

Polls @ PARWICH.ORG relating to Part Night Street Lighting in Parwich Village

Interim Results Wednesday 27th March 2013

Summary of Poll Responses to Derbyshire County Council Recommendations

The readers of PARWICH.ORG agreed that there should be some form of reduction in street lighting (87%), with most (51%) arguing that the decision should be made on a light by light basis.

The poll results agreed with the Council's recommendations for 16 of the 33 street lights in Parwich, there was a split vote for 2 lights and they disagreed to varying degrees with the recommendations for 15 lights (see below for full results and workings out). The lights where the poll results did not agree were as follows:

Disagree

(a) Polls say should be part night:

- Light 065368 – outside 2 Chestnut Cottages – **County Council propose remain on all night**
- Light 093093 – outside Flats 2 to 7 Smithy Close – **County Council propose remain on all night**
- Light **093094** – outside Flats 8 to 11 Smithy Close – **County Council propose remain on all night**
- **Light 104261** – outside 12 Smithy Close – **County Council propose remain on all night**
- Light 065365 – outside Flaxdale House – **County Council propose remain on all night**
- (Light 065373 – outside Hallcliffe Barn – **County Council propose remain on all night**)
- (Light 065371 – corner of Orchard View Cottage garden – **County Council propose remain on all night**)
- Light 092988 – in Creamery Lane opposite 1 West View – **County Council propose remain on all night**
- **Light 065356** - in Creamery Lane opposite Croft Avenue opening – **County Council propose remain on all night**
- Light 065355 – on triangle at Creamery Lane/Monsdale Lane fork – **County Council propose remain on all night**
- **Light 065359** – outside 5 Croft Avenue – **County Council propose remain on all night**
- Light 077643 – in car parking in middle of Rathbourne Croft Houses - **County Council propose remain on all night**

(b) Polls say should be all night:

- **Light 065364** – opposite Brentwood – **County Council propose part night**
- **Light 065363** – outside Telephone Exchange – **County Council propose part night**

(c) Polls say should be switched off permanently:

- Light 065360 – outside Gardener’s Cottage – **County Council propose part night**

Split votes

- Light 065369 – at Creamery Lane opening outside Nethergreen Cottage – **County Council propose remain on all night**
- Light 092989 – at Parwich Hall end of Kiln Lane – County Council propose permanently switched off

Though on-line poll results should be treated with caution, there does seem to be a clear recommendation that that more lights should be part night than the County Council proposes (including Smithy Close, Church Walk, Creamery Lane, Croft Avenue, Rathbourne Croft and Monsdale Lane), that is all the lights beyond Main Street and the prime through routes. There is further strong support for some changes in Main Street, with the light by Flaxdale suggested as part night and the ones opposite Brentwood and by the phone exchange being on all night.

In relation to switching off lights on Kiln Lane, there is no consensus about the one near Parwich Hall (30% all night, 30% part night and 40% switch off), agreement about switching of the one by Bells Yard and in addition a suggestion that the one by Gardener’s cottage also be switched off.

We at PARWICH.ORG recommend that the County Council review their proposals for all 17 of the lights listed above, including the 2 split votes. We however do recognise that there may be other factors beyond local preferences influencing decisions, for instance the two lights outside the Flats in Smithy Close.

Posts & Polls

The posts on this topic on the community blog PARWICH.ORG were:

- 2013 Part Night Street Lighting in Parwich
<http://parwich.org/2013/02/25/2013-part-night-street-lighting-in-parwich/>
- Part Night Street Lighting – background
<http://parwich.org/2013/03/05/part-night-street-lighting-post-1/>
- Part Night Street Lighting in Parwich – Have your say
<http://parwich.org/2013/03/07/part-night-street-lighting-have-your-say/>
- Your say on street lighting
<http://parwich.org/2013/03/15/your-say-on-street-lighting/>
- Interim Street Light Results
<http://parwich.org/2013/03/20/interim-street-light-results/>
- Street Lights Consultation Ends Soon
<http://parwich.org/2013/03/24/street-light-consultation-ends-soon/>
- Parwich Street Lighting Polls Final Results
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The General Issue

Comments suggest a wide range of views from turn off street lights altogether to keep all on all night, and concerns ranged from fear of crime to worries about light pollution (see transcript of all comments below). These contradictory views are sincerely held and it could be argued that in part this is an issue of personal preference. However, perhaps surprisingly, the poll on the general issue of part night street lighting in Parwich indicates strong support for some form of reduction in street lighting.

Do away with all street lights	Turn all lights off between 12 and 5-30	Decide on a light by light basis	Keep all lights on all night
7 11%	15 25%	31 51%	8 13%

Table 1: votes cast on poll @ PARWICH.ORG between 5/3/13 and 27/3/13

Some 61 responded, with a majority of 87% in favour of some form of reduction in street lighting, and with the largest group (51%) supporting the need to decide on a light by light basis.

Poll Results for each street light

Polls for each individual street light were posted @ PARWICH.ORG and the results are show in the Table below from votes cast between 7/3/13 and 31/3/13. It is known that some people voted for just the lights by their house and others voted for lights throughout the village. The system only allows one vote per user, but we cannot say how many votes were cast from outside the area. Obviously people not on-line may not have had an opportunity to vote, which may mean that older people are underrepresented.

In interpreting the results we have considered both whether the majority agree or disagree with DCC proposals (e.g. where it was proposed that a light stays on all night, those voting for part night or switching off have been added together as both are opposed to all night street lighting, and conversely where DDC propose switching off a light, those voting for all night and part night have been added together as they obviously disagree), and which is the individual option that gets the most votes. When both responses coincide, especially when the preferred option has 50% or more of the vote, this gives a clear recommendation.

However it is harder to infer a recommendation when these two responses contradict each other, so we have recorded these as a split vote, though fortunately there is relatively few. However we do recommend that the DCC review these split vote lights, as well reviewing the lights where the poll result unambiguously disagree with their original proposal, as there is obviously some reason for this split in the voting.

Where there is no single option that is most popular, recommendations have been made on the basis of the overall agreement or disagreement with the original DCC proposal.

PARWICH.ORG readers disagree with the DDC proposals for 15 lights, have not reached a consensus for 2 lights, and agree with the proposals for 16 lights.

The results argue:

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Table 2 votes cast on polls for each individual street light @ PARWICH.ORG between 5/3/13 and 27/3/13

Light	DCC proposals	Poll results			Overall reaction to DCC recommendation	Most popular option	PARWICH.ORG readers recommendations
		On all night	Part night	Turn off			
Nethergreen (through route)							
065369 Creamery Lane opening by Nethergreen Cottage	all night	9 45%	7 35%	4 20%	55% disagree	45% all night	split vote
Sycamore & Chestnut Cottages (through route)							
087923 outside 12 Sycamore Cottages	part night	4 27%	9 60%	2 13%	60% agree	60% part night	definitely part night
065368 outside 2 Chestnut Cottages	all night	6 40%	7 47%	2 13%	60% disagree	47% part night	part night
Smithy Close (cul-de-sac)							
093093 outside Flats 2 to 7	all night	5 36%	6 43%	3 21%	64% disagree	43% part night	part night
093094 outside Flats 8 to 11	all night	6 37.5%	8 50%	2 12.5%	62.5% disagree	50% part night	definitely part night
104261 outside 12 Smith Close	all night	4 25%	10 62.5%	2 12.5%	75% disagree	62.5% part night	definitely part night
Main Street (through route)							
065367 roadside gable of Dam Farm	all night	13 76%	2 12%	2 12%	76% agree	76% all night	definitely all night
065366 by bus shelter on The Green	part night	8 47%	8 47%	1 6%	53% less lighting	?	? part night
065365 outside Flaxdale House	all night	6 32%	8 42%	5 26%	68% disagree	42% part night	part night
065364 opposite Brentwood	part night	9 60%	5 33%	1 7%	60% all night	60% all night	definitely all night
065363 outside Telephone Exchange	part night	7 50%	6 42%	1 7%	50% all night	50% all night	definitely all night

065362 corner of Main Street & Pump Hill	all night	11 73%	2 13%	2 13%	73% agree	73% all night	definitely all night
Shaw Lane/Alsop Lane (through route)							
087922 on triangle next to Legion	all night	8 53%	4 27%	3 20%	53% agree	53% all night	definitely all night
065353 on bend near Flat Stiles drive	all night	9 65%	3 21%	2 14%	65% agree	65% all night	definitely all night
065354 near Staines Cottage, proposed part night	part night	3 22%	9 64%	2 14%	64% agree	64% part night	definitely part night
Lenscliffe (local access only)							
065370 between School & Lilac Cottage	part night	5 33%	6 40%	4 27%	67% less lighting	40% part night	part night
Smithy Lane (through route)							
065374 outside Crown Cottage	part night	6 37.5%	6 37.5%	4 25%	62.5% less lighting	?	? part night
087921 opposite Hall Gates Cottage	part night	6 40%	7 47%	2 13%	60% less lighting	47% part night	part night
Church Walk (local access only)							
065373 outside Hallcliffe Barn	all night	5 36%	5 36%	4 28%	64% disagree	?	? part night
065372 outside 6 Church Walk	part night	6 37%	7 44%	3 19%	63% less lighting	44% part night	part night
065371 corner of Orchard View Cottage garden	all night	4 36.5%	4 36.5%	3 27%	63.5% less lighting	?	? part night
Creamery Lane (generally only local access)							
092988 opposite 1 West View	all night	3 27%	5 46%	3 27%	73% disagree	46% part night	part night
065356 opposite Croft Avenue opening	all night	3 30%	5 50%	2 20%	70% disagree	50% part night	definitely part night

065355 on triangle at Creamery Lane/Monsdale Lane fork	all night	3 27%	5 46%	3 27%	73% disagree	46% part night	part night
Croft Avenue (cul-de-sac)							
065357 outside 1 Croft Avenue	part night	3 37.5%	4 50%	1 12.5%	50% agree	50% part night	definitely part night
065358 outside 9 Croft Avenue	part night	2 25%	5 62.5%	1 12.5%	62.5% agree	62.5% part night	definitely part night
065359 outside 5 Croft Avenue	all night	2 22%	5 56%	2 22%	78% disagree	56% part night	definitely part night
Kiln lane (local access only)							
092989 Hall end of Kiln Lane	permanently switched off	3 30%	3 30%	4 40%	70% disagree	40% switch off	split vote
065361 opposite Bells Yard	permanently switched off	1 11%	3 33%	5 56%	56% agree	56% switch off	definitely switch off
065360 outside Gardener's Cottage	part night	1 10%	3 30%	6 60%	60% switch off	60% switch off	definitely switch off
Rathbourne Croft (cul-de-sac)							
092991 opposite Rathbourne Croft flats in Kiln Lane	part night	4 36%	6 55%	1 9%	55% agree	55% part night	definitely part night
077643 in car parking in middle of Rathbourne Croft houses	all night	3 27%	5 45%	3 27%	72% disagree	45% part night	part night
Mondale Lane (generally only local access)							
092990 on bend opposite Orchard Farm	part night	1 9%	7 64%	3 27%	64% agree	64% part night	definitely part night

Comments added to the Posts on part night street lighting:

2013 Part Night Street Lighting in Parwich

<http://parwich.org/2013/02/25/2013-part-night-street-lighting-in-parwich/>

- **Anthony C:** Sounds like a sensible, green, and night-sky-friendly proposal. Informative link here: http://www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk/int_dark_sky_places.html
- **Terry P:** As most people who live in the area are aware, we have had thefts in this area of sheep, gates, landrovers, trailers etc and to switch off the very few lights that we have in the village would be folly. I believe it would cost more in parts and labour to fit switch gear to the lights than it would save in the running costs for electricity.
- **Anthony C:** Thanks Terry P. I can certainly sympathise with your point of view. I wonder, though, whether the absence of a (perhaps) unnecessary street-light or two in Parwich would have the slightest impact on the felonious activities you cite – especially sheep, which don't usually spend their evenings on village pavements. Landrover theft is pretty beyond the pale though – one could understand it, for example, if it were a Citroen C2, or even the odd RAV4... Regarding “switch gear”, the infrastructure is already in place; has been for a very long time – it explains how street-lights turn off in daytime. Frankly, I shudder when I look at night-time satellite images of the Earth today, whole areas drowned by extraneous, environmentally-damaging lighting – both public and private. Light-pollution is a very important topic – as is wasteful, gratuitous energy use. I'm absolutely open to persuasive counter-arguments regarding safety, for example, but sheep; field gates etc, don't really cut it.
- **Peter T:** The plan of which lights are to stay on all night and which are to be switched off for part of the night is now up at the Sycamore. I personally was surprised how many are to stay on all night. Will see if I can get a copy for the Blog.
- **Jon Hardy:** Very well put arguments Anthony C, I still remember with regret the village I was brought up in, installing street lighting in the mid 70s and how sad I was to lose the dark nights.
- **Terry P:** I can see that you have not got your ear to the ground regarding theft Anthony, ask Mr Fred K about the theft of his pickup truck that was stolen from outside his house at night, Mr A's theft of tools from his outbuildings, Mr M's tools from his garage, and I believe a Mr S also had things taken, Mr Pete E had things stolen to from his outbuildings, these are but a few. I used the recent reports of local theft as an example, and I believe that the very few lights we have in the village will not make a significant impact to light pollution one way or another. Regarding the switching on and off of the street lights, there are several ways they can be switched on and off depending upon the internal workings of the light (I could give you a step by step insight into electrical switching but you might not understand). Regarding sheep on pavements I'm sure I wouldn't have to look to far to find one in Parwich. Regarding field gates and sheep, if you were to observe your surroundings you will see that we are surrounded by field gates and sheep, and the theft of these items to some of us is a substantial loss and to be taken seriously.
- **Anthony C:** Thanks Terry P. I don't (of course) dispute that theft occurs in our area – like everywhere else. I question whether these proposals will affect its incidence. According to DCC: “The evidence from other areas of the country in which these measures have been introduced indicates that levels of crime and numbers of traffic accidents do not increase”. And I think the wider point about this initiative is that, in aggregate, turning off superfluous street lighting everywhere will bring benefits. Here are the figures from DCC: “For Derbyshire, Part-Night lighting will: Save 2,000 tonnes of carbon every year – that's 10 per cent of the total carbon produced by the county council's street lights and the equivalent of taking 625 cars off the road. Save more than £400,000 a year on energy bills. Last year we spent around £5.5 million on lighting and maintaining street lights with £2.7 million being spent on electricity. Avoid further charges of up to £220,000 per year to pay for carbon emissions produced by street lights under the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy

Efficiency Scheme. Together with an increase in energy prices, this charge is likely to rise in the future.” I find these reasons compelling, and there’s every reason for Parwich to play its part, however modest.

- **Peter T:** Terry, it is depressing to notice that the robberies you mention are mainly the tools of people’s trade. Also looking at the street light map up in the Sycamore, they seem to involve properties that were near street lights. Presumably this means we need to all be vigilant, both in our villages and in the surrounding countryside.
- **Terry P:** Peter thanks for your observations,, the examples I stated were only a few people that had been burgled in the village, and yes this is when street lights are on, so switching some off is an open invitation to those thieves that have been this way before.
You may be aware that the police force is shrinking in manpower, and it will be only another few months before east Europeans from Romania will arrive on our door step in great numbers. We cannot find jobs for all the people that are already here let alone more migrants, and some of these people are more interested in organised crime than working for the greater good. You can look at this another way as well, I have to ask what exactly we are getting in Parwich for all this council tax we pay, if they switch off the lights ,will we all be getting a refund or will the savings be swallowed up in local government pensions and pay. Please do not think that I do not care about the environment because as a salmon fisherman I most definitely do.

Part Night Street Lighting – background

<http://parwich.org/2013/03/05/part-night-street-lighting-post-1/>

- **Peter T:** Although the County Council have obviously put a lot of work and thought into their consultation, there are inconsistencies in their proposals. They propose to keep three lights on all night in Smithy Close, but only one at Rathbourne Croft. Further that is not the one by the Flats on Kiln Lane, but the one in the midst of the houses off the road. (Note, there is also Dales Housing lighting there off the road.) They are not keeping any lights on all night in Smithy Lane, which is a through route, but are keeping all the lights on all night in Creamery Lane, which is generally only used as local access. They are proposing to keep the light by Flat Stiles on all night, but are proposing to turn the light at the Parwich Hall end of Kiln Lane off altogether, though both serve similar purposes. The Council propose to keep the lights on all night outside Flaxdale House and Hallcliffe Barn, neither of which serve a junction and are in an area with other lights, whilst having the one opposite Brentwood turned off for part of the night though it is virtually opposite the difficult junction between Shaw Lane and Main Street. This junction, after the narrowing of the road between Dam Farm and Church Gates, is probably the location in the village most in need of lighting. Further they are proposing to turn off two of the Kiln Lane lights completely, while keeping the Monsdale Lane light on at least for part of the night, though fewer houses reached beyond the latter. Personally I would go for less street lighting than is proposed, but also feel there should be local discussion to promote a more consistent approach. Presumably the Parish Council will be keen to have input to help them respond to these proposals, and it could be that the section where the public are allowed to speak at start of their next meeting would provide an opportunity for further discussion of these issues, though given the divergent views on this topic a consensus may be difficult.
- **Debbie Beery Webster:** If we vote to turn a light off all together, what happens to the lamp post? Does it just stay up as a redundant reminder of previous use? Also, I only voted on lamp posts in my immediate vicinity as I think it is a very personal decision – there are plus’s and minus’s re street lighting.
- **Peter T:** Debbie, Simon Spencer, County Councillor, says that street lights permanently switched off will ultimately be removed, but that they will remain while the success of the scheme is being monitored, in case it is decided that they should be switched back on.

- **Mike A:** Interesting news story on what happened in Bristol when street lighting was reduced: <http://www.thisisbristol.co.uk/Burglars-afraid-dark-Crime-falls-Bristol-street/story-13952633-detail/story.html#axzz2NBOefr72>
- **Mike A:** Similar results were also observed in Essex: <http://www.thisistotalessex.co.uk/Essex-lights-project-extends/story-12634332-detail/story.html#axzz2NBQP3g9r>
- **Peter T:** A poll by itself, with self-selected voters drawn primarily from Blog readers, can not be conclusive, it only really points out where the proposals need further consideration. If these votes are going to convince the County Council to alter their plans, it would help to have reasons as well as numbers. For example here are two of the street lights that the polls highlight so far: - the one opposite Brentwood, which I would argue needs to stay on all night because of the difficult junction between Shaw Lane and Main Street and - the light at the bottom of Kiln Lane, which I feel is important to be on at least part time, because it helps light Pump Hill and the awkward steps by the triangle outside the Hall. Consequently it would probably be useful for voters to add their own comments as well.

Note: PARWICH.ORG has the identity and contact details of all who commented.