

ESCRICK PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT ON STREET LIGHTING IN THE VILLAGE – to be presented at the Parish Council meeting on 6th Jan 2014

1. OVERVIEW

1.1

The street lighting columns in the village fall into two categories. Those that are adopted by NYCC and are maintained by them and the remainder that are the responsibility of the Parish Council and are maintained and paid for as part of the Parish precept.

1.2

The Parish Council recently requested a report from NYCC to schedule out those columns within the village for which the PC are responsible, together with their recommendations for any works that are required. The Report was circulated to all Councillors and discussed at the November meeting of the Council. It was resolved that a working group be set up to consider the implications of the report and report back to the next meeting of the Council. The initial findings of the working group were discussed at the December meeting of the Council. The main issue for the Council is that the majority of columns for which we are responsible are concrete and have lamps on them that are now obsolete and after 2015 it will be no longer possible to get replacement bulbs. This has an immediate and long term financial implication on the Parish Council. NYCC are implementing a replacement programme on all the concrete columns they have responsibility for and are swapping them for steel columns. Residents will have seen these being replaced recently within the village at certain locations. NYCC were asked why they are replacing concrete columns and we have been advised that with age the concrete can deteriorate and whilst the majority of our columns show no signs of failure this can happen at any time.

1.3

Costing options formulated by the working group were referred to at the December Council meeting but no detailed explanation of the breakdown of the options was tabled for councillors to consider. The possibility of a loan being taken out to implement a full programme of lighting column replacement was discussed but Councillors did not believe sufficient information was as yet available for them to give full consideration to this matter. It was resolved at the December meeting that Councillor Luscombe should seek further clarification from NYCC what a detailed re design would cost the PC, as the initial NYCC report had indicated that unless the street lighting was brought up to an adoptable standard then there would be no possibility of the lighting being adopted by NYCC in the future. NYCC had also confirmed in their report, that at the present time even if the lighting were to be brought up to an adoptable standard, they had no funding to take over the lighting. These factors may influence what course of action the Parish Council should adopt.

2. OPTIONS as proposed by the working group

2.1

The working group prepared an extended version of the NYCC street lighting schedule a copy of which is attached to this report. The 3 shaded columns at the end of the report were

added by the working group and show the 3 options considered and the cost implications. Also attached to the end of the schedule is a summary of the pros and cons against each option and further actions that could be considered. Extracted and set out below is a summary of the main points to consider with each option.

Option 1 – this was to do nothing and was not considered a responsible proposal which resulted in the variation below:-

Option 1 a

- Carry out those Priority 1 items at a cost of £6,400 on 7 out of 33 lamps ie.21% of the columns, would be replaced with steel columns.
- We would then need to purchase a stock of light bulbs to hold as spares as for the remaining obsolete columns, as after 2015 these bulbs will not be available.
- Funding would be required for the £6,400 and there would be a future liability as all lighting columns would remain the responsibility of the Parish Council and we would be supporting a street lighting scheme soon to become obsolete. This would simply delay any financial impact on the Council.

Option 2

- Undertake the works in 1a above and on the remaining concrete columns replace the obsolete lantern heads with FOC replacement heads that NYCC would supply for these columns. These heads are from concrete columns that NYCC are currently replacing but are sound. The cost of this option is £11,875 and the lamps would become 40 W fluorescent fittings instead of the 80 WMBF/U which are obsolete.
- The illumination levels from these new lamps would be much better than the old ones we currently have.
- This would also reduce our energy bill by approximately 50% on advice from NYCC. See extract from copy email later in this report.
- Funding would be required.

Option 3

- Replace all our concrete and timber columns with new steel columns at a total cost of £22,750. (**note** -subject to review of the cost following a NYCC re design of the street lighting maintained by the Parish Council)
- This would generate savings in our annual electricity costs.
- Subject to a design review by NYCC this would bring the lighting up to an adoptable standard, (please see the update comments on the NYCC design later in this report and the new 4th Option introduced). **However**, NYCC have also indicated that they currently have no provisions to be able to adopt any street lighting from Parish Councils. So even if we took out a loan and carried out the necessary works the lighting may still remain the liability of the Parish Council.

3. NYCC – REDESIGN OF STREET LIGHTING

3.1

Following the December Council meeting as proposed Councillor Luscombe approached NYCC to ascertain the cost of a redesign by their technical department. 3 questions were posed to NYCC and their reply to each point is set out below in full.

□ Designs can be provided to bring lighting up to adoptable standards. The fees are on a street by street basis or several streets can be lumped together. The pricing schedule for design is £300 for the first 5 columns, more than 5 and up to 20 at £35 and additional over 20 at £20, VAT not included (not a fixed fee). This is based on new columns that are proposed not the number of existing in the road. At the moment (due to current work load) it would be several weeks before we could respond to any enquiries of this nature.

□ NYCC could make second hand lanterns available, however the Contractor cannot hold these indefinitely, so we would have to see what lanterns (if any) were available at the time.

□ If you replaced your existing MBF/U lanterns for 42 compact fluorescent you would reduce your energy bill by approximately half.

Unfortunately this reply means we cannot obtain a redesign of the street lighting we maintain for the £250 figure discussed at the December Council meeting. NYCC need to be formally asked to quote for a redesign of our street lighting subject to what the Parish Council decided it wants to do. Without this design we can only make an estimate of the likely cost of bringing all the lighting we currently maintain up to an adoptable standard. Therefore the Parish Council will need to consider a possible 4th Option which is set out below.

Option 4

- Commission an adoption survey by NYCC in order to ascertain the additional costs over and above Option 3 for any extra lighting columns or repositioning of existing lighting and NYCC's plans for eventual adoption.
- Option 3 plus the additional redesign costs would then become Option 4 the most expensive solution for the Parish Council.

4. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCILLORS

4.1 Redesign by NYCC

Do we need to formally request a quotation for a redesign from NYCC for all the roads that have street lighting on, that the Parish Council maintain. Without this information we cannot ascertain what additional lamps we require to install to bring the lighting up to an adoptable standard even though NYCC may not adopt the lighting at this time due to their own internal constraints.

4.2 Funding

Attached to this report is a table showing indicative repayments on a typical £25,000 loan (Option 3 plus some estimated extra costs!) that could be taken out by the Parish Council from the Public Works Loan Board. Should the Council make some tentative enquires as to the cost of loans making a calculated assessment of the size of maximum loan required. If so on which options should we do this?

4.3 Consultation with Residents

We need to agree what public consultation exercise is needed, if any, for this matter. Possibly setting out the options and deciding what standard of Street Lighting is required in the village.

4.4 Indicative Funding Costs

To try and give an indication of the cost impact on the village precept a table of average cost per month per household has been drawn up for the first 3 Options. This can only be indicative as we realise it will be calculated on Council Tax bands (It has been calculated by taking the Loan amount, over the loan period divided by the Selby District Council tax base of 400 houses for the village and then shown this as a monthly payment. This will give an indication of the typical cost per house for each funding option)

Initial Amount borrowed	Total paid over 5 yrs	Total paid over 10yrs	Total paid over 15yrs
£6400 (OPTION 1 a)	£6782.27	£7496	£8461.5
£11875 (OPTION 2)	£12585	£13908.6	£15699.6
£22750 (OPTION 3)	£24110.3	£26645.8	£30077.1

Amount Borrowed £6400 (OPTION 1a)	Repayment/house/per month over 5yrs	Repayment/house/per month over 10yrs	Repayment/house/per month over 15yrs
£6782.27	£0.28		
£7496		£0.15	
£8461.5			£0.11
Amount Borrowed £11875 (OPTION 2)	Repayment/house/per month over 5yrs	Repayment/house/per month over 10yrs	Repayment/house/per month over 15yrs
£12585	£0.52		
£13908.6		£0.28	
£15699.6			£0.21

Amount Borrowed £22750 (OPTION 3)	Repayment/house/per month over 5yrs	Repayment/house/per month over 10yrs	Repayment/house/per month over 15yrs
£24110.3	£1.00		
£26645.8		£0.55	
£30077.1			£0.41

4.5 Any other items generated from the report