

Brigstock Parish Council Lighting Policy

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1 Introduction

Brigstock Parish Council is the lighting authority for the village of Brigstock within the area defined by the village boundary. The lighting is defined as footway lighting.

The following information relates to the Street Lighting Policy and aims to set out a code of practice which sets a standard for compliance in recognizing our responsibilities. Facts and figures shown were current at the time of signature. The parish council owns 124 (12 switched off) but currently maintain 112 street lights which have been upgraded with LED lights within Brigstock. These are located within the residential roads of the village. This policy relates to the maintenance and operation of these units. The public are welcome to report any issues with these lights either to the clerk for the parish council, or parish councillors whose details are on the parish website.

2 Aims and Objectives

- Maintain the street lights, in a safe condition, within the agreed budget
- Anticipate budget changes in line with maintenance costs and replacement rates
- Learn from past experience and historical data
- Continually aim to reduce costs and power consumption, without a detrimental effect to illumination or safety
- Replace lamp posts at the end of their life or when beneficial to overall aims
- reduce light pollution
- minimise lighting into residential properties
- minimise running costs by controlling the lights by photocell switches and power reducing on timers

3 Policy Statements

There is no statutory obligation for the council to provide footway lighting in any part of the village.

The council will undertake to replace existing lighting when it comes to the end of its useful life, subject to budget restrictions and consultation.

All lighting stock has been upgraded to LED lighting units to the Council's current specification. LED white light lamps shall be the preferred light source throughout the village. Where obtrusive lighting can be foreseen a shield should be specified as part of the design process where suitable. However, the illumination of the footway shall remain a priority.

Parishioner issues regarding obtrusive lighting shall be considered on an individual basis and alternatives explored before the installation of a lighting shield takes place.

If the Parish Council receives, from parishioners, requests for additional street light columns, or their removal or for changes in the light intensity of individual columns, the Parish Council will consider all such requests, conduct further inquiries with affected neighbouring properties and investigate alternative solutions where appropriate. Any such inquiries will be registered with the Clerk. Factors used in the decision making process include safety considerations, cost benefit analysis, the consent of neighbours and light nuisance.

Brigstock Parish Council supports the need to reduce light pollution and, where the opportunity arises, may elect not to replace a lamp post or light. New columns erected will be of a high standard and a design appropriate to the area. We will consult with residents and act on the balance of opinion where this is reasonable and within our budget.

Attempts will be made to limit the impact of our street lighting on the environment where possible and economically viable.

Where there is a new development within the Brigstock village envelope the council will consult closely with the developers to ascertain the amount of footway lighting necessary, if any. If agreed the council will formally adopt the lighting scheme. The developer will be responsible for the provision, erection and powering up of any agreed new lighting on unmetered supply. All repairs, maintenance and energy charges prior to the adoption date will be the responsibility of the developer.

4 Street Lighting on Wooden Poles

In rural areas Distribution Network Operators for electrical supplies have replaced overhead cables by underground schemes. A pole to which street lighting is attached may remain in place and ownership may be transferred to the Parish Council.

5 Reporting a Fault

It is worth noting that your councillors all act in an unpaid voluntary capacity. Unfortunately, it is not practical for every light to be monitored. We therefore ask all residents if you observe a failed light PLEASE REPORT it so that we can arrange for its repair.

For general reporting, please contact the clerk or a parish councillor and provide details of:

- the lamp number if available (usually displayed on a sticker on the lamp post),

- the location (e.g. outside number "x" Hall Hill) and brief description of the fault (e.g. lamp not on at night/lamp on during the day/etc)
- your contact details (name, address and telephone number). If the clerk is unavailable, an answer-phone service will be in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Contact details are:
- phone: 01536 373672
- email: brigstockcouncil@aol.com
- or write:7 Church Street, Brigstock, NN14 3EX

6 Records and Maintenance

Brigstock Parish Council undertake to:

- establish and maintain an up to date and accurate record of inventory as part of an asset management system.
- maintain an asset management system to record and control all cyclical and reactive maintenance activities.
- evaluate replacement policies to limit lamp failures to an acceptable level.
- operate a system for the reporting of faults by the public.
- identify recurring problems or common faults with a view to eliminating them.
- require residents with lamps outside their property to ensure the illumination is not diminished by tree branches or other foliage on their property or bushes allowed to grow around the service panel at the base of lamp posts.
- ensure that all systems of public lighting shall be maintained to a standard that ensures safe, economic, effective, reliable operation
- have all lamp columns structurally tested on a rolling programme.
- report all emergency faults within 2 hours. Non-emergency faults will be dealt with as specified in this policy

This Street Lighting Policy was adopted by Brigstock Parish Council on
 and will be reviewed again within 12 months.

Minute Reference

Signed Chair

Signed Clerk