



Rear of Village Hall
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DM/26/1689 Discharge of condition nr 24 relating to External Lighting at Land South of St Stephen's Church.

The site is in the High Weald National Landscape an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and one of the key character components of the area is its Dark Skies.

By reference to the HW AONB Management Plan and the attached Planning Technical Advice Note, it is noted that:

"The High Weald AONB is characterised by having some of the darkest skies in the South-east of England, with the least skyglow. This gives the AONB a sense of remoteness and peacefulness and connects the natural environment to the cultural and historic landscape."

The HW AONB Management Plan includes the following objectives that are relevant to this application:

- *DS1 To preserve the dark skies of the High Weald AONB by minimising light pollution, obtrusive external lighting and internal light spill from domestic, commercial and public premises in both existing and new developments within the High Weald, and from highways lighting.*
- *DS2 To protect wildlife and habitats from light pollution across the High Weald.*

The Parish Council is very keen to see the dark skies in and around the parish protected. It is one of the key priorities that has repeatedly been expressed by parishioners throughout the Neighbourhood Development Plan process and whenever applications such as this are considered.

It is noted that the location of this site is in a particularly sensitive area given that it is on the edge of the built-up boundary of the village, adjacent to open countryside.

The Parish Council therefore urge MSDC to carefully consider the attached High Weald National Landscape Advice Note when reviewing the proposed lighting design and to have regard for the objectives set out in the HW AONB Management Plan and the requirements of DP16.

It should be noted that none of the existing roads in the parish are currently lit and the introduction of any highway lighting would be an unwelcome urbanising feature in this rural parish.



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It is also noted that the developer's lighting designer has acknowledged under item 7.2 that there would be a "Permanent impact on the visual scene" from these proposals.

In view of the above it is therefore imperative that the developer justifies the need for the proposed lighting. (Ref HK13a).

If it is established that there is a justifiable need for external lighting the Parish Council would request the impact is minimised by making the following changes to the proposals:

- Colour temperature of the highway bollards and amenity down lights are reduced to 2200K to reflect the sensitive site location (Ref HW Advice note)
- The amenity down lights are controlled by PIR's to avoid lights being needlessly left on all night. (Ref HK13b)

Attachment:

High Weald National Landscape Planning Technical Advice Note Dark Skies in the High Weald.