

Street Lighting Part-Night Operation

Frequently Asked Questions

[What is part-night lighting?](#)

[What savings are being made by going to Part-Night operation?](#)

[What other benefits are there?](#)

[Will all lights be affected?](#)

[How many lights will be affected?](#)

[When will the lights be switched off?](#)

[Can the Council legally turn off the lights?](#)

[Will any lighting be switched back on?](#)

[Have lights been switched off in other parts of the Country?](#)

[I live in a rural village will my light be affected?](#)

[Will 30mph speed limits be affected if lights are switched off?](#)

[Can't you just dim lights instead of switching them off?](#)

[Why can't you switch off every other light?](#)

[Can't you just fit lower power bulbs?](#)

[Can I choose the times the light outside my house operates?](#)

[I park my car on the road, will part-night lighting affect this?](#)

[How can I comment on the scheme?](#)

What is part-night lighting?

Part-night lighting is the term we use for a light that switches off for part of the night. The affected lights will switch on at dusk (as usual) but switch off between the hours of midnight and 5.30am during the week and 1.00am and 6.30am at the weekend. The times are not affected by the change from Greenwich Mean Time to British Summer Time.

What savings are being made by going to Part-Night operation?

The Council currently spends £2.2 million a year on energy for street lighting. It is anticipated that operating street lighting on a part-night basis will save approximately £500,000 a year.

What other benefits are there?

As well as saving money we will reduce our CO₂ emissions. The annual carbon emissions for Warwickshire County Council in 2009/10 totalled around 60,700 tonnes, of which street lighting accounted for about 21%.

Using current figures it is estimated that the measures we are taking could save approximately 3,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year (which is about 25% of our current street lighting carbon emissions). These emissions savings will help us to meet both the national and local emissions reduction targets.

In addition to the money and carbon savings, 'sky glow' or light pollution will be significantly reduced, allowing for better viewing of night sky.

Will all lights be affected?

No. There are certain locations where we will not be operating part-night lighting, these are:

- Where there are potential hazards on the highway such as roundabouts, traffic signal controlled junctions, central carriageway islands, traffic calming features, road humps etc.
- At formal pedestrian crossings (Zebra, Pelican, Puffin, Toucan and Pegasus).
- Areas covered by permanent Local Authority/Police CCTV cameras.
- Areas adjacent to elderly people care homes, sheltered accommodation complexes and A&E departments.
- Lighting adjacent to operational taxi ranks.
- Lighting on public footpaths, alleyways and cycle paths which are located away from roads.
- Parish, Town, District or Borough Council owned lighting will not be affected by Warwickshire County Council's changes.

When will the lights be switched off?

We have been fitting the necessary switching equipment to the lighting columns throughout the financial year 2012/13. At the County Council Cabinet meeting on 18th October 2012 the decision was made to implement the changes on a phased approach starting 1st December 2012. The changes will be made in District/Borough areas on the dates detailed below:

Area	Implementation date
North Warwickshire	1 st April 2013
Nuneaton and Bedworth	1 st February 2013
Rugby	1 st February 2013
Stratford	1 st April 2013
Warwick	1 st December 2012

How many lights will be affected?

It is difficult to say exactly how many lights will be operated on a part-night basis until all assessments have been undertaken. However, we are looking at operating approximately 80% of the County Council owned lights on a part-night basis throughout the County. This equates to approximately 39,000 lights.

Can the Council legally turn off the lights?

Yes. There is no statutory requirement on Local Authorities in the UK to light the highway. The law states that:

- The Highways Act empowers local authorities to light roads but does not place a duty to do so.
- The Council has a duty of care to road users and has an obligation to light permanent obstructions on the highway, such as speed humps and central refuges.

Will any lighting be switched back on?

The County Council Road Safety and Community Safety teams will monitor traffic accidents and crime levels and if there is a significant increase, which could be put down to the part night operation of the lighting, the area will be reviewed by officers and lights may be turned back to all night operation.

Full-time lighting will not be reinstated in the following cases:

- Where there is a fear of increased crime
- To provide increased lighting to aid recreational or social activities

In the case of an emergency, such as road traffic collision or an area search, the Police will be able to request the lights to be switched back on for the duration of the incident.

Have lights been switched off in other parts of the Country?

Yes. Part-night lighting has been introduced in Buckinghamshire, Devon, Dorset, Essex, Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, Powys and Oxfordshire. There are many other Councils who are now implementing or considering part-night lighting.

I live in a rural village will my light be affected?

Only lighting owned and maintained by Warwickshire County Council will be affected. Some villages and small towns own and maintain the lighting which is classed as footway lighting. A list of Parish and Town Councils with their own footway lighting is available on the [Website](#)

Will 30mph speed limits be affected if lights are switched off?

No. A 30mph speed limit automatically applies in any road containing a system of street lights not more than 200 yards apart, unless signposted with different speed limit. There is currently no law stating that these lights have to be switched on all night for the speed limit to be applicable. Therefore, motorists are advised that the usual 30mph speed limit will be in place regardless of whether the lights are switched on or not.

Can't you just dim lights instead of switching them off?

Not all types of light can be dimmed and those that could be dimmed require additional equipment which is very expensive to purchase and fit meaning savings take many years to achieve. In future years we will be looking at dimming new installations where the necessary dimming equipment is installed by the manufacturer at the factory which reduces the cost.

Why can't you switch off every other light?

Switching off every other light would not give us the required savings.

Can't you just fit lower power bulbs?

No. The bulbs or lamps are controlled by specific gear within the lantern. To change the lamp to a lower energy type would require replacing the control gear which would not be cost effective. Where we are replacing or upgrading the lighting in an area we do always look at using lower energy equipment but this will still be operated on a part night basis to achieve the required savings.

Can I choose the times the light outside my house operates?

No. All lighting owned by Warwickshire County Council will be treated the same throughout the County and affected lights will be switched off between midnight and 5.30am during the week and 1.00am to 6.30am at the weekend.

I park my car on the road, will part-night lighting affect this?

We recognise that in many residential estates there is no off-road parking, or that the demand for parking exceeds that which is available off-road, and residents then park their vehicles on the road. With the change to part-night lighting it is even more important to ensure that if you park over-night on the road, you do so in accordance with the requirements of the highway code to ensure your vehicle is visible to other road users. The highway code has the following rules for parking at night:

- You must not park on a road at night facing against the direction of the traffic flow unless in a recognised parking space.
- All vehicles must display parking lights when parked on a road or a lay-by on a road with a speed limit greater than 30 mph (48 km/h).

Further information on parking can be found on the Gov.uk website - [Gov.uk - The Highway Code \(Waiting and Parking\)](#)

How can I comment the scheme?

You can write to street lighting either by post or email using the contact details below –

Website – <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/streetlighting>

Email - streetlighting@warwickshire.gov.uk

Postal Address –

Warwickshire County Council
Street Lighting
Old Budbrooke Road
Warwick
Warwickshire
CV35 7DP

Telephone - 01926 412515