



**Clerk to the Council** : Leona Bendall  
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**22 January 2019**

## **Replacing Our Street Lamps Consultation for residents of Harborough Magna and Harborough Parva**

Dear Residents

The 34 street lamps within our Parish are old and consume very high levels of electricity. By lamps we mean the lamp and the bulb within the lamp. The existing lamp posts are okay and should not need to be changed.

Due to Government legislation to reduce energy usage manufacturers have stopped production of these bulbs and supplies to replace our existing bulbs will run out very soon.

We therefore have no alternative but to change all the street lamps to low energy LED bulbs.

Our electricity bill for the street lights for the coming year will be more than £2,200, which we pay from the funding we receive each year. Our funding (called the Precept) is paid by every household in the Parish, collected as part of your Council Tax and paid to us by Rugby Borough Council.

### **Trying to find the best way forward:**

- If we change to new lamps with LED bulbs we have been advised that it will reduce our electricity costs by more than 50%.
- Warwickshire County Council have provided a quotation to replace all the lamps and bulbs in one go at a cost of just under £8,000.
- We considered changing the lamps one by one as they fail but this would work out much more expensive than doing this as a single contract and would delay any savings on our electricity costs.
- We looked at the possibility of having our existing lamps converted to take LED bulbs, which would be cheaper than replacing the whole lamp. But because of the age of our lamps we could not get a guarantee on price or on service, therefore, this option could prove more expensive than changing the whole lamp.

- We did consider the idea of turning off some street lamps from midnight to 5am every day to save on electricity costs but this has not been popular in other villages and may make residents feel less safe... and so the Parish Council rejected this.
- We looked at possibilities for grants to replace the lamps, but as the Parish Council has a statutory obligation to maintain the lamps we are not eligible for grants for this purpose.
- Unfortunately, our funding, even with our reserves, is not large enough to meet the full cost of replacement.
- We should however be eligible to get an *interest free loan* from Salix Finance for part of the costs of replacement and we will pay the balance of around £2000 from our reserves. Salix is a *not for profit organisation* that helps local authorities, schools and hospitals to become more energy efficient.
- Because of the street lamp issue and other pressures on our budget we have asked Rugby Borough Council to increase our precept this year, which for example would mean that those in Band D houses, the Precept will rise by £7.89p **a year**.

### **Our recommendation**

- We think the best option would be to have all the lamps replaced in one go, using Warwickshire County Council's contractors. We would pay for the work from an interest free loan, topped up by our reserves.
- This would enable us to make savings on our electricity bill from the day we change the lamps and be enough to repay the loan over five years.

### **But before we make a decision to go ahead we'd like to hear your views**

- You can send us your views by email to [clerk.hmcp@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.hmcp@gmail.com)
- Or comment through the village website: [www.harboroughmagna.org](http://www.harboroughmagna.org)
- You could come along to the Parish Council Meeting on 18 March 2019 when we are holding a special session between 6.30 and 7.30pm to hear your views. Or share your views with one of our parish councillors before then.
- The regular Parish Council meeting will at 7.30pm. ***We plan to make a final decision at this meeting - so please take a few minutes to let us have your views.***

ICB  
 Ian Bentlett  
 Chairman - Harborough Magna Parish Council