

EAST FARNDON PARISH COUNCIL STREET LIGHTING POLICY

1. Introduction

The Parish Council owns and maintains streetlights within the parish. This policy relates to the maintenance and operation of these units. Facts and figures shown are correct at the time of writing. The public are encouraged to report any issues with these lights to the Clerk of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is responsible for most of the lights in East Farndon. The Parish Council currently owns sixteen lights, all of which are LED lights (fifteen are 18W, and one 15W). As regards mountings, five are wall-mounted, nine are on steel columns and two are on concrete posts.

The Parish Council may adopt further responsibility for streetlights on new developments as requested, upon completion of necessary specification inspection requirements and an agreed contribution towards ongoing maintenance and a formal signed agreement (see below).

2. Aims and Objectives

- Maintain the streetlights in a safe and effective condition, within the agreed budget;
- Anticipate budget changes in line with maintenance costs and replacement rates;
- Learn from past experience and historical data;
- Comply with current legislation, legal requirements and best practice;
- Contribute to the UK's reduction in carbon emissions by reducing energy consumption;
- Replace lanterns and mountings at the end of their life or when beneficial to overall aims; and
- Maintain an up-to-date complete inventory of all street lights under the responsibility of the Parish Council.

3. Partial Dark Skies Policy

The Parish Council has adopted a partial dark skies policy, which involves all streetlights being operated with part night sensors that switch the lights off between the hours of midnight and 5.30am. This allows all residents to enjoy the benefits of a dark sky as well as generate further energy usage savings.

Prior to adopting this policy, the Parish Council considered the potential impacts of the adoption of a dark skies approach and took advice from a number of sources, as well as seeking resident feedback. Based on this analysis, the Parish Council formally adopted its partial dark skies policy in May 2023, as it benefits the village, the environment and its wildlife greatly.

4. Policy for Repairs

In order to maintain our street lighting at an affordable cost, the Parish Council uses a combination of reactive and proactive maintenance via its maintenance contractor.

Proactive maintenance consists of a quarterly condition assessment survey and minor repairs to each lamp are carried out as required. Where complete replacement of either of the lantern and/or the column is required, this is reported to the Clerk and a decision on replacement is made by the Parish Council.

Reactive Maintenance consists of lamp failure reports to the Clerk, who then advises the maintenance contractor that a repair is required and under the terms of the maintenance contract, they will attend on their next monthly visit. It is impractical and uneconomic for the Parish Council to carry out frequent inspections of lamps to confirm they are working, and the Parish council relies upon residents to report failures to the Parish Clerk.

5. Reporting Faults

Faults on streetlights which are the responsibility of the Parish Council should be reported to the Clerk, giving the nature of the fault, (flickering/intermittent/day burning etc.), the unique column number, the name of the road and the nearest house number/road junction.

The Parish Council is unable to deal with reports of faults on private estates that have not been adopted by the Parish Council; these reports should be referred to the developer or their management company.

6. Adoption of New Street Lights

It is the Developer's responsibility to obtain a Meter Point Administration Number (Mpan) from UK Power networks when requesting underground services for a new lighting installation from the electricity company. The developer will then be charged for the energy consumed by the street lighting installation from the date of connection. Further, the developer is responsible for the maintenance (including replacement of damaged columns and the like) of the new equipment and any existing equipment affected by the works from the date of commencement of works.

The Parish Council, if it resolves to do so, will adopt streetlights on new developments within the village where it is the lighting authority. Adoption of lighting systems installed by a Developer will be on the condition that:

- Prior to adoption, the lighting installation is inspected and any remedial works are highlighted - the developer shall be responsible for the costs of inspection and any remedial repairs, together with a lamp clean prior to a final adoption certificate being issued. In addition, dependent upon the age of the installation, the developer may be required to retest/repaint the installation at his own expense;
- The Parish Council receives an appropriate sum of in respect of each lighting column erected, to reflect a commuted payment for the future running and maintenance costs of the lighting column; and
- The installation is approved by the Parish Council's street light maintenance contractor, to ensure all Wiring Regulations and any other necessary conditions have been met.

Once a final adoption certificate is issued, the Parish Council will add the street lights to the Parish inventory and assign unique inventory numbers to each column.

In cases where the Parish Council does not want to see lighting installed, it will be acceptable for a developer not to provide it UNLESS required by County policy, e.g. in the case where traffic calming measures are installed which are required by legislation to be lit. In such instances, the County Council will take responsibility for the future maintenance of the lighting.