

# HEMINGTON,LUDDINGTON AND THURNING PARISH COUNCIL

## Policy for the management of Light Pollution (Dark Skies)

Hemington, Luddington and Thurning Parish Council has pursued policies for the management of light pollution for some years. The three villages covered by the Parish Council lie within an area that is quintessentially rural, dominated by arable farming. These features were commented on by a planning inspector in 2007 who noted ‘the villages are inter-connected by a network of footpaths and bridleways which combine with the villages to offer a deeply rural, tranquil, intimate backdrop...’; ‘sweeping vistas over fields are regarded as adding to the landscape’s drama and that these vistas are threatened by inappropriately sited development.’

The Parish Council recognises the importance of this rural tranquillity, including at night-time when wildlife will be more active.

The area is recognised for its lack of light pollution, both in the context of the East Northamptonshire District and the wider county, and this document aims to capture the policies that will ensure that access to Dark Skies is protected.

Better lighting and less wasteful lighting should achieve this and will also contribute to reducing energy usage and slowing any impact of climate change.

### **Policy Statement**

All development proposals should be designed to minimise the occurrence of light pollution. The Parish Council will expect all proposals to employ energy-efficient forms of lighting that also reduce light scatter and comply with the current guidelines established by the HM Government which may be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution>.

Proposals for all development will be encouraged to demonstrate how it is intended to prevent light pollution. Supporting information on lighting arrangements would be welcome to be submitted with applications. Where a development would potentially impact on light levels in the area, the Parish Council is likely to request that an appropriate lighting scheme be secured by planning condition.

### **National and Regional Policies**

The National Planning Policy Framework 2021 [NPPF] states in clause 185c:

*“Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:*

*c) limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.”*

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The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (adopted July 2016) refers to the management of light pollution in three places:

Policy 4 [Biodiversity and Geodiversity] paragraph a(iii):

- a) *Protecting existing biodiversity and geodiversity assets by:*  
iii. *Protecting the natural environment from adverse effects from noise, air and **light pollution**;*

Paragraph 4.5 under the heading 'Climate Change and Sustainability' states:

*4.5 Development needs to respond to climate change through its design, considering measures such as sustainable travel, landscape, planting for biodiversity, and sustainable drainage. It will also be important to consider the impacts on the wider natural environment. Where development will impact through air and **light pollution**, especially on designated sites, it will only be permitted where measures can be put in place to minimise or eliminate impacts to a level that provides a high standard of protection for health and environmental quality.*

Policy 8 – North Northamptonshire Place Shaping Principles covers light pollution in paragraphs e(i) and e(ii):

- e) Ensure quality of life and safer and healthier communities by:
- i). Protecting amenity by not resulting in an unacceptable impact on the amenities of future occupiers, neighbouring properties or the wider area, by reason of noise, vibration, smell, **light or other pollution**, loss of light or overlooking;
  - ii). Preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, **light**, water or noise pollution or land instability;

Further information on the subject of light pollution, how to address through the planning system, and other factors for the mitigation of light pollution are set out by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution#what-light-pollution-considerations-does-planning-need-to-address>.

It is the intention, through this Council's policy as stated above, to maintain the Dark Skies profile of the Parish Council area as set out in Appendix A – based on latest data provided by CPRE, the countryside charity.

### **Overriding Principles for External Lighting**

- Only be on **when needed** ('intelligent' movement sensors)
  - Lighting should be minimised at night. The UK's unlit villages are not crime hotspots!
- 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
- Eliminate upward-directed light

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- These guidelines should be applied **everywhere**;
  - Poorly directed lighting in either urban or rural locations will have an impact visible for great distances.
  - Wasted light is wasted money – we spend many millions of pounds annually lighting up bats, owls and the bases of clouds.
- In order to protect wildlife, human health and dark skies, white lighting should be **warm white** (colour temperature 3000k as a maximum)

More information on these principles is available from The Commission for Dark Skies by following this link: [https://britastro.org/dark-skies/pdfs/CfDS1703\\_E5\\_Good\\_Lighting\\_Guide.pdf](https://britastro.org/dark-skies/pdfs/CfDS1703_E5_Good_Lighting_Guide.pdf) and by following the DEFRA link above.

### Procedures

In order to deliver the policy, this Parish Council will:

- Not install any street lights or other external lighting;
- Seek a Planning Condition to be applied to all new development proposals to ensure compliance with the policy;
- Encourage all residents to review existing external lighting for compliance with the policy;
- Support initiatives by CPRE and others, in particular the annual star count, that are aimed at managing light pollution.

Date Reviewed	March 2023 (adopted)
Date of next review	March 2025

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### Appendix A – CPRE Light Pollution Maps

#### East Northamptonshire Area



