:

Hungershall Park, Tunbridge Wells (11 lights)

Vauxhall Lane, Southborough (7 lights)

Knights Way, Tunbridge Wells (8 lights)

A262 Goudhurst Road, Cranbrook (9 lights)

A229 Angleley Road, Cranbrook (6 lights)

Old Church Road, Pembury (6 lights)

Site location	Hungershall Park, Tunbridge Wells	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	10	-
No. of lights converted to part night	1	Light closest to junction with Major Yorks Road reverted to part night during trial in response to concerns expressed by local residents.
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	05/06/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 05/06/2014-05/06/2015	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: None. Before 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)	<p>Enquiry No. 17027659 (10/9/14): resident opposed to the trial switch-off as the road is busy, lacks a footway, and provides the only access through the park. He is concerned that there could be a serious accident.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 17443924 (27/10/14): resident says road is frequently used by pedestrians, and is concerned about crime and anti-social behaviour, so would prefer at least some of the lights to remain on part night.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 17345972 (27/11/2014): resident concerned that lights were off: was not aware that this was a trial and queried why these lights had been selected for switching off when other, less vulnerable areas still had</p>	Noted.

	<p>lighting. Resident was concerned that several cars had had near-misses since the lights had been switched off.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 17042255 (22/04/15): resident (who also made Enquiry No. 17345972) would like lights turned back on as it is very dark on the Common. The road is used by pedestrians including lots of children, and commuter parking on both sides of the road together with the steepness of the grassed verges makes it difficult for pedestrians to avoid vehicles. She also has concerns that drug dealers operate in this area, posing a threat to people walking along the road. The resident has considered setting up a petition to have the lights turned back on, but has not pursued this as she understands that the trial is to be reviewed.</p> <p>Enquiry No. 15810082 (31/5/15): Hungershall Park Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators raised concerns including: safety and security of pedestrians given lack of footway, and commuter parking; volume of traffic going to and from High Rocks restaurant; and safety of children waiting for or leaving school bus, which stops on bend near houses. Co-ordinators appreciate the need to make savings and would find part-night lighting acceptable.</p>	
Street Lighting	Inventory shows columns installed in 1999.	At 16 years old, these columns are around half-way through their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-
Developments	No issues raised.	-
Other relevant issues	None.	-

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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)		£18,645	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£18,370	
	Remove columns		£5,500	
Remarks	<p>Although there has been no increase in crime or crashes since switch-off, several local residents have expressed concerns about the safety and security of pedestrians using this road, and this trial site now appears anomalous in that it is the only one of the roads crossing Tunbridge Wells Common to have been included in the trial.</p> <p>These columns are around half-way through their expected lifespan and are likely to need replacing during the next 15 years, so the cost of continuing to run them over this period would be around £13,000 more than the cost of removing them. Notwithstanding this, it is recommended that these lights are switched back on immediately and converted to LED in due course.</p>			
Recommendation	Switch back on immediately (converting to LED in due course).			
JTB Remarks	Members noted the report. No issues raised.			
Cabinet Committee Remarks				
Final Recommendation				
Cabinet Member Decision		Date		

Site location	Vauxhall Lane, Southborough	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	7	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	05/06/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 05/06/2014-05/06/2015	One year period prior to switch-off: None reported. One year period since switch-off: 2 crimes.	This site has seen an increase in crime since the lights were switched off.
Police remarks	None.	The police have not suggested that the statistical increase in crime was linked to the absence of lighting.
Crashes (Jan 1994-Apr 2015)	Before switch-off: 2 SLIGHT. 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 shows columns installed in 1982.	At 33 years old, 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)		£11,865	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£11,690	
	Remove columns		£3,500	
Remarks	<p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crashes, the police have not indicated that the statistical increase in crime is linked to an absence of lighting, 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 £8,000 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	

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Site location	Knights Way, Tunbridge Wells	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	8	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	05/06/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 05/06/2014-05/06/2015	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: 1 SLIGHT. 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 shows columns installed in 1998.	At 17 years old, these columns are over half-way through 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)		£13,560	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£13,360	
	Remove columns		£4,000	
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>The part of Knights Way included in the trial has very recently been identified as surplus to highway requirements and is in the process of being transferred to a developer, who is understood to be planning to remove the lighting columns and hard surfacing and convert the area to grass and planting. This will save Kent County Council the cost of removing the columns.</p>			
Recommendation	Remove columns.			
JTB Remarks	Members noted the report. No issues raised.			
Cabinet Committee Remarks				
Final Recommendation				
Cabinet Member Decision		Date		

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Site location	A262 Goudhurst Road, Cranbrook	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	9	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	05/06/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 05/06/2014-05/06/2015	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: 5 SLIGHT. 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. 113400 (9/7/14): request to repair light on footpath (not included in trial), particularly important for pedestrian safety and personal security now that other lights are switched off. Works order raised. Enquiry No. 17346278 (15/12/14): request to replace missing reflective strip on lighting column included in trial, to assist residents in reversing in and out of driveway. Works order raised.	
Street Lighting	Inventory shows columns installed in 1998.	At 17 years old, these columns are over half-way through their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-

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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)		£15,255	
	Convert to LED in due course, then switch back on		£15,030	
	Remove columns		£4,500	
Remarks	<p>The trial switch-off has not led to an increase in crime or crashes, and the only enquiries received from Kent's residents relate to specific issues which have been addressed, suggesting that there is no need to continue providing lighting to this part of the highway.</p> <p>These columns are over half-way through their expected lifespan so it is expected that they will need to be replaced during the next 15 years, and removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £11,000 over this period, 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	

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Site location	A229 Angleley Road, Cranbrook	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	6	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	05/06/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 05/06/2014-05/06/2015	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.	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 columns installed in 1998.	At 17 years old, these columns are over half-way through 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 over half-way through their expected lifespan so it is expected that they will need to be replaced during the next 15 years, and removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £10,000 over this period, 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	Old Church Road, Pembury	Remarks
No. of lights switched off	6	-
No. of lights converted to part night	0	-
Lights switched off/ converted (DATE)	05/06/2014	-
Police: crime and anti-social behaviour issues Period: 05/06/2014-05/06/2015	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: None. 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 shows columns installed in 1989.	At 26 years old, these columns are approaching the end of their expected lifespan.
Highway Operations	No issues raised.	-
Developments	No issues raised.	-
Other relevant issues	In response to concerns that Old Church Road is used as a route to and from Kent College, an independent	-

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	<p>boarding and day school for girls, a pedestrian and cyclist survey was carried out at appropriate times of day. No school students were observed, and staff at Kent College said they were not aware of this route being used.</p> <p>This part of Old Church Road is closed to vehicles. No cyclists were observed, and the small number of pedestrians appeared mainly to be recreational walkers.</p>	
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 approaching the end of their expected lifespan so it is expected that they will need to be replaced during the next 15 years, and removing them immediately will result in savings to Kent County Council of around £10,000 over this period, with further savings in the longer term.</p>	
Recommendation	Remove columns.	
JTB Remarks	Members noted the report. No issues raised.	
Cabinet Committee Remarks		

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Final Recommendation			
Cabinet Member Decision		Date	