

EXTRACT FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 29 NOVEMBER 2006

SC22 STREET LIGHTING

The Strategic Partnerships Manager updated the committee with a report by the Institute of Street Engineers on the reduction of street lighting.

The four main affected areas were opposed to the proposal of switching off some street lighting, however rural parishes were generally in favour of switching off the lights to save on light pollution.

One problem that had been identified with the switching off of lights involved inadequate light for CCTV to operate efficiently. The police were unwilling to comment on the situation, however the local authority should exercise its power to reduce crime and disorder in its area.

Councillor Murphy drew attention to the Farringdon Study which he had circulated at a previous meeting which had proven that switching off street lighting increased crime.

Members viewed the proposal as having discrepancies and discussed the possibility of seeking legal advice. The Strategic Partnerships Manager suggested that the district along with the four main Town Councils and Parish Councils sought some form of legal advice as to the implications of switching off street lighting

Members further added that they were not against reducing light pollution and sustainability, and supported the suggestion.

As a result Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED that the committee recommend to Full Council that they are not opposed in principle to energy saving and sustainability, however, consider that the present scheme is not well thought out and that the consultation has been inadequate and hurried. That the Legal Department be asked to prepare a judicial review on the grounds that the proposal was ill thought out and inadequate consultation be sought on the grounds of Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act with a view to sending a case to Essex County Council.