

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
**SPARROW LANE PROW LIGHTING**

**Report Reference** EN-21-21  
**Meeting Date** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
**Agenda Item** 11  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

A resident contacted the Town Council raising the lack of lighting along the Sparrow Lane public right of way. The resident stated:

*I call for the easterly side of Sparrow Lane to be illuminated during the evening. I walk along there in the dark at night and wonder why it has not been done already. I think it's essential that it is done, if at all possible and sensitively at that. For half the year, I can't see where I'm going in the evening and am fearful of falling over the concrete bollards along it. It's a poor do.*

The street lighting in Knutsford is operated by Cheshire East Council; the Town Council has powers to provide lighting but for highways this is subject to the consent of Cheshire East Council as the highways authority.<sup>1</sup> Cheshire East Council has stated its policy is not to provide new street lighting as part of its work to tackle the climate emergency.

The plan overleaf shows the locations of existing street lights in the vicinity. It shows that the stretch of Sparrow Lane from Aylesby Close to the spur leading to Delmar Road is unlit and that the stretch from this point leading to Higher Downs is partially lit by a single column at the junction with the path leading to Moulton Close. Cllr McCulloch and the Town Clerk surveyed the path in October. It was noted that due to tree cover, the majority of the path would require mains powered lighting but that the stretch alongside the allotments could be lit using solar powered lighting.

The Town Clerk has enquired with a provider of solar street lighting which has quoted £6,031 for the installation of four columns along this section. The installation of mains lighting would be more expensive, requiring either a new power supply or connection to the supply to the existing lighting, this would also require more invasive groundworks cabling between the lights. The council does not hold a budget for this however it could determine to undertake a programme over a number of years, utilise capital reserves or utilise Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.

## **2.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED**

The committee is asked to provide direction as to whether it wishes to further investigate the lighting of the public right of way along Sparrow Lane and for a detailed costed proposal to be brought to future meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> The Parish Councils Act 1957 s3 provides the power to light roads and public places, but this is fettered by the Highways Act 1980 301 which requires the consent of the Highway Authority for the lighting of any highway.



**Sparrow Lane and the location of street lights**

The blue section could be lit by solar powered lighting whilst the red section would require mains powered lighting.