

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Water Lane Street Lighting, Greenham.		
Report to be considered by:	Portfolio Member for Highways and Transportation Cllr. Sally Hannon	on:	7th April 2005
Forward Plan Ref:	ID0955		

Purpose of Report:

- To inform the Portfolio Member for Highways and Transportation of the results of the Informal Consultation on the provision of Street Lighting in Water Lane Greenham.

Recommended Action:

- That the Portfolio Member resolves that a system of street lighting be introduced along Water Lane, Greenham.

Reason for decision to be taken: To progress the above scheme as detailed in the body of the report.

List of other options considered: None Applicable

Key background documentation:

- See paragraph 3.4 for schedule

Portfolio Member:	Councillor Sally Hannon
Tel. No.:	01635 846855
E-mail Address:	Sallyhannon@hotmail.com

Contact Officer Details

Name:	Jon Winstanley
Job Title:	Principal Engineer
Tel. No.:	01635 519087
E-mail Address:	jwinstanley@westberks.gov.uk

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 The Greenham Transport Study was undertaken during 2002 and finalised in August 2004. Amongst other proposals the report raised the issue of the lack of safe pedestrian footways and cycleways linking the Water Lane and Pigeons Farm area to Greenham Court Primary School, and on to the town centre.
- 1.2 Water Lane in particular has been highlighted as an ideal, relatively traffic free environment for walking and cycling safely. However the lack of street lighting (especially during the winter months) raises concerns about intimidation and personal security, which may discourage use of the route.
- 1.3 In order to promote more sustainable modes of transport, this scheme proposes to introduce street lighting along Water Lane. This will link into a further scheme currently being designed to provide a footway and street lighting along Greenham Road between Water Lane and Greenham Court Primary School.
- 1.4 The scheme can be wholly funded from a section 106 developer contribution which is specifically for the provision of street lighting on Water Lane.

2. Drawings of the Proposed Scheme

- Details of the proposed scheme is attached in **annex 1**:

3. Consultation

- 3.1 An initial consultation letter was sent to residents in December 2004 to gauge their reaction to the provision of street lighting.
- 3.2 A further letter and plan detailing the proposed location of the columns was sent to residents, Greenham Parish Council and Local Councillors for comments for a three week period from 23rd February 2005. Copies of the letters are attached in **annex 2**. As detailed in the letters residents were asked to return a tear-off strip stating their preference.
- 3.3 Of the 21 residents consulted a total of 19 replies were received. Of these, 11 commented that they do not oppose the provision of street lighting, and 8 commented that they oppose the scheme.
- 3.4 The main concerns about the scheme from residents are light intrusion into their property, and concerns that the lighting will attract anti-social behaviour.
- 3.5 If light intrusion is a particular problem following implementation, this can be resolved by fitting louvres to light columns directly outside properties. Some evidence of anti-social behaviour was noted during a site visit, and it is the belief of some Water Lane residents that the provision of street lighting will help reduce this.
- 3.6 A full breakdown of resident's comments is detailed in **annex 3**.
- 3.7 As the majority of residents would like to see street lighting introduced to Water Lane, and considering the improvements for pedestrians walking to the Pigeons Farm area, it is recommended that the proposed scheme be approved.

4. Proposed Schemes

- 4.1 The proposed scheme comprises of the provision of a system of street lighting along Water lane, Greenham. The light units will be flat glass fully cut-off luminaries designed to concentrate light downwards with minimal overspill into residential properties.
- 4.2 The scheme forms part of a wider strategy to encourage cycling and walking in the Greenham area.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Column Location and Lighting Level Drawing.

Appendix 2 – Copies of consultation letters.

Appendix 3 – Schedule of respondents comments and officers response.

Implications

Policy:	This scheme contributes to the corporate priorities of: (i) CP5 - Ensuring the street environment is clean, well maintained and safe (ii) CP8 - Improving transportation
Financial:	Water Lane Street Lighting Cost - £22,000 This scheme has been identified in the Highways and Engineering capital programme for 2005/06, and can be funded from developer contributions.
Environmental:	The scheme will encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport, and improve the environment for walkers and cyclists in the Greenham area.
Community Safety:	The proposed schemes will improve road safety and reduce fears over personal safety.

Consultation Responses

Members:

- Leader of Council:** Cllr. Royce Longton is happy with the recommended action provided that the Ward Members support the proposals.
- Select Committee Chairmen:** Cllr. Brian Bedwell has been consulted and has raised no objection to the scheme.
- Ward Members:** Both West Berkshire Council Members representing the Greenham Ward have been consulted and are in favour of the scheme.

Opposition Spokesperson: Cllr. Brian Bedwell has been consulted and has raised no objection to the scheme.

Local Stakeholders: Consultation responses received are detailed in Annex 3.

Greenham Parish Council
Adjacent Residents
Local Councillors

Officers Consulted: Mark Edwards, Derek Crouch, Alan Braisher.

Trade Union: n.a.

Consultation Comments

Water Lane Street Lighting, Greenham.		
Consultee	Comment	Officers Response
Local Resident	We feel this will benefit the community as a safety feature	Agreed
3 Local Residents	Would like to ensure that the light does not shine through their bedroom window	The lights are specifically designed to reduce overspill into properties. If following introduction the lights cause a particular problem to residents, additional measures i.e. louvers/shields could be used to further prevent intrusive light.
2 Local Residents	Considers that the provision of lighting will encourage more youths to walk along Water Lane at night, and may encourage anti-social behaviour. Comments that it is usually still light when walking to/from Greenham Court Primary School.	During a site visit the presence of syringes were noted in Water Lane, indicating that some anti-social behaviour already occurs. The provision of street lighting may discourage these activities. During the Winter months school children would be walking along this section in the dark.
2 Local Residents	Feels that the provision of street lighting will change the character of the road, and that pedestrians should use Bury's Bank Road.	In some respects the provision of street lighting will change the nature of the old section of Water Lane; however this should be balanced against the benefits to pedestrians and cyclists.
Local Resident	Thinks the introduction of lighting would be 'great'	-