

Your ref: Letter Received 28/4/2025.

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Frank Jordan,
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Dear Teversham Parish Councillors,

Letter Received from Teversham Parish Council – 28/4/2025.

Thank you for your letter detailing the record of the Parish Councils concerns with the LED lanterns that have been installed in Teversham as part of the County Councils LED lantern replacement project.

To provide some further information on our lantern replacement project, which will hopefully address the concerns you have raised, please see the information below:

The aim for this project is to maximise energy savings, whilst trying to provide approximately similar lighting to that previously in place on the highway.

Our standard streetlight for residential roads has previously been a 36W fluorescent type, known as PL-L. During the planning of this project, we worked with lighting manufacturers to seek to as closely as possible replicate the lighting output of this light with LED lanterns. It should be emphasised again at this stage that we are only concerned with the illumination of the highway (road surface and adjacent footpaths), not the overall “spread” of the 36W PL-L, which is much wider and less controlled than is actually required to accurately light the highway.

Whilst it is never possible to 100% replicate any light source with another, when looking at a street illuminated by 36W PL-L lights, the luminance impact on the eye will be rather high, as you can generally see the lamps themselves, and there is a lot of sideways light. This gives the impression of brightness, and as this brightness increases it can become glare. With the new LED lanterns, the luminance is vastly reduced, as now the light sources are much more hidden, and there is very little sideways light. Therefore, to the observer, the brightness is much reduced. For residential roads, however, we are concerned with the amount of light hitting the highway (illuminance, or light measured on a surface), between the backs of

footpaths. Our findings have been that the illuminance on the highway itself is very similar under our new LED lights as it was with the 36W PL-Ls. In some spots the levels are higher, in some spots lower, but the overall average is comparable. It seems counter-intuitive, but the luminance (overall sense of brightness to an observer from a given position) can be reduced while the illuminance (light reaching the ground) remains the same or even increases. Again, it isn't possible to absolutely replicate any light source with another one, but all the software and site checks we have done confirm that the LEDs provide comparable lighting levels on the ground.

The County Councils Street Lighting Energy Savings report to the Highways and Transport committee on the 3rd of October 2023 notes for equality and Diversity implications, that there were no significant implications to report on within this category and that a full equality impact assessment (EqIA) had been undertaken as part of the business planning process.

I would also advise that there is no legal requirement for local authorities to provide street lighting, but the Council has a duty to maintain street lights that are installed on adopted highways. The Council has a duty to the highway users and must ensure it can demonstrate it has systems and programmes in place to ensure the safety of all highway lighting equipment.

As discussed on my site visit and as detailed in my e-mail to the Parish Council clerk on the 27th March, I have added the points discussed for the High Street, Teversham to our street lighting installation improvement request log, that included if funding was made available looking to install additional lights along the high street to create a staggered lighting column layout, that would improve the lighting on the High Street and improve the overall perception of the high Street being well lit on both sides of the road in the sections where at present the street lights are installed on one side of the road only.

Thank you again for contacting us with regards the County Councils LED lantern replacement project.

Yours sincerely



Alan Hitch
Strategic Projects Manager
Infrastructure and Project Delivery
Cambridgeshire County Council