

## **SNC Footway lights consultation - TPC Proforma - Costessey**

We are requesting that you populate this proforma given the information we are providing you with and as a basis for discussion on the future management of lights in your area. We would appreciate if you could return this proforma prior to meeting you. We are aiming to at least initially meet with you by 16th March 2018.

### **1. Is your Town or Parish Council willing to assume responsibility for local footway lighting from SNC?**

### **2. 'Vulnerability' assessment**

The Council's provisional assessment 'vulnerability' is based on the criteria agreed by our Cabinet on 17 July 2017 which was:

#### **Vulnerability Definition**

- areas with a high concentration of particularly vulnerable people, who have a demonstrable need to be able to use well-lit footpaths at night-time as part of their regular daily life e.g. near hospital/GP surgeries to bus-stop paths, sheltered housing schemes and so forth.
- list the roads the lights are on and the column number, if you can see one or a description of the location, i.e. outside no. 6, or next to bus shelter, in the table below.

Given this we are seeking your input into the 'vulnerability' assessment of footway lights that are therefore 'needed' in the areas we have already identified along with others you may be aware of, which meet the assessment criteria as outlined in the table below. We will review your input into the assessment along with views from the community you serve in coming to a final view on the lights that are 'needed' in your area.

**Please list below the footway lights to be kept on the basis of 'vulnerability' – to include road names, the column number and where necessary a description of its location.**

| Road Name   | Column number (if available)  | Description of the location if no column number present |
|---|---|---|
| Beech Croft<br>Grays Fair<br>Tower Close<br><br>Linalls Drive | 9222, 0223, 9231, 9232, 9233<br>9103, 9104<br>9227, 9228, 9235, 9236, 9023, 9025,<br>9028, 9030, 9238<br>9241 |   |

Justification for retention of light, i.e. care home, doctor's surgery, bus stop etc

**ADDITIONAL VULNERABLE AREAS WHERE LIGHTS SHOULD BE RETAINED**

|  |                                 |  |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Ashtree Road<br/>(bungalows)</b>                | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |
| <b>Elm Close</b>                                   | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |
| <b>Folgate Close</b>                               | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |
| <b>Glenda Close<br/>(bungalows)</b>                | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |
| <b>Glenda Crescent<br/>(bungalows)</b>             | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |
| <b>Greenhills Close</b>                            | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |
| <b>Grovedale Close<br/>(bungalows)</b>             | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |
| <b>Gunton Lane</b>                                 | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |
| <b>Gurney Close</b>                                | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |
| <b>Gurney Road</b>                                 | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |
| <b>Hawthorn Road<br/>(bungalows)</b>               | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |
| <b>Highlands</b>                                   |                                 |  |
| <b>Hill Road<br/>(bungalows)</b>                   | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |
| <b>Kabin Road<br/>(houses &amp; bungalows)</b>     | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |
| <b>Poplar Close</b>                                | <b>ALL EXCEPT LIGHT OUTSIDE</b> |  |
| <b>Ruskin Road<br/>(houses &amp; bungalows)</b>    | <b>No. 23</b>                   |  |
| <b>Sidney Road<br/>(bungalows &amp; care home)</b> | <b>ALL</b>                      |  |

|   |                                 |  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Smithdale Road<br/>(bungalows)<br/>Sunny Grove<br/>The Glade</b> | <b>ALL<br/><br/>ALL<br/>ALL</b> |  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|

**Justification for retention of lights:**

**Ashtree Road:** Elderly residents in bungalows. Steep hill with poor footways to down to bus stop in Norwich Road.

**Carrs Hill Close:** Elderly residents have to walk down to bus stop on Townhouse Road

**Elm Close:** Backs onto Woodland. Potential ASB. Housing Association properties.

**Folgate Close:** Elderly residents have to walk down to bus stop on Townhouse Road

**Glenda Close & Glenda Crescent:** Elderly residents in bungalows. Have to walk up & down hills on uneven footways to access bus stops, local bakery & one-stop convenience store. Many of the surrounding areas and paths are uneven and when lighting fails, are very dangerous and difficult, to manoeuvre, let alone the fear of the possibility of an increase in crime occurring. Active Residents' Association complaining. The 12 houses on the left-hand side of Glenda Close have had both of the only two lights removed and the area is now pitch black at night. Another 4 lights have been removed around the other 31 houses leaving several areas unlit. Resident is concerned as to why this was done within the consultation period. There has been a light on the corner of the green outside 11 Glenda Close since the estate was built in 1969 residents have relied on the light which has now been removed and request that a like for like replacement is reinstated as soon as possible as the present lack of illumination outside is now unacceptable. The link type layout of the Glenda estate means there are a number of dark areas that demand lighting in communal areas to ease access through the pathways, some of which are uneven, and to prevent the possibility of an increase in crime occurring. New efficient technologies such as the motion-controlled lighting scheme along the Marriot Way bicycle track behind Halfords are welcomed. Residents request a visit during dark hours to review and assess the lack of lighting in the area and hope their concerns will be taken into consideration, and that the lighting is reinstated outside number 11. Many of the residents (out of the 43 properties) have been living on the estate since it was built, and an estimated 60% are older retired individuals, some with mobility issues. We also have some lone females who need to negotiate these paths at night. With the removal of the first batch of lights for 'safety' reasons, one side of the estate (affecting 12 houses on the left of Glenda Close) has

been plunged into complete darkness. Aside from some older pensioners in this area, there is also a female care-giver, who comes home in the small hours and is now very anxious about negotiating her way round the dark alleys in the pitch black. A further four lights have so far been removed on the other side of the estate, leaving some other areas in darkness. In the Glenda Close/Crescent area, the houses are laid out away from the road (and therefore without the benefit of streetlights) and are accessed via a complex network of narrow alleys. Even before the removal of the six light units, there were poorly lit areas, as the houses and established trees prohibit the light from spreading. It is essential therefore that we retain what we have (even if the units themselves require replacement) and that the currently removed lights are replaced with a suitable alternative. Residents are concerned as to where all the special levy has gone. In the 11 years that a particular resident has lived here, the maintenance of the lights has been negligible, aside from the odd bulb replacement resident is unaware of any maintenance.

**Greenhills Close:** Elderly residents, some living on their own, plus at least two disabled persons. Steep hill up to bungalows backing onto open countryside

**Grovedale Close:** Very steep hill with difficult path to bus stop

**Gunton Lane:** This area is subject to a considerable amount of ASB in the summer, also drug dealing. It is a cycle track & Bridle Way which links to Marriott's Way and often bikes do not have lights. Route for children to and from school. 3 people complained to date.

**Gurney Road:** Elderly couple in their 80s are frequent users of the footpaths in Gurney Rd & need lights between St Helens and the end of their road Woodview Court. (Woodview Court towards Bunkers Hill does not have any). With NCC spending less and less on the maintenance of the roads and footpaths, street lights are more important. They do go out in the evenings after dark to socialise with friends in the vicinity and do not have a car. In their opinion CTC should query the SNC criteria as streetlights are preventative and there is no data to support what might have happened had the lights been switched off.

Additionally, vulnerable people may live near to rather than on a street with SNC managed streetlights. They do support lights being turned off between midnight and 5am.

St Helen's Church Hall supports group activities and provides a place to meet socially. The surrounding areas should be lit to allow residents to access these groups safely. There is a regular play groups and in winter months parents will be taking young children along the road in the dark. The area is known for ASB and drug dealing and the Police have suggested to the Church Wardens that they install CCTV to try and prevent illicit activities taking place in the car park and the surrounding area./

One resident lives alone in an adapted bungalow with her disabled son who has serious mental health problems. Feels that the removal of lighting leaves them vulnerable to burglaries and anti-social behaviour. The street is now in total darkness and she feels unsafe walking in the dark and would not even attempt to push her son out on a dark pavement. Last year both neighbours had attempted break-ins and are now very concerned about living here. They moved from Ashtree Road a couple of years ago and would never have purchased a property on an unlit street, due to her son's fears. Wants street lighting to be reinstated around her property. Another resident goes to hospital for dialysis three times a week, and this would mean ambulance staff negotiating a wheelchair in the dark when the days start getting shorter again.

**Hawthorn Road:** Elderly residents, one just out of hospital having been fitted with a pacemaker. Very frightened of consequences of no lights as on her own. Not good on her feet and footways very uneven, so feels very unsafe. Another resident tripped over the kerb walking from Hill Road to Hawthorn Road because the junction is almost pitch black. Residents had not had a letter and are very cross. Junction with Kabin road now unlit and is busy and dangerous.

**Highlands:** Elderly residents have to walk down to bus stop on Townhouse Road. Residents frightened at lack of light. Footways uneven (Mixture of old tarmac and a rougher "trod"), so need lights to be able to keep footing..

**Hill Road:** Resident tripped over the kerb walking from Hill Road to Hawthorn Road because the junction is almost pitch black. Hawthorn Road had only two lights on it and they were nowhere near that junction. How can CTC remedy the problem of many elderly people who

now feel vulnerable now their streets are in semi darkness? Another resident lives on Meadow Close and regularly walks along Hill Road. Several lamp posts cut down, which has made it very dark walking along the road. You have a job to see the kerbside so slipping onto the road and being hit by a car is a strong possibility along with other possible problems.

**Kabin Road:** large nos. of elderly residents in bungalows, on a slope, leading down to the bus stop in Norwich Road. One particular household (27) has disabled residents. Junctions from side roads dangerous. Elderly & Disabled residents have complained about capping

**Ruskin Road:** Light shines straight into resident's and my son's bedroom windows at 23 disrupting sleep, so I also secretly hope that it will never be replaced with a new one, or I will have to stretch my already stretched budget and invest into blackout curtains.

**Sidney Road:** This road has a home for vulnerable adults who are cared for 24 / 7 by staff who go in throughout the day & night on shifts. The service users are not locked in and are able to wander around the area freely; they have been made anxious by the lack of regularity and some have called on residents expressing anxiety that the lights no longer function. There is also a high occurrence of elderly single residents in bungalows who have rung to complain that they would feel unsafe without lights. One had lived there for 42 years and was upset because she had always had lights. The road backs onto open land, so residents want lights to make them feel safe. Petition from residents in support of keeping all the lights.

**Sunny Grove:** car broken in to and purse stolen recently. Busy route for pedestrians (particularly bus passengers alighting on Norwich Rd), as well as a rat run for cars and cyclists coming from Old Costessey or Norwich into New Costessey. Hebron Chapel at the bottom of this cul-de-sac has many people of all ages walking down past bungalow number 77. Resident lives alone like others in this area, so definitely needs lighting to give the feeling of security

**The Glade:** Elderly residents have to walk down to bus stop on Townhouse Road

### 3. Additional footway lights the TPC wishes to manage

Apart from the provisional footway lights highlighted to be retained from the vulnerability assessment, are there any additional lights your Town/Parish Council would wish to retain. Please list these lights in the table below.

Please be aware that any lights beyond those identified as needed will need to be funded by the TPC from 2019/20 onwards. Any lights beyond the agreed needed lights will be decommissioned by SNC by Autumn 2018/19. For lights beyond those that are 'needed' that you want to retain and manage, we will pay you the equivalent of the decommissioning cost to help you pay for replacement when the time comes. If you take on more lights than we agree as needed we will transfer all non-needed lighting for you to manage. Thus, if you want more lights than we agree as 'needed' we would expect you to take over all the agreed 'needed' lights plus any additional you want to manage. Beyond that we will have to decommission.

| Please list below the additional footway lights your TPC would wish to retain. |                              |   |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Road Name  | Column number (if available) | Description of the location if no column number present |
|  |                              |   |
|  |                              |   |

**4. Any other matters you wish to raise**

***a) CTC disagree completely with SNC’s definition of vulnerability. Costessey is full of bungalows where individuals have chosen to live because they are elderly / disabled / need one-level living or are close to local facilities such as bus stops and shops.***

***b) With government trying to relieve pressure on institutions and the move to support the elderly / disabled living in their own homes, it is completely counter-productive to remove facilities eg streetlighting, which make elderly and vulnerable people comfortable with living at home for longer.***

**c) Many residents are complaining that the footway surfaces have deteriorated considerably in recent times and NCC does not keep them in good repair, so good lights are even more necessary to prevent accidents for pedestrians. This is a contradiction in Health & Safety. As Norfolk CC has less money to repair and maintain footways and roads their condition is now abysmal and there will be an increase in accidents. Lighting is essential to prevent these.**

**d) Residents do go out in the evenings after dark to socialise with friends in the vicinity. Many do not have a car and rely on good lighting to get them to and from the bus stop safely. Early darkness in winter means that many are out in the dark, even though it is not late.**

**e) Costessey is an urban area and residents expect streetlights to be lit. They have had this service which they believed they had paid for via their council tax Special Expenses levy and do not expect the service to be removed.**

**f) There is resentment amongst residents that leisure services are being prioritised over and above what they consider to be essential services such as street lights. 'Two million pounds on a Leisure Centre which I cannot access, yet no street lights. SNC doesn't have its priorities right' was one comment.**

**g) Residential areas with streetlights are an indication of a 30mph speed limit. If lamp posts are removed will South Norfolk pay for repeater speed signs if NCC require them?**

**h) CTC would like to see the latest inspection report and the reasons for cropping the lights. It would also like to have the dates of all the previous inspections as residents have stated they believe the lights have not been maintained over the years.**

**i) Residents have complained that they were not informed of the removal of streetlights. It is not just residents living adjacent to lamp posts who use the streets.**

**j) CTC AND COSTESSEY RESIDENTS WOULD WELCOME A MEETING WITH CLLR FULLER AND MS SANDRA DINNEEN.**

**k) IF CTC AGREED TO TAKE ON THE STREETLIGHTS IT WOULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE A PROPORTION OF THE £600,000 SET ASIDE BY SNC COMMENSURATE WITH THE NUMBER OF STREETLIGHTS IN THE PARISH**

**5. We would appreciate if you could fill in and return this proforma by the 16th March 2018.**

Please send this completed proforma back to [lightingenquiries@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:lightingenquiries@s-norfolk.gov.uk)

Many thanks

Bob Wade, Head of Environmental Services – [bwade@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:bwade@s-norfolk.gov.uk).

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