



Cambridge City Council

Area Committee Update Report

Project Name: Lighting on Parks and Open Space
To: WEST/CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE
Report by: Alistair Wilson - Streets and Open Space
Asset Manager
Wards affected: Market/Newnham/Trumpington

1 Summary

The project has been initiated to consider and respond to public concerns and opinions, relating to community safety and the lighting of key pedestrian and cycle routes across City Centre open spaces.

A project group consisting of key stakeholders has met and proposes the following pedestrian and cycle routes for further consideration:-

- Drift Way to Trumpington Road (Coe Fen) – Newnham/Trumpington;
- Maids Causeway to Victoria Avenue and Cutter Ferry Bridge to Maids Causeway (Midsummer Common) – Market;
- Jesus Green lock to Lower Park Street (Jesus Green) – Market;
- Footpath from New Square to bus stop kiosk/toilets and rear of Kings Street properties (Christ's Pieces) – Market.

No specific priority has been given to the routes suggested and there will be opportunities for additional routes to be considered within the methodology set out in this report.

For the lighting projects at Parker's Piece and Lammas land two different lighting treatments were used and these are considered to be the options for new sites going forward;

- To provide traditional overhead lighting column's on the park to spread light on the central routes and on a radius immediately surrounding each column.
- To define the key routes on the park but keep light pollution to a minimum. Solar stud installations have proved very successful in achieving this.

It should be noted that this brief report is intended for project initiation and as information update only and no recommendation approvals are required at this stage.

2. Project Background

There has been individual contact from the public to both County and Ward Councillors and a petition on the issue of lighting in Parks has attracted approximately 2000 responses but has not been formally submitted.

The increased interest is as a consequence of the installation of lighting solutions at Parker's Piece and Lammis Land with the common theme of requests to consider other key/strategic pedestrian and cycle routes on open spaces within the City

With most open spaces there is shared responsibility in that the City Council is responsible for the overall management of the sites, but the County Council are responsible for some path routes and the existing associated lighting columns as part of the adopted highway network.

A small project group has been formed to investigate the feasibility. The project group currently consists of the key stakeholders (see Appendix A) and this may change over time dependant on what projects are given priority.

3 Methodology for determining priority

The project is born from generic comment via local Councillors to 'increase lighting provision on central open spaces'.

To scope each individual project and the requirements for each of the sites and in line with NACRO (The Crime

Reduction Charity) recommendations⁽¹⁾ it will be key to involve the community in consultations going forward. It is suggested that these consultations should consider the following:-

- Number of people to benefit from lighting improvements;
- Cost of proposed installation (i.e. if extremely costly the installation might not be worth carrying out);
- Number of public requests for lighting a specific path/area.
- Environmental considerations around new lights - proximity to houses, light pollution etc;
- Ecological and biological impact on the space;
- Viability of installation in specific relation to lamp columns and nearest existing electricity source;
- Recorded crimes, looking at trends and patterns over both the long and short term and the possible impacts on reducing these if lighting was present.

4. Next Steps

The project will require further scoping and will need to consider;

- Prioritising of the sites identified and whether any other routes should be considered;
- Which lighting treatment is appropriate for each site;
- The costs associated with each scheme and from what source these may be met;
- Identification of possible risks associated with the schemes and mitigation measures as appropriate;
- Public engagement options.

⁽¹⁾ In 2006 Cambridge City Council commissioned NACRO (The Crime Reduction Charity) to undertake a study to develop a strategy to promote community safety in the Parks and Open Spaces of Cambridge. The project was titled 'Park Life' and can be viewed as a background paper to this report.

5. Background Papers

Park Life a study to develop a strategy to promote community safety in the Parks and Open Spaces of Cambridge by NACRO.

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Appendix A – Project Working Group

- Ed Cearns – Cambridgeshire County Council Councillor;
- Carina O' Reilly – Executive Councillor City Centre and Public Places – Cambridge City Council;

- Andrea Reiner – Opposition Executive Councillor for City Centre and Public Places;
- Kevin Blencowe – Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport - Cambridge City Council;
- Lucy Nethsingha – Cambridgeshire County Councillor;
- Alan Hitch – Strategic Projects Manager, Assets and Commissioning - Cambridgeshire County Council;
- Tom Blackburn Maze - Cambridgeshire County Council Asset Team;
- Alistair Wilson –Streets and Open Spaces Asset Manager - Cambridge City Council;
- Anthony French – Streets and Open Space - Asset Officer - Cambridge City Council Streets and Open Spaces; and
- Sergeant Ian Wood- Cambridgeshire Police

Cambridge City MP Julian Huppert also attended the inception meeting and maintains an interest in the progress of this project.