

FOI 548/2015

REQUEST

Thank-you for your enquiry regarding Part Night Street Lighting in the Tendring District.

Street Lighting is a County Council function, so whilst the possibility of providing the funding to Essex County Council to enable the street lights in all or part of Tendring is something the Council is seeking to negotiate with the County Council, the lights themselves and all issues relating to the management and running of them are the responsibility of the County Council so some of your questions – as you will see below - are ones which you would need to address to the County Council.

The answers to each of your questions are as follows::

1. Could you tell me which Councillors agreed or disagreed on the Part Night Lighting

The Council decision in March 2015 to ask the County Council to restore night time lighting and to ask the Leader and Chief Executive to agree terms with Essex County Council was supported by the great majority of Councillors present but the names of those voting was not recorded so I am unable to tell you how individual Councillors voted.

2. Which companies have you approached to deal with the night lighting.

None. The proposal under negotiation is for the County Council to leave the lights it owns and controls on during the night-time hours when they are currently switched off.

3. How much is it going to cost to implement the new lighting.

The figure of £147,000 per annum to restore night time lighting for the whole District has been quoted by the County Council but Tendring District Council decided on 24 January (by an overwhelming majority) to ask the County Council to agree to switching lights on for part of the District but not others and to request costings for that. (Details of the decision and the Audio of the meeting will shortly be on the TDC website.)

4. How much is it costing for the L.E.D bulbs.

TDC is not involved in running the lights. This is a question for the County Council but I am not aware they have any plans to switch to LED lights.

5. How much is it going to cost in labour to fit them.

N / A – see 4 above.

6. If its agreed how many lights are going to be changed over in the first 6 months.

N / A – see 4 above.

7. When it comes to urban areas is the council going to use dimmable technology.

N / A – see 4 above.

8. Due to the lack of night lighting between 12am and 5am what precautions have you taken in regards to road sign, hidden dangers etc, will you change every sign in the district to be more reflective in the darkness using solar technology?.

The lighting is off between 1am and 5am.

These are questions you should put to the County Council as they are both the Street Lighting Authority and the Highway Authority.

9. How much time has been spent debating the night lighting since its turn off.

We don't have a record of the times of debates in Council meetings but it has been debated on several occasions and a Working Party has considered the issue of which areas of the District wish to see the lights restored and which are content for them to remain off – because opinion is varied across the District – and it has met three times for about an hour on each occasion.

10. What added security has Tendring District Council or Essex County Council done to improve safety while part night lighting has been implemented.

The District Council has not engaged any additional security. You will need to ask the question of Essex County Council for their response.

11. Would the cost of part night lighting be added to the cost of Council Taxation, if so much of an increase.

The Council's initial decision is to allocate funding sufficient to meet the cost for one year from its Reserves which will not directly impact on the Council Tax but the County Council have indicated that any agreement for the lights to be restored at night will need to be for a period of 4 years. So a formal decision will need to be taken by the Council when we know the cost of a four year agreement from the County Council and that decision would have to include how it would be funded. Whether it would be funded from an increase in the Council Tax would be a decision for the Council to take at that time. That is not a decision which has yet been made.

12. How much has it cost the public for the working party in regards to night lighting, meetings etc.

The only meetings held specifically to consider Part Night Lighting were the three meetings of the Working Party as described above. The estimated cost of those meetings in total is in the order of £250.