

APPENDIX 6 – Heritage Lighting Sponsorship in Conservation Areas

Background;

Currently there is insufficient funding to allow heritage lighting as standard when undertaking capital column replacement work on existing standard columns in conservation areas. We have previously confirmed with the council member that like for like replacements of columns at the end of their life will be with modern equivalents of those columns.

We have been given approval to allow sponsorship to convert to heritage lighting when we are due to replace columns at the end of their useful life in conservation areas. A previously agreed unit cost per column of £660, based on the difference in cost between a standard modern lantern, and the heritage lantern and embellishment kit, was used to provide a quote to an interested residents association.

This cost is not actually a true cost difference, as the true cost difference was deemed as too high at the time. The agreed cost was met by the term contractors cost difference between a standard modern lantern and a heritage lantern, minus the contractors material on-costs, installation costs, fees to redesign, and excluded the power companies additional cost for a new connection. This is due to some columns possibly requiring relocation as a heritage light is lower down than a standard column. Those extra costs were paid from the street lighting capital replacement budget. The Street lighting departments' preference is for each sponsored conservation area to fully fund the difference in costs inclusive of all items, so as not to favour any one area of the borough over another. This true difference in cost is £990 per column

Consultation letters;

Consultation letters are sent shortly before standard works are programmed advising of column replacement works that are at the end of their useful life and at risk of falling down. Residents are then welcome to contact us regarding the possibility of heritage lighting at this time. This puts the work on hold, and full resident consultation is undertaken with a sponsorship questionnaire. If the majority of residents are for heritage lighting and adequate sponsorship funds are indicated, then the road is designed for heritage lighting, funding received and works undertaken.

Only sponsorship which covers the total amount of lights in the road or area of interest will be allowed.

To not allow individual columns to be changed to heritage lighting if surrounding columns are kept as standard lighting, can affect lighting distribution to meet British Standards, and also an aesthetic consideration.

If residents contact the council separately requesting heritage lighting in a conservation area, discussions are held to confirm if roads in question are due for

replacement, and if so, the level of sponsorship monies required to fund the difference in costs are proposed as noted above.

If roads are not due for replacement, sponsorship can still be consulted on following a request, but would need to cover the full replacement cost of the lantern and labour costs, currently £1,400 per column, again only a whole road sponsorship would be allowed. And only where the existing spaces of the columns will allow heritage lights to still meet British lighting standards for the type of road.

General Comments

Resident associations are usually well informed of heritage sponsorship via regular communication with their Ward Councillors, who have approved the cabinet report from previous years and are aware of the provision of sponsorship in conservation areas.

On a recent site where a resident was interested in heritage sponsorship, we installed the standard lights as the existing columns were in very bad state, but made resident aware that if there was agreement with the resident association, this could be changed to heritage following sponsorship and consultation. The resident association was not in agreement and the new standard lighting has been installed without further comment.

There is some conflict between promoting heritage lighting and also the Councils quest to reduce energy costs, carbon emissions, and also minimise skyglow. Heritage lighting is currently not as efficient as LED lighting, and will produce a lot more spill light as well. However they will have lower energy costs compared to the existing high pressure sodium lighting, due to the advancements of modern lamps.

Option

Proposal to send specific consultation letters to ward councillors in conservation areas to canvas their residents for support of an LED heritage lantern and sponsorship for them.

Residents in conservation areas to be aware that heritage lights provide more spill light into windows than modern downward LED lanterns, and additional columns may be necessary as heritage lights are at a lower height than a standard light column.

References

Local Development Framework, Borough Wide Policy DC8, Heritage and Conservation & Supplementary Planning Document, Design Policy 54

- The Council's Local Development Framework refers the preference to install heritage lighting on highway land where funds available.

LBHF Streetsmart Guidance, Conservation section, drawing 82168/3/2/5 Rev C

- This is echoed in our streetsmart guidance for conservation areas