

Street Lighting Report – 12 April 2023

1. Background

The Parish Council has declared Climate and Ecological Emergency resolutions, and has been considering its carbon footprint as part of the drive towards Net Zero.

The key area for the PC to address is street lighting, and the PC was already trialling LED street light options when the energy prices increased.

The PC has in place a fixed price contract for unmetered electricity supply, which ends in July 2023.

The electricity supplier advised the PC to plan for a 400% increase in costs.

Therefore the PC began investigations into alternative ways to mitigate the substantive increase in costs as well as how better to address the Net Zero objectives.

A proposal was presented to the PC to remove a number of street lights.

This proposal was considered by the PC and put to the community for consultation.

This paper considers the impact of the comments received from the community in response to the consultation.

See Appendix A for a map of the current street lights.

2. Selection Criteria

The initial criteria use for identifying the lights for removal was:

- Road Junctions - Keep lights by road junctions
- Residual Lighting - Light spillage from houses
- Residual Lighting - The position of the next street light that was not a candidate for removal

The comments received from the Community Consultation have been reviewed.

A number of points were raised in the comments with some regularity, which included:

- Safety
 - Crime
 - Visibility
 - Female safety
- Retention of light 22 – Pipehouse Lane by the A36
- Access to the station – Station Road
- Consider a trial period

These comments could be addressed by:

- Crime – national statistics show that most break-ins occur during the day, and that reduced lighting reduces car crimes. Much rural theft is from farms and outbuildings, which is not affected by street lights.

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- Visibility – the use of torches / torch function on mobile phones would overcome personal visibility. Some people are against the use of torches, and some already have the need to use torches.
- Visibility - cars have headlights, and a torch is far more visible than ordinary clothing.
- Female safety is a difficult subject. There is no history of attacks on women in the community, or indeed of any personal attacks. Attacks have not started to happen in other rural areas where lighting has been reduced or removed.
- Station Road – whilst residents could use torches, non-residents will be at a disadvantage.

Care needs to be taken with statistics as there are marked differences between urban and rural areas.

Taking the comments into account, this clarifies the selection criteria as:

- Road Junctions – Keep lights by road junctions.
- Residual Lighting – Remove lights where there is residual lighting from housing and/or other street lights.
- Safety – Retain lights where there are Exceptional Hazards.
- Safety – Consideration of station access.

3. Street Lighting

On applying the reviewed selection criteria, which takes into consideration the comments made on the survey by Freshford villagers, to each street light this has slightly changed the status of the lights from the information provided with the survey.

The changes are as follows:

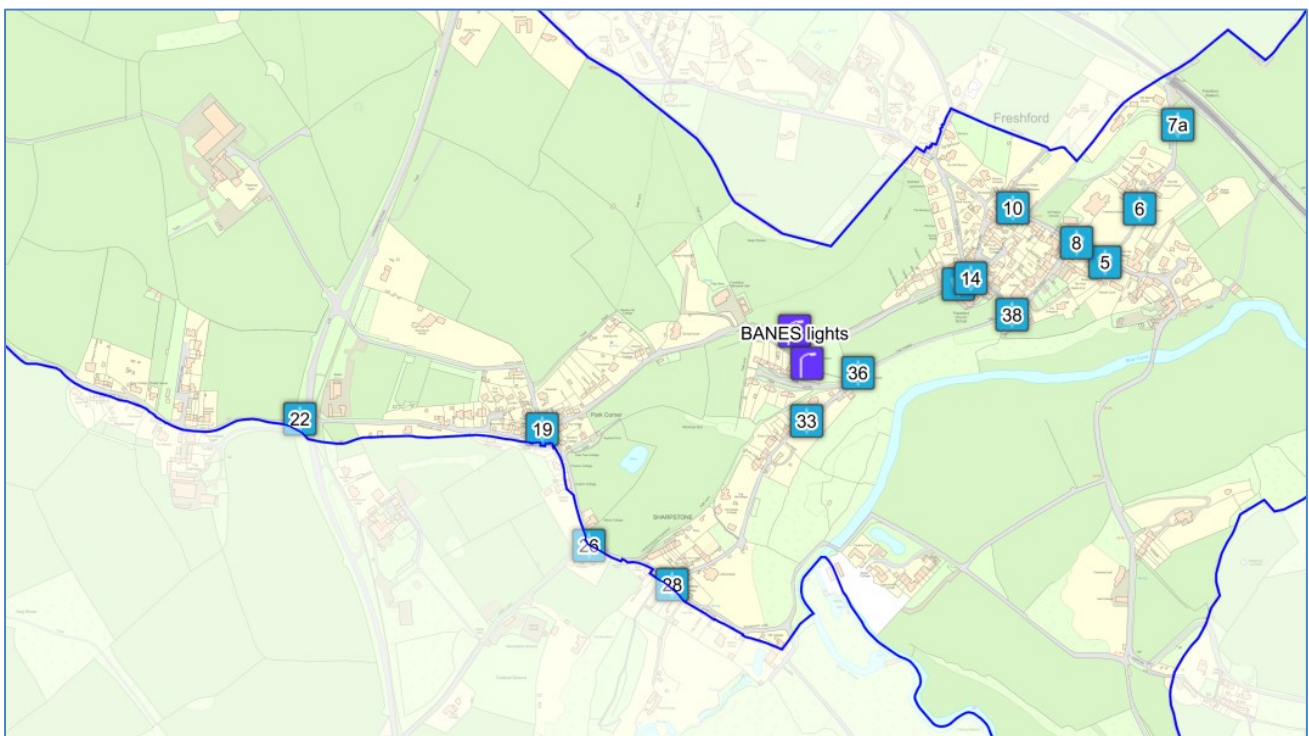
| FRESHFORD STREET LIGHTS | | | OFF or ON (Survey) | OFF or ON (Review) | Rationale for status change |
|-----------------------------|-------|---|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Light | Location | | | |
| PIPEHOUSE LANE | 21 | Pipehouse Lane - Outside Littlemead | ON | OFF | Not by junction or hazard |
| UPPER PIPEHOUSE LANE | 22 | Junction A36, Pipehouse Lane | OFF | ON | By junction |
| UPPER PIPEHOUSE LANE | 24 | Opposite Rose Cottage, Old Chapel Upper Pipehouse | ON | OFF | Not by junction or hazard |
| ROSEMARY LANE | 27 | Rosemary Lane, by Mount Pleasant | ON | OFF | Not by junction or hazard |
| SHARPSTONE | 30 | Sharpstone - Stonecrop | ON | OFF | Not by junction or hazard |
| SHARPSTONE | 31 | Sharpstone - Abbotsleigh Entrance | ON | OFF | Not by junction or hazard |
| SHARPSTONE | 32 | Opposite Friars Gate Garage - April Cottage | ON | OFF | Not by junction or hazard |
| SHARPSTONE | 33 | Opposite Methodist Church - Sharpstone House | OFF | ON | By hazard - protruding stone wall |
| THE TYNING | 36 | War Memorial | OFF | ON | By junction |

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The PC is investigating the possibility of undertaking a 12-month trial to allow for all seasons to be covered. Whilst the street lights not being retained would be switched off, the light furniture would be left in place for the duration of the trial. The PC is waiting for confirmation from Volker and SSE that this is possible and the costs involved.

4. Retained Lights

The following map contains the remaining lights, and BANES & CURO lights, and the school light 14A (behind 14).



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Appendix A – Current Street Lights

