

The following update was reported to the Parish Council meeting on 7th July 2020

Street Lighting project update

Cllr I Hunt reminded those present that a task and finish group was approved at the last meeting to progress the street lighting project.

The Clerk provided the following update on the project:

- details of the project had been publicised in a variety of ways: the July Parish Magazine; home page of the Parish Council's website; detailed posters on noticeboards around the parish and outside Londis and on the Parish Council's Facebook page and Twitter account;
- publicising the details of the project makes it clear that it is replacing some lights with standard columns and heritage lanterns – like outside Nimney House – and decommissioning and removing others;
- project costs are being finalised with Ringway to ensure that all relevant lights have been included with the right action and cost. Currently, the total cost of the project is around £46,000;
- a survey is currently in progress which is seeking the answer to 2 questions:
 - in favour with proceeding with the project; and
 - in favour of the taking out a loan to do this work now;
- the survey closes on the 15th July and details of how to submit a response are noted on the Parish Council's website – essentially via Survey Monkey or emailing the Clerk. To date, respondents to the survey are in favour of the project proceeding and being funded by a loan; and
- in addition to the survey, over the last 6 months, Cllr B O'Neill has been collecting information through 1 to 1 meetings with parishioners. Full details will be included in the business case but the results indicate support for the proposed lighting plan.

In addition, the Clerk highlighted the next steps. These are:

- to produce the business case for the project, incorporating the costs, the survey results and demonstrating how the proposed loan can be afforded. The business case effectively underpins the application for a borrowing approval;
- hold an extra meeting on the 21st July 2020 to consider the business case and the application for the borrowing approval; and
- providing approved, the application and business case will be sent to HAPTC for review prior to submission to the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government for its approval.

The Clerk reminded those present that the order for the replacement and decommissioning of lights cannot be placed until a borrowing approval is received.

Cllr B O'Neill highlighted that it would be good to keep the old columns so that they could be sold. However, to enable this, the Parish Council would need a place to store the old columns when they are removed. It was recognised that the columns are heavy to move so consideration should be given to identifying any local buyer so that the column can be delivered direct to the new owner. It was noted that no pricing has been developed for selling the old columns.