

**Paper to Salehurst & Robertsbridge Parish Council
re Update on Streetlights Upgrade Project
for Parish Council Meeting – 30th January 2023**

Background

The Parish Council agreed to upgrade the current streetlights to LED lanterns – partially to reduce the consumption of electricity (by over 60%) and partially so that the streetlights are more environmentally friendly (reduction in both electricity consumption and light pollution) – and also to replace some old lamp-posts which need replacing. This was agreed in November 2021 and approval was sought from the Department for Levelling-Up, Communities and Housing (DLUCH) to borrow funds. We were notified that approval had been granted in an email on 16th November 2022. The Parish Council approved the application to borrow the funds from the Public Works Loan Board (UK Debt Management Office) at their meeting on 21st November 2022.

Purpose of Paper

The purpose of this paper is to:-

1. Update Councillors on progress;
2. Answer questions raised at the PC Meeting on 21st November 2022;
3. Indicate the next steps with an estimate of timescales; and
4. Seek approval for some additional expenditure.

Progress / Additions

An application was made to borrow the £44,000 as agreed and this was received on 10th January 2023.

The necessary works to be undertaken by UKPN (re the replacement lamp-posts) have been requested (and paid for) and we are awaiting a date for the works to commence.

A meeting was held with Streetlights, our provider at the end of November to advise that approval had been received from the DLUCH. More detailed discussions were held and it was suggested that the specification of some of the light fittings in the Conservation Area and the one in Salehurst should be changed so as to be more in keeping. Amount for approval is covered in Approval Section below.

Answer to Question

At the Parish Council meeting on 21st November, Councillor Todd was asked to check what the penalty would be if some of the loan was repaid early.

This is not an easy question to answer because the formula required to calculate it depends upon a variety of factors, some of which we cannot estimate at present – such as the discount rate and the annuity factor current at the time of repayment. The question was raised in relation to an application for Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds towards the lighting upgrades. However, we have been advised that the request was unsuccessful, so the question regarding repayment is no longer relevant; there is no intention currently to repay the loan early.

Next Steps

Streetlights have placed an order for the light fittings and are awaiting approval from Council for the additional expenditure. Once they have the go-ahead, they will provide us with an estimate of when they will start the work.

It is hoped that:-

- UKPN will undertake the necessary works and Streetlights will install the new lamp-posts over the next three month period; and that
- Streetlights will commence replacing the light fittings some time next month.

Note – we have been advised that, once we have completed the installation of the LED lights, our *consumption* – which will drop significantly - will be adjusted with our electricity supplier but the *rate* we pay will remain the same under our fixed-rate contract, until it expires at the end of October 2024.

Approval from Council

Council is asked to approve:-

1. Additional expenditure of £4,710 re the enhanced light fittings in the Conservation Area; and
2. The continuation of the project.

Sean

Councillor O'Hara

David

Councillor Todd

Karen

Parish Clerk