



STREETLIGHTING POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1. In accordance with the Highways Act 1980, Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Electricity at Work Regulations 1989, there is no statutory requirement for local authorities to provide public lighting.
- 1.2. Councils do, however, have the power to provide lighting and once provided, have a duty of care to ensure that assets for which they retain responsibility are maintained in a safe condition.
- 1.3. Norfolk County Council, as the Highway Authority, is responsible for all street lighting on the public highway and maintains most streetlights across Norfolk.
- 1.4. Those in car parks in Diss are owned by South Norfolk District Council and some are maintained by Housing Associations and developers.
- 1.5. Diss Town Council (DTC) has responsibility for 230 footway lights, which are generally located in residential areas.
- 1.6. The primary objectives of this policy are to:
 - 1.6.1 Ensure that Diss Town Council lighting stock is maintained in accordance with current guidance, so far as is reasonably practicable and minimise risk to the public;
 - 1.6.2 Ensure that our lighting stock is maintained to the most energy-efficient standards currently available
 - 1.6.3 Deliver an efficient lighting service to Diss residents and visitors.

2. Maintenance Programme

- 2.1 Diss Town Council's lighting stock is currently maintained on the Council's behalf by Suffolk County Council on an annual contract. This is reviewed each year for best value and service.
- 2.2 As maintenance and energy are bought under the same contracts that the County Council uses for its own lights (currently manages over 70,000), it is in a strong position to get the best prices. You will be able to identify a DTC-owned streetlight from the sticker shown below, which shows its column number (to be inserted).
- 2.3. All lanterns in DTC-owned lights have been replaced with LED bulbs reducing energy costs.

- 2.4. Most columns have been replaced as part of a capital replacement programme when SNDC transferred ownership of lighting to DTC and should have a life expectancy of 20-25 years.
- 2.5. The Town Council is budgeting for the future capital replacement of columns. It is estimated that approximately £400k will be required over the next 23 years.
- 2.6. The streetlights are structurally tested each year to determine any defects and a re-testing programme of either three or six years.
- 2.7. Streetlights identified as requiring immediate removal will be dealt with as an emergency and either made safe or replaced with a new column or lamp.
- 2.8. There are occasions when a replacement column will be erected next to an existing light. This is because either the electricity supply is waiting to be transferred from the existing to the new column, or the existing cable cannot be reused, and a new service is required. All cabling works are undertaken by UK Power Networks.

3. Reporting faulty streetlights

- 3.1. If you would like to report a faulty streetlight, please visit <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> where you can also log any local problem, which will be sent to the relevant authority.
- 3.2. Please allow at least ten working days repair time for Suffolk Streetlighting to attend to a fault once it has been reported.

4. Part-night lighting

- 4.1. Part-night lighting is used to reduce our energy consumption, saving both money, carbon and CO² emissions in support of local and national policy and the darker skies strategy of the Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.2. Streetlights are controlled by sensors that detect when it is dark enough for lighting to be required and switch on the lights. This is earlier in the winter months than in the summer.
- 4.3. Approximately 50% of DTC streetlights are 'part-night lit' and are switched off from between 1am to 5.30am. This allows for public transport schedules and licensing hours.
- 4.4. The proposal is based on highway safety and therefore night lighting on town centre streets such as Mere St and main through roads such as Roydon Road as well as those lights on footways connecting developments is retained.
- 4.5. The lights will then come back on after 5.30am if the sensors detect it's dark enough for lighting to be required.
- 4.6. To deal with particular situations, the Police can request us to leave lights on instead of switching them off in a single or several streets for a period of time.

5. New development lighting

- 5.1. Where Norfolk County Council will not adopt streetlighting within a new development because it considers there to be no highway need, Diss Town Council may consider whether to accept ownership and future responsibility for the lighting.
- 5.2. The Council will normally seek a contribution from the developer towards the future maintenance and replacement of any streetlighting proposed for transfer to the Council. However, the Council may agree to accept the ongoing costs where it considers that the lighting provides sufficient public benefit and the financial implications can be accommodated within its current and future budgets.
- 5.3. Each proposal will be considered on its individual merits and will require formal approval by the Council. In reaching its decision, the Council will consider the number and positioning of the lights, neighbouring lighting provision, pedestrian and highway considerations, capital replacement liabilities and the ongoing maintenance and energy costs.
- 5.4. The Council will consider for example installing lights opposite junctions to offer some illumination at the areas where there would be more traffic and pedestrian movement.
- 5.5. It will also consider the darker skies policy, which aims to limit the impact of outdoor lighting on the environment and the Council's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.
- 5.6. The materials used would need to match what the Council currently has installed i.e. ASD LED lanterns.
- 5.7. An inspection of the newly installed lights will be carried out by the Council's Streetlighting contractor, before transfer of ownership to the Council upon satisfactory inspection.
- 5.8. The default lighting setting for new developments will be part-night lighting (switched off from 1.00am until 5.30am as per Section 4) and dimmed by 50%.