

## Strong Community Select Committee

### Briefing Note

#### Residential street lighting switch off after midnight until 05:00hrs and main road dimming by 50% between 20:00hrs and 06:00 hrs.

The programme for switching off and dimming commenced after a motion to undertake further consultation, was defeated at full council on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014. Since the beginning of August 2014, MCC has switched off residential lights in the following towns:

Abergavenny  
Monmouth  
Chepstow  
Usk  
Little Mill  
Goytre

Currently MCC have turned off 2772 residential street lights after midnight, in the above areas, and 1013 main road street lights are being dimmed between 20:00hrs – 06:00hrs.

MCC currently holds a total stock of approx 10,000 units, and it is intended that around half of the total stock will be either dimmed or switched off under the current savings mandate.

The programme is continuing in areas where units are remotely operated. For those units that are controlled remotely there is no cost to changing the lighting regime, however, to instigate a change in whole streetlighting stock there would have to be further investment into extending the remote control system, or to fit either time switches in feeder points to control the lights. No lights have been switched off in areas of traffic calming, pedestrian crossings, highway related CCTV cameras or any other area that is considered a high risk to motorists or pedestrians.

No main road lights will be switched off under the present mandate.

A risk assessment (see attached), was undertaken early in 2014 to highlight and manage the risks to highway users. Consultation took place with the emergency services, and as a result, a process was instigated to enable the police, as the lead emergency service, to be able to request that lights be re illuminated remotely, should an emergency situation occur.

No lights have been switched off in any ward without prior consultation with the relevant ward Councillor.

MCC's streetlighting officer, Roger Joy has consulted with all the affected Town and Community councils, and one stop shops. He also offered to visit site with County Councillors, and if they had a problem area where they needed one or two lights left on, they agreed to do this on site. Roger also visited the local police stations and informed them of the MCC policy.

Since the switch off began, Roger has received several requests from residents, for lights to be switched back on. These requests were passed back through the relevant County Councillor, and discussed before any lights were switched back on.

To date MCC has received only one request from the police to switch residential lights back on, and that was in Abergavenny where several house burglaries occurred over one weekend, in Belgrave Road. As a consequence, MCC switched 3 of the 7 local street lights back on. There have been no further complaints.

To date, MCC has recorded on the Mayrise and Mailnow electronic systems, a total of 30 number complaints, relating directly to the switch off. Some of these complaints have been upheld, and lights switched back on.

With regard to the ongoing installation of the remote monitoring system, it is written into our new street lighting maintenance contract, (that MCC developed and also serves SWTRA and Torfaen BC), that every new lantern installed is to be intergrated into the MCC monitoring system. Due to ongoing budget restraints it is unlikely that the mass fitting of the system into other areas, will take place in the near future. All new street lighting designs for any new housing developments require that a comparable monitoring system must be installed, if the system is to be adopted by MCC.

The energy savings made todate are still being assessed, however, it is still anticipated that the one off saving of £180k, from the street lighting 2014/2015 budget, will be achieved.

Roger Joy  
MCC Lighting Engineer  
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