

HEMINGTON, LUDDINGTON AND THURNING PARISH COUNCIL

To all Households and Businesses in the Parish

May 2023

Policy to manage light pollution and maintain our 'Dark Skies'

During the year the Parish Council has been considering how to protect the very rural feel of our villages that makes them what they are. The tranquillity of the area, and the relative lack of intrusion of the modern world, are considered special qualities worth preserving.

One of these features is the low level of external lighting causing light pollution in the area, and the benefit, therefore, of being able to see much more of the stars in the night sky and marvel at the wider environment in which we live. Many of you will know that there is an annual Star Count promoted and collated by CPRE (formerly the Council for the Protection of Rural England) and also that Luddington village featured on the Look East programme some years ago as one of the few locations in the country where the skies are at their darkest and many more stars can be seen.

The results of the 2023 Star Count have just been published by CPRE. The full report may be found at this web address: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/news/only-one-in-20-of-us-can-enjoy-a-starry-sky-star-count-results-find>

The Parish Council has commented on these issues in responses to planning applications for a number of years and this year has formalised a policy document and is engaging with planners at North Northamptonshire Council for references to be included in the next Joint Core Strategy document as planning policy. Our policy document may be found on the Parish Council website at: http://www.hemingtonluddingtonthurning-pc.org.uk/_UserFiles/Files/Documents/9a%20Policy%20for%20the%20Management%20of%20Light%20Pollution.pdf.

Please turn over to see how this affects you? 

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The Overriding Principles for External Lighting are set out in the policy – lighting should:

- Only be on when needed
 - Lighting should be minimised at night using ‘intelligent’ movement sensors. Security is important, but statistics show reported rural crime is very low.
- Only light the area that needs it
 - Lights should shine downwards, towards the target. Uplighting should be avoided wherever possible. Buildings can be floodlit without light spill using modern, easily directable lights.
 - Lights should be shielded from shining to distract traffic or into neighbouring homes, to avoid causing nuisance and the risk of a range of health or safety problems.
- Be no brighter than necessary
- Minimize blue light emissions

The Parish Council is asking for your support in embedding this policy over the next few years in two main ways:

1. If you are changing any external lighting, please refer to the policy and the link to the **Good Lighting Guide** within it to ensure your new lighting meets best practice;
2. Review your existing external lighting against the guidance and make small adjustments, if possible (e.g. pointing downwards, adding a movement sensor), to contribute to meeting best practice at minimal cost.

Thank you for your support and if you have any queries, please speak to one of your Councillors (see website if you are unsure who these are).