

Central Dudley Area Committee – 18th January 2011

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Application in Respect of Provision of Street Lighting – Green Man Entry, Dudley

Purpose of Report

1. To respond to a request relating to the lighting of the Green Man Entry, Dudley.

Background

2. An application has been received requesting that Green Man Entry should have street lighting installed, as shown marked on the plan attached.
3. The applicant is Susanne Neath, the manager of the Gymnastics Health Club in Castle Street and a co-signatory to a petition of 79 names received by the Council at the end of November 2010. Green Man Entry is the normal means of access from the Gymnastics car park to its main entrance in Castle Street.
4. The clientele of the club, which is exclusively female, have experienced a number of personal assault incidents which have given rise to their concern. The incidents have been reported to the police but they consider that the lighting of Green Man Entry would deter such attacks from taking place.
5. Although several other similar paths in Dudley town centre have been lit, Green Man Entry is unlit and to the best of our knowledge no request to illuminate it has been made previously.
6. The Team Manager for Street Lighting has visited the site and has expressed agreement with the request to illuminate the path. The Green Man Entry is designated as a Public Right of Way and, as such, the Council has the power to provide for its illumination under the Highways Act 1980. Part of the proposed lighting would be required to be affixed to a privately owned structure but the Council has the power to affix lighting to buildings to light the highway, subject to permission which may not be unreasonably withheld, under the Public Health Act 1961.
7. The Team Manager for Street Lighting has further advised the originator of the petition of the Council's intention to carry out improvement but has been unable to give a date for such improvement as this depends upon the relative prioritisation of this scheme against the many other requests that have been received for improvements elsewhere and which are entered on the Street Lighting Improvement Requests Register.

8. The Street Lighting Team uses a transparent formula to evaluate each new street lighting proposal. When funding for improvement becomes available those requests attracting the highest priority determined by the formula are programmed for action according to the level of funding available.
9. The allocation in Street Lighting budgets for improvements has already been committed in 2010/11. The Green Man Entry scheme will be considered for funding in 2011/12.

Finance

10. The estimated cost of installing lighting for Green Man Entry would be £7500. Ongoing maintenance and electricity costs for the lighting installation would average £220 per year, to be met by existing Street Lighting revenue budgets.

Law

11. Section 97 of the Highways Act 1980 empowers a highway authority to provide lighting on any highway.
12. Section 45 of the Public Health Act 1961 empowers a local authority to affix lighting for the highway to buildings.

Equality Impact

13. The proposal takes into account the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

14. That the Area Committee considers the content of this report.



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John Millar
Director of the Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers

1. The petition from the applicant and her co-petitioners.
2. The response from the Street Lighting Team Manager.
2. E-mails from the Council Directorates.

