

Committee: ENVIRONMENT

Agenda Item

Date: September 15, 2009

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Title: **CAR PARK LIGHTING POLICY – White Street, Great Dunmow**

Author: Diane Burrige, Director of Operations (01799 510580) Item for decision

Summary

1. The remodelled White Street car park has attracted some adverse comments from some neighbours in respect of its lighting. A consultation has been undertaken with affected residents and other stake holders to gauge views and establish the Councils policy in relation to this site.

Recommendations

2. That, Members consider the outcome of the consultation exercise on White Street car park lighting and,
3. approve a 3 month trial with a report back to the January meeting of this Committee for the reduction in hours of lighting in the season ticket holders area to turn off at 8pm and,
4. re-confirm the need to address community safety by leaving the current arrangements unchanged for the remaining areas with light sensor lighting permitting illumination of the car park during all hours of darkness.

Impact

5.

Communication/Consultation	A public consultation exercise has been undertaken with nearby residents and key stakeholders as listed in the report.
Community Safety	Any reduction in lighting will cause concern, the view of the Police Authority is clear that it must remain on. Some residents do not wish the lighting to be reduced as they feel vulnerable and have had cause to require police attendance.
Equalities	There are 9 Blue Badge holder's spaces in this car park.
Finance	Expenditure has already been incurred to provide shields, adjust light beams and reduce the height of 1 column. The current

	policy being maintained is cost neutral.
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	None
Sustainability	Small improvement if season ticket area is turned off an hour earlier.
Ward-specific impacts	Great Dunmow
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

- 6. The ongoing development of the Dunmow eastern sector has involved changes to our White Street car park this includes a new lighting scheme to fit the revised footprint of the car park. The District Council has been approached by nearby residents regarding the level of lighting that may or may not be needed for this site.
- 7. A consultation exercise has been undertaken with nearby residents, Police Authority, Great Dunmow Town Council, Chamber of Trade, the Co-op Supermarket, Uttlesford CVS and Dunmow District Council Members as key stakeholders.
- 8. Historically the 24 hour lighting policy was established as a community safety measure after a serious incident occurred in one of our car parks some years ago.
- 9. The 24 hour car park lighting has been objected to by some near neighbours.
- 10. This car park remains open 24 hours and its town centre location serves those attending nearby homes and businesses including pubs, restaurants and nightlife. The Co-op supermarket ceases trading at 9pm.

Adjustments

- 11. To minimise the impact on nearby properties one of the lights has had its height reduced, all have had their directional angles checked and adjusted where necessary, a time clock has been installed to turn off those in the season ticket holders' bay at 8pm, with independent advice the lighting columns that may affect residents have had shades added so that the glare of the light bulb itself cannot be seen from residential property.

Illumination

- 12. The lighting columns and beams have been designed to deliver surface lighting without the creation of areas of darkness between them. It is

essential that the whole area is covered so there is no opportunity for reduced numbers of lights or reduced levels of lighting without compromising the levels of community safety they have been established to achieve.

13. The consultation offered the following three options:
- 1 That the lights in all areas of the car park are on all night (as present)
 - 2 That the lights are turned off at midnight until 5 a.m. (same arrangement as ECC for street lighting)
 - 3 That the lights are turned off at 11pm until 5am.

Additionally, respondents were asked to indicate yes or no to the season ticket area being turned off at 8pm rather than 9pm which is currently the practice.

Summary of responses

14. Of the 31 surveys that were sent out, 17 were returned.

Option 1 (that the lights remain on as present)	Option 2 (lights off at midnight until 5am)	Option 3 (lights off at 11pm until 5am)	Season ticket area turn off 1 hour earlier at 8pm
4	9	4	Yes = 10 No = 7

15. Additional comments were invited in the survey and are attached to this report, the identifying details of the respondents have been removed for this report, all but 4 completed the senders detail.
16. Whilst there is an array of views, greatest weight must be attributed to the community safety aspect expressed and that the Police Authority consider this to be part of the town centre where the lighting would remain on.
17. The area is a gathering place for young people and a thoroughfare which may become more popular when the new Town Square is developed.

Risk Analysis

17.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That there is a detrimental impact upon community safety	2 Expert advice is that this area should be lit as with other town centre areas.	2 Fear of crime or actual criminal acts.	The 24 hour lighting policy remains
That there may be variable concern at different times of the year.	2 Seasonal festivities may encourage more users to stay late.	2 Persons parking may return late to an unexpectedly dark car park.	The lighting is solar sensitive and will turn off when there is sufficient daylight. (Automatically switches off when there is sufficient daylight).
That a partial lighting scheme is desired	2 Members may wish to adjust the lighting scheme	3 Any reduction in lighting will increase the risk and fear of crime.	The 24 hour lighting policy remains for hours of darkness (Automatically switches off when there is sufficient daylight).

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary,

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.