

CHADDESLEY CORBETT

Parish Council

Working Together to maintain a peaceful and considerate parish

LIGHT POLLUTION

Most parishioners prefer to limit the use of artificial light within the parish. The WFDC provides useful guidance on best practice designed to minimise the impact of light pollution. Light pollution is defined as 'light that is allowed to illuminate or intrude upon areas not intended to be lit.' This could result in light that is too bright or poorly directed so that it shines onto neighbouring property which may cause a material interference with the use and enjoyment of an individual's home. A typical example would be an inconsistently directed security light shining directly into a bedroom window. Poor light has additional negative effects:-

- It produces glare which can interfere with the view of an area or object
- It can detract from the attractive features of a building
- It can affect the behaviour patterns of mammals, birds, insects and fish
- The waste of light is a misuse of energy and scarce resources.

From an environmental perspective it is becoming more difficult to see the sky at night because of the increase in the orange glow over towns and roads due to upward light.

Local and national guidance suggests the following should be considered before external lighting is installed.

- Is lighting necessary?
- Could security be improved by other measures?
- Do the lights need to be on all night?
- Install only the correct amount of light for the task.

If lighting is judged to be necessary then measures can be taken to avoid it causing a nuisance.

- A 150W lamp is adequate for security lights
- Lights should be correctly adjusted so that they illuminate the surface and do not throw light onto neighbouring property. Security lights should only pick up the movement of the persons in the area intended and not beyond.
- Energy efficient lighting systems should be given consideration above Halogen or tungsten lamps.

Residents who experience problems with light pollution can contact WFDC in order to resolve issues of concern. Light nuisance is increasingly becoming a problem but in the first instance it is always best to approach the owner of the source of lighting.

For further information please contact WFDC on 01562 732 928 or www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk
For information leaflet see Light Pollution published by Environmental Protection UK

