

West Dereham Parish Council

Policy on Lighting within the Parish

It is the Parish Council's view that great care should be taken to protect our countryside and night skies and to preserve our finite resources. Light pollution should be minimised by good design and the use of the correct equipment for the task. West Dereham Parish Council will encourage good practice through this guidance and, if necessary, by making adverse recommendations on planning applications.

Artificial light is increasingly being perceived as a form of pollution. Illuminated advertisements, floodlit sports facilities, security lights, and street lights can all contribute to pollution such as sky glow and glare. These forms of lighting can damage visual amenity, disturb people's sleep, and effect local ecology, as well as being a waste of energy. It is therefore important that light pollution is prevented and where possible reduced; through good lighting design, the reduction of light pollution should not conflict with the principles of crime prevention and safety.

Careful consideration must be given to all floodlighting proposals within and on the periphery of the Parish. All schemes should demonstrate that the scale of the proposal and the level of lighting will not have a significant adverse environmental impacts.

Whilst acknowledging the need for security requirements, owners of commercial premises and individuals can make an immediate difference by checking existing lighting, repositioning security lighting and perhaps reducing the wattage of the bulb. Remember to switch off lights when they are not required. By acting on this simple advice, we can all help to reduce the nuisance and unnecessary effects of light pollution and aim to minimise wasted energy.

Planning applications that include lighting schemes will be expected to cover the following:

1. The lighting scheme should not exceed that which is required for the satisfactory undertaking of the task involved;
2. Glare and spillage is minimised through good design, particularly in areas of open countryside, on the edge of settlements, adjacent to highways, or in other environmentally sensitive settings;
3. Illumination is appropriate to the surroundings and characters of the village as a whole;
4. The lighting is positioned to minimise the impact on the surroundings;
5. There is no significant adverse impact on the local community or environment.