

# Kington Langley Parish Council - Lighting Guidelines

Adopted by Kington Langley Parish Council at the meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 Minute No. 035.25

With the growing availability of a wide range of LED lighting, remote control and battery technologies, it is getting ever easier to illuminate one's home and garden and surroundings. This could significantly alter the character of the village, as well as negatively impact the wellbeing of residents and wildlife. The purpose of this document is to present guidelines for lighting in the village, in public spaces, and building exteriors. We need to balance public safety, minimisation of light pollution, quality of life for residents, and the essentially rural nature of the village setting.

In terms of feedback received from draft versions of this document, there is general support for having guidelines that recommend minimal street lighting and discreet, well thought-through residential and other building lighting.

This document is subject to occasional review by the Parish Council. Feedback can be sent to the Parish Clerk. We hope this document may be helpful to anyone considering their own lighting schemes or liaising with neighbours over theirs.

## General principles:

- Aesthetics
  - lighting should complement the village's aesthetic, preserving the character and charm of the community, bearing in mind its rural setting and proximity to wildlife.
- Environmental responsibility
  - All lighting should be designed, installed and used to minimise light pollution. Poor lighting has negative effects on neighbours and nature.
- Safety & Security
  - Outdoor lighting is appropriate where required for safety and security of residents, businesses, schools etc
- Practicality
  - In a village with minimal street lighting, we need to consider safe and effective movement of delivery personnel and visitors during the darker hours
- Consider nature
  - We cherish the natural world around us and appreciate the disruption night-time lighting can cause

Light pollution can disturb residents, drivers, and pedestrians, and is proven harmful to wildlife:

- disorientation of insects (including death of moths drawn to light)
- disruption of feeding and hunting, migration patterns, and circadian rhythms
- alteration of breeding behaviours
- increased predation risks, etc.

## Planning and Legislation

The National Planning Policy Framework 2019 makes little reference to lighting with regards to the control of obtrusive light, the only reference states<sup>1</sup>:

- ...limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation

Wiltshire Council's planning policy states that developers proposing developments with significant external light that could impact residential properties or other sensitive receptors must submit a lighting impact assessment and mitigation measures in accordance with the guidance set out in Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP): Guidance for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light.

Installing external lighting in a conservation zone (like the centre of Kington Langley) may also require planning permission. One would need to check with Wiltshire Council planning policies.

Excessive lighting can be treated as a nuisance under Environment Health legislation, namely the UK Environmental Protection Act 1990. If a resident feels that lighting from a neighbour is excessive or intrusive, there is guidance for resolution on Wiltshire Council's website (search "light nuisance"). The first port of call is always to discuss with the neighbour to resolve the issue – these Guidelines may help in that discussion.

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<sup>1</sup>Institute of Lighting Professionals GN01/21 The Reduction of Obtrusive Light

## Street Lighting

Like many villages Kington Langley has minimal street lighting. There is a solitary street light outside the Hit or Miss, one at the entrance to Plough Corner and a few down that street.

The view that villagers generally agree that minimal street lighting is an essential part of the village character has not been challenged in draft versions of this document, so this document proposes no increase in street lighting.

## Residential, Commercial and Other Lighting

Outdoor lighting must be designed, installed and managed to avoid creating excessive glare or light spill onto neighbouring properties, the Commons, verges and roads. (As stated above, planning permission may be required if in the conservation area.)

Security Lighting should be sensibly sited to avoid reaching beyond the boundaries of the property, and triggered only by movements within the property boundaries. Timed lights, triggered by sensors, is more effective than permanently lit security lighting.

For residential property, discreet, well placed lights can illuminate house signs and entrances just enough to assist delivery personnel and visitors.

For commercial and other properties, lighting needs to focus on functionality and aesthetics but must also adhere to guidelines that prevent light spill into neighbouring residential areas. Businesses are encouraged to use energy-efficient lighting solutions and to dim exterior lighting during non-business hours.

Decorative lights (e.g., Christmas lights) should be temporary and turned off during non-holiday seasons to maximise their effect during the festive period. Please consider the impact of the display on drivers, pedestrians, neighbours and wildlife.

Last but not least, wildlife is more impacted by cooler lighting (above 3000K) so where possible this should be avoided.

## Curfew

A curfew would be overnight time period where tighter restrictions on lighting are applied. Kington Langley has no curfew, and it is not proposed.

## Summary of Guidelines

We believe in preserving natural darkness is particularly valuable in maintaining the unique charm and ecological balance of our village. Kington Langley achieves a level of beauty through its setting, its buildings, and green spaces, not the prettiness of its sparkling lights.

For Kington Langley:

- Continue with minimum street lighting in the parish.
- Consider wildlife movements in, near and over the property and the impact the lighting scheme (however discreet) may have.
- Think carefully whether every lit area needs to be lit. Shield the light, ensure it is focussed solely on the areas required to be lit.
- Use warm lighting, and - where possible - reduce the light level.
- Turn off lights when not required, especially overnight; utilise motion sensors and timers for security lighting.
- Consider lighting your house name, entrance and driveway only when guests (or parcels) are expected.
- Use energy-efficient lighting technologies.
- Avoid purely decorative lighting schemes, especially on drives, gateways and other areas visible from public areas.