

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
23rd January 2020**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Heulwen Hulme, Portfolio Holder for Environment

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Karen Laurie-Parry

A number of residents in my Ward are seriously concerned regarding the cut-backs in street lighting. This is particularly more alarming, where there are older residents, who fear for their safety during the night time, due to the County Council decision to withdraw certain street lights. I will give Neuadd Terrace, Bronllys as one example.

Safety and the well-being of particularly older and vulnerable residents is an utmost priority, so please could the Post Holder suggest how we might find the costs to ensure that our concerned residents needs are met?

Response

Thank you for your query regarding the lighting within your ward. The lighting within this area has not been reduced any further since the original energy saving projects in 2009. We are of course always looking at the lighting provision within the county, and looking at further improvements and energy saving that can be made by using new technology e.g. Dimming and reprogramming the existing lights to more specific outputs, due to the inflation of energy costs year on year this is becoming essential. At present any significant changes of the lighting is consulted with the local town and community councils along with the councillors, before any changes are made. In terms of making funding available to ensure that concerns of residents are met, unfortunately it is most unlikely that any additional funding will be available and it should be born in mind that although the street lighting does provide obvious benefit in some areas, it is not a statutory requirement like the majority of other highway works.

All councillors do have access to the information showing the locations and status of the lights through Geo Discoverer. Details of how to access this information will be emailed to Members.

If there are any lights that are noted to be off when the inventory is showing the light as on, we will be happy to attend to the fault.

We are currently considering arrangements for the future whereby local councils can have a greater input into this provision, and tailor it more to suit their specific locality.

Should such an arrangement be considered viable, proper consultation will be held well in advance.