

Cllr Trish Elphinstone – Dark Skies Statement

Keep the lights on. Keep Residents safe.

There is an old saying if it ain't broke don't fix it'.

The prospect of switching off the lights is causing great anxiety for many. An elderly resident called me as they were worried about facing a blackout.

I have emails from women and girls who would feel intimidated in going out after dark.

Where is the consultation here? What about residents having their say?

Many people have jobs where they return home late. Or get up very early in the morning. We need our lights on in residential areas for safety and reassurance.

A blanket 'dark nights' policy may leave decisions to switch lights off in the hands of people who don't understand how women and girls feel going home in the dark.

It creates more risk of violence and contradicts the policies to light areas for safeguarding.

It will be a gift to those lurking in the shadows and would like to see us under curfew

There may well be consideration for non-residential areas to reduce light pollution- but that does justify turning the lights off in our streets?

Some of the areas in my division of Littlemore - like the bus stop on Sandford Road are rural - it would mean people getting off the bus after a shift into the pitch black.

Safety and common sense should come first

Keep our lights on. Keep our residents safe