GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Street lighting upgrades — January 2025

1 Introduction

1.1 Most street lighting in Oxfordshire is managed by the County Council, but Goring is one of the small number of parish councils that manage their own. There is no statutory duty on the parish council to do this; the lights are provided as an amenity to the village.

1.2 The parish council is responsible for the street lights on the public highway but we do not maintain lighting in private areas, private car parks or on new housing developments. The area that we are responsible for is roughly within the the limits of the Goring village welcome signs on the bridge, Wallingford Road, and Reading Road. The County Council is responsible for maintaining illuminated traffic signs and bollards.

1.3 The parish council is responsible for administering the contract to supply the street lights with electricity, and to maintain them, including regular cleaning and re-painting.

1.4 There are currently 211 street lights on the managed inventory. Of these 144 are the older sodium lamps which give an orange, or orange-white light; and 67 are LED lamps that give a neutral or warm white light. The parish council have an ear-marked reserve (EMR) budget for replacing the sodium lights with LED lamps.

2 Street lighting policy

2.1 The long term strategy of the parish council is to have the County Council take over responsibility for providing and maintaining street lighting in Goring.

2.2 The parish council are aware of the County Council's policy set out in [1], and intend to replace all sodium lamps with LED lamps in line with that policy.

2.3 The County policy also sets out an ambition to turn off most street lighting in smaller towns and villages from about 1.30am to 5am in order to reduce electricity usage and to reduce light pollution. In line with views expressed by members of the public in the village, the parish council policy is to keep all street lights on from dusk to dawn.

2.4 The parish council will no longer pay for repairs to sodium lamps, any failing sodium lamps will be replaced with LED lamps.

2.5 New LED lamps will be fitted in batches of 20 to 30 lamps to make best use of the installation team. Where possible, each batch should include all currently failed lamps, and the chosen lamps should be in adjacent roads. It will take about six batches to replace all the sodium lamps in the village.

2.6 All LED lamps fitted in the village will have a factory-programmed controller that will dim the lights to 50% output from midnight to 6am.

2.7 There will be three different types of LED lamps fitted:

- LED-A – neutral white, 19W with 16 bulbs – bright for main roads
- LED-B – extra warm white, 15W with 12 bulbs
- LED-C – warm white, 35W with 16 bulbs

2.8 LED-A are brighter, and will be used for the main roads through the village: Wallingford Road, Reading Road, and the High Street (except for the residential part between the Pharmacy and the Free Church). LED-B will be used everywhere else, except for the eight heritage lamps on Goring Bridge, which need the LED-C lamps.

2.9 There are 41 LED-A lights already installed in the village, of these 27 are installed in residential roads. These 27 can be swapped for LED-B lamps, and re-used for the main roads.

2.10 As part of the upgrade program, the parish council may consider requests from residents for street lights to be added, removed, or re-positioned, subject to financial approval.

3 Business case for replacement

3.1 The parish council pay for unmetered electricity for street lighting on a fixed price contract that was calculated on the basis of an annual usage of about 64000 kWh. This annual amount is calculated by multiplying the wattage of each lamp by an assumed number of hours of darkness in the year (plus a small continuous amount for the light sensors).

3.2 Of the existing sodium lamps: each of the brighter SON lamps uses about 375 kWh per year; and each of the SOX lamps uses about 270 kWh per year. The new LEDs use less electricity: an LED-A lamp uses about 60 kWh per year, and an LED-B lamp uses about 48 kWh per year.

3.3 As of January 2025 our current mix of 144 sodium lamps, and 67 LED lamps represents just under 50000 kWh annual usage – this is slightly lower than the amount used to calculate the current contract because we have installed more LEDs since the contract was negotiated.

3.4 The target all-LED estate will represent about 10500 kWh annual usage. We should therefore expect to be able to negotiate a significantly better contract for electricity supply, since we will be using about 16% of our current supply.

3.5 The current sodium lamps usually have to be replaced every three years. The current generation of LED lamps typically have a manufacturer's warranty of five years, and an expected life of about 12 years.

3.6 The LED lamps need less maintenance than sodium lamps, so the costs of maintaining each LED lamp is about 25% of the cost of maintaining the equivalent sodium lamp.

4 References

1. Oxfordshire County Council, *Street Lighting and Illuminated Assets Policy*, 2022. `https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s62482/CA_OCT1822R11%20Annex%20A%20Street%20Lighting%20Policy_2022%20Clean%20Version%20250522.pdf`

5 Revision

This document is for discussion at the full council meeting in February 2025. When approved, it should be reviewed annually, and revised if necessary, by the Place & Assets WG in collaboration with the Clerk.