

Hazlemere Parish Council Street Lighting Policy

The Street Lighting Policy were adopted by Full Council at its Meeting held on 1 December 2015.

1. Introduction

The following information relates to the Street Lighting Policy in Hazlemere and aims to set out a code of practice which set a high standard for compliance, in recognising our responsibilities.

Facts and figures shown were current at the time of writing.

The Parish Council owns and maintains 487 street lights within Hazlemere. 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 to the Clerk of the Parish Council.

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
- Avoid the need to take out loans to complete works, where possible
- Learn from past experience and historical data
- Keep in line with current legislation, legal requirements and best practice
- Continue to aim to reduce costs and power consumption, year on year, without a detrimental effect to illumination or safety
- Replace lamp posts at the end of their life or when beneficial to overall aims

3. Background – Legal Obligations and Limitations Defining Responsibilities

Responsible Authority Area of Responsibility

3.1 Bucks County Council

Bucks County Council are the Highway Authority and maintain lights on the main A and B roads in Hazlemere. Buckinghamshire County Council (Transport for Bucks) own and maintain lighting columns on A404 (Amersham Road) and B474 (Hazlemere and Penn Road).

The Highways Act 1980 empowers a Highway Authority (in our case Bucks County Council) to provide lighting for any highway or proposed highway for which they are, or will be, the Highway Authority.

The Highway Authority has a duty of care to the road user. However, this duty does not require the Highway Authority to keep the public lighting lit. It does require the authority to be able to demonstrate that they have systems in place to maintain the public lighting equipment in a safe condition, including the detection of dangerous equipment.

3.2 Wycombe District Council

District Councils have the power to provide lighting as local authorities, acting with the consent of the Highways Authority; these powers were conferred by the Public Health Act 1985.

Wycombe District Council maintains some lights in Hazlemere e.g. car park in Beaumont Way.

3.3 Building Developers

Some Building Developers retain responsibility until the road is adopted at the end of a building project. e.g. De Havilland Drive

3.4 Parish Councils Unmetered Electricity Supplies

In order to obtain unmetered electricity supplies the Parish Council must enter into an *Unmetered Connection Agreement* with an energy supplier. An accurate detailed inventory of all its unmetered equipment, must be provided, in accordance with the requirements of the Balancing and Settlement Code Procedure BSCP520 on an annual basis.

4. Maintenance Strategy

4.1 SEC and SSE (non LED lighting) Phosco (LED lighting)

Our public lighting system obviously requires regular inspection and maintenance to ensure that it is safe, operating correctly, continuing to provide the designated performance and to maximize its life.

SEC and Phosco will respond to any faults reported by the Parish Council within 21 working days. In some cases, spare parts will need to be ordered, or additional work commissioned with SSE Energy relating to the physical supply of electricity to make the column safe. Such matters will be rectified as soon as possible.

4.2 Reporting a Fault

If a Member of the Public observes a failed light **PLEASE REPORT** it to the Parish Council so that we repairs can be arranged.

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 4 Albion Road);
- brief description of the fault (e.g. lamp not on at night/lamp on during the day/etc);
and
- 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. Alternatively, you can report the fault via email.

For ease of reference, the contact details are:

Phone: 01494 715548

Email: hazlemere.parish@btconnect.com

Write: Hazlemere Parish Council, Barn Lane, Hazlemere HP15 7BQ

Except in the event of an emergency we will visit the site to observe the fault before

4.3 In the Event of an Emergency

In the event of an emergency, such as a column being knocked down due to a road traffic accident, please contact: **Thames Valley Police**, who may need to isolate the area on **999 or 101** and then notify the Clerk to the Parish Council so that the incident can be properly tracked and recorded.

In the event of a road traffic accident, please provide details of the vehicle(s) involved, to the Clerk, as this will be required to institute procedures for the recovery of costs.

5. Requests for Changes to Street Lighting

The Parish Council receive, from parishioners, requests for additional street light columns, for their removal or for changes in the light intensity of individual columns. The Parish Council will consider all such requests, conduct further inquiries with all affected neighbouring properties and investigate alternative solutions where appropriate. The cost will be borne by the requestor.

Please register any such inquiries with the Clerk. Factors used in the decision making process include safety considerations, cost benefit analysis and the consent of neighbours.

6. Performance Reporting

The Parish Council reviews the performance of street lighting, which is our responsibility, on a regular basis and will compile the following statistics.

- Total number of faults by individual lamp posts
- Number of columns by type
- Number of decommissioned wooden poles now the responsibility of PPC (2)
- Number of faults per month over a twelve month period.
- Annual expenditure for unmetered supply, maintenance, and renewal.
- Costs associated with vandalism

7. Asset Management

A paper list of all street lights is held, it is hoped to put all these Assets onto an Asset Management programme (Pear) in the future. A library of pictures will be established of our individual street lights, so that we can monitor their life and condition.

7.1 Repair or Replace

Faulty lights are repaired unless we are advised by our contractor that repair is uneconomic. Hazlemere Parish Council support the need to reduce light pollution and where the opportunity arises, may elect not to replace a lamp post. New columns erected should be of a high standard and a popular choice appropriate to the area. We will consult with residents and act on the balance of opinion where this is reasonable and within our budget.

7.2 Maximum Response Times

These are received from our contractor (recommended industry standards) 21 Working Days.

8. Environmental Impact

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

This may include:

- moving to more energy efficient lighting;
- bulbs that offer more direction and less dissipation;
- the use of part-night photo cells (where the lamp is switched off between midnight and 5am); and
- introducing new developments on a timely basis, opportunities will be investigated as they arise.

9. Signage on lighting columns

The Council permits signs to be erected onto lighting columns, in line with Bucks County Council's policy for the size and height from the floor, permission for any Signage needs to be obtained from the Parish Council prior to notices being placed on lighting columns. The Parish Council accepts no liability for loss or damage to the signage and for no loss or damage if the signs causes any injury, separate insurance is needed by the sign owner.

October 2015

To be reviewed: November 2017