

Agenda Item No. 4(a)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

20 July 2017

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

**PETITION – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTING –
BENTFIELD ROAD, NETHER HEAGE**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To consider a petition requesting additional street lighting along Bentfield Road, Nether Heage, and to recommend that the lighting provision remains as at present.

(2) **Information and Analysis** At the meeting on 8 June 2017, the Cabinet Member acknowledged receipt of a petition signed by 39 persons, requesting additional street lighting at Bentfield Road, Nether Heage (Minute No. 59/17 refers).

The subject heading of the petition reads as follows:

“Petition to Amber Valley Borough Council requesting additional street lighting to Bentfield Road, Nether Heage.”

Officer Comment

Nether Heage is a village within the Amber Valley Borough and is substantially rural in nature. Bentfield Road is a residential cul-de-sac, approximately 160m long, consisting of a 5.8m carriageway and two 2m wide footways. There are four street lights along the length of the road. The spacing of these lights is approximately 40m intervals, and is considered to be commensurate with other similar locations.

These lights were originally orange Sodium lights, installed during the 1950s or 1960s, but have changed to LED white light as part of the Council’s ‘Invest to Save’ project. Light positions have not been changed during this process.

Light levels of LED lights supplied through the ‘Invest to Save’ project are comparable to those of the original equipment. However, these new lights have greater optical control, providing a much reduced light outside the footprint of the road, and wasted upward light is also significantly reduced.

In considering the provision of highway services, the County's current investment protocol acknowledges that street lights present a significant ongoing energy and carbon cost to the Council. Investment into additional street lights is, however, among a number of measures which can be considered to reduce night-time road casualties, night-time crime and anti-social behaviour, or if justified as part of a new development.

Interrogation of the Police collision database indicates there are no recorded injury collisions in the latest five year period to 28 February 2017.

An enquiry to the Community Safety Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) data indicates Nether Heage as being within an area designated as low crime.

Part night lighting is not installed within Nether Heage.

An enquiry to the LSOA data indicates Nether Heage as being within an area designated as low crime, having 38 recorded crimes for the 12 month period up to June 2017.

- Of the 38 crimes in the whole of Nether Heage, 11 occurred on Bentfield Road and involved three properties.
- 8 of these occurred at evening/night.
- Most of the crimes involved damage to vehicles, violence and thefts.
- Nearly all involved problem neighbours.

The Community Safety Team does not recommend upgrading lighting as the issues are very localised. Taking action on the offenders or supporting families is considered as a better long term option.

It is therefore recommended that no changes to the street lighting provision are made.

Local Member Comments

Councillor Ainsworth made the following comment:

"I am aware that the new lighting is different and will take some getting used to. I do know that the light that is emitted is at least the same as the old lights that have been exchanged. I would want the DCC to monitor the situation with the lighting and ensure that it is adequate to keep residents safe."

(3) **Financial Considerations** There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

(4) **Legal Considerations** Whilst the Highways Act 1980 allows councils to provide lighting, this does not place a duty on them to do so. There is no requirement for street lighting to also light private property.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property, social value and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details – Debbie Anderson, extension 38670.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

- 8.1 The request for additional street lighting on Bentfield Road, Nether Heage be refused, but kept under review as part of the wider LED programme monitoring.
- 8.2 The Local Member and lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities