

Cllr Sudbury I speak today to express the serious concerns of myself and residents of the proposal to dim street lights and restrict the hours of operation.

I try and use my car as little as possible we are a one car household and I regularly catch the train and walk a lot. I have to say if I get the early or late train it's often dark and it feels unsafe I regularly phone my husband on the walk to feel safer. If the street lights were to be switched off which would be during the train times in Bicester I personally would not feel safe and would have to consider driving to and from the station which would be directly against your climate emergency objectives. I would certainly not be alone in my change of behaviour.

I am shocked to see that in the equalities impact statement sex was marked as no impact.

Data shows that

- One in two women felt unsafe walking alone after dark in a quiet street near their home, compared to one in seven men.
- One in two women felt unsafe walking alone after dark in a busy public place, compared to one in five men.

Women have listed poor lighting as the primary factor influencing their perception of safety in the public realm.

A survey commissioned by ITV News revealed that 81 per cent of young women aged 18-25 feel unsafe walking home in the dark.

This proposal has a huge impact on Women.

A large number of residents have expressed their concerns of safety to me especially for shift workers who do not travel at common hours.

Residents are also concerned about crime there have been recent reports of car door handles being tried at night if there were no street lights this would only favour the perpetrators.

Many roads in Bicester do not have safe crossing points many of the crossings we do have are already badly lit.

From talking to residents they have suggested that alternative options should also be investigated such as street lights which come on with motion sensors, or a reduction in your proposed hours to not coincide with train, bus, pub and restaurant operating hours. I have been advised that there are other technologies which should be looked into, that technologies exist which could provide a safe option for all.

I read that police and Town/parish councils will be invited to comment and I notice that the PCC has already objected to the proposals. Also forgive me for having no confidence in this council listening to the views of my residents this morning saw a proposal approved despite over 77% of residents being against the proposals.

This proposal needs a huge amount of reconsideration and should not come back for decision with this current proposal as an option, the current form of this proposal is completely unacceptable.