



Street Lighting Report

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Written by:

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Youth Council**

We, at the Youth Council, believe that the issue of street lighting is of paramount importance. We spoke about its significance in our letter regarding the budget consultation and reiterated this at our in person meeting. Not only can street lighting help to reduce road traffic accidents, it will also protect pedestrians by increasing visibility. Furthermore, according to the College of Policing (and corroborated in a report by The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention), five studies conducted in the UK revealed that 38 fewer crimes per 100 occurred when an area was well lit, compared to areas with little to no street lighting. The authors stated that in the studies conducted by Painter and Farrington (2001) in Dudley and Stoke-on-Trent, “the financial savings from reduced crimes greatly exceed the financial costs of the improved street lighting installed” (see page 19 of the review).

Recent public incidents, such as the murder of Sarah Everard, have only served to demonstrate how fundamental it is to have well lit and accessible public spaces. According to the group *Counting Dead Women*, 139 women were killed by men in 2021, and in 2020 it was revealed that the Thames Valley ranked sixth on the list of the highest number of women killed by men. The report put forward by the Femicide Census examined the murder of women at the hands of men, with the most recent report, in 2018, finding that the Thames Valley ranked worryingly high in the UK.

We hope that the Council will prioritise the regularly used roads which are currently completely unlit, or partially unlit, as they are particularly unsafe. Our primary concerns are rooted in the more rural areas of the Borough, such as the villages of Datchet, Wraysbury and Old Windsor, where street lighting is already scant. There is a large section of Albert Road (at the Old Windsor end) which is completely unlit and therefore, unsafe. This stretch of road is regularly used by young people commuting to and from school who access the street in all types of weather and every season; it is understandable that many are anxious about travelling home from school on winter afternoons when the sun has set and the road is plunged into darkness. Additionally, we are very concerned that some main roads in the Borough are completely unlit and there is no existing infrastructure to support safety measures. The B3021 Southlea Road, the road that connects Old Windsor and Datchet, has no street lighting at all. On top of that, the pavement is extremely narrow and poorly maintained, resulting in pedestrians often being forced onto the main road; the entire stretch of road is surrounded by open fields and the River Thames so should something happen, pedestrians are entirely isolated. For the residents of Old Windsor, a village that already suffers from poor connectivity, this road to Datchet is the easiest way to access a train station. The train station connects Datchet to London Waterloo and many villagers use this route on a daily basis to commute to work - there is no public transport linking the villages. At present, because of how unsafe the road is, most adults will drive to the station which presents complications in itself in the form of emissions. This option is not available however, to the students who need to attend school in either village. Datchet is home to Churchmead C of E Secondary School and Datchet St Mary's Primary School; Old Windsor has Kings' Court First School and St Peter's

Middle School, children from both attend schools in the other village. It is a similar story for Home Park (linking Datchet and Windsor). There is absolutely no lighting along this stretch of road which crosses the river and passes by large and exposed playing fields. Like the B3021, the area is not residential and therefore, should something happen, there would be no help available. The road is used regularly by vulnerable people - women and children - to commute between Datchet and Windsor and ultimately, like the B3021, the lack of lighting is simply an incident waiting to happen.

As the Youth Council we have put forward several other areas throughout the Borough which we believe need urgent attention. For example, there is hardly any lighting in the alleyway from Brownfield Gardens to Ludlow Road. Portlock, Wellington (North End by the junction), at the top of Castle Hill is very poorly lit and this is a main route to Maidenhead town centre; the northside of St Mark's Road (near St Mark's Hospital) has many street lights covered by overhanging trees. Furthermore, Courthouse Road in Maidenhead has bad lighting, particularly near Oaken Grove Park which is near Courthouse Primary School - and other surrounding schools - and is regularly frequented by students and families. Clewer Avenue in Windsor also suffers from scant lighting, as does Parsonage Lane - also in Windsor. This issue of insufficient lighting is prevalent across Windsor, and is very noticeable in Peel Close, Peascod Place and even the alleyway beside the Windsor Youth Centre - an area regularly frequented by young people, and is a meeting place for both the Youth Council and the Girls' Forum.

Additionally, there are some instances where lighting simply doesn't work at all, as is the case on Mill Lane outside Clewer Church. The light has been out for months on Wessex Way in Maidenhead and the junction of Bracken Road and nothing has been done about it. Clewer Fields in Windsor has a similar issue, there are many lights, however three of them are broken and there are no signs of their imminent repair.

We have also noted areas that need intervention, such as on Ascot Road, near where the houses are on a curve, there are no pavements or lights and cars travel down here very quickly which is very obviously a safety concern. Burchett's Green is a small village made up mostly of private roads, however it is also a main route for students walking home from Berkshire College of Agriculture. Some choose to cycle during the summer however, during the winter, by 4:30, it is both dark and unsafe.

We are also concerned by how dark and potentially unsafe the alleyways across the Borough are and would welcome conversation between us and the Council on how to better protect these areas and the residents who use them.



Figure 1: A lack of lighting in Clewer Avenue



Figure 2: A lack of lighting in Clewer Avenue



Figure 3: A lack of lighting in Clewer Avenue



Figure 4: A lack of lighting in Clewer Avenue



Figure 5: The lighting in Parsonage Lane is practically nonexistent



Figure 6: It's a similar story in Peel Close

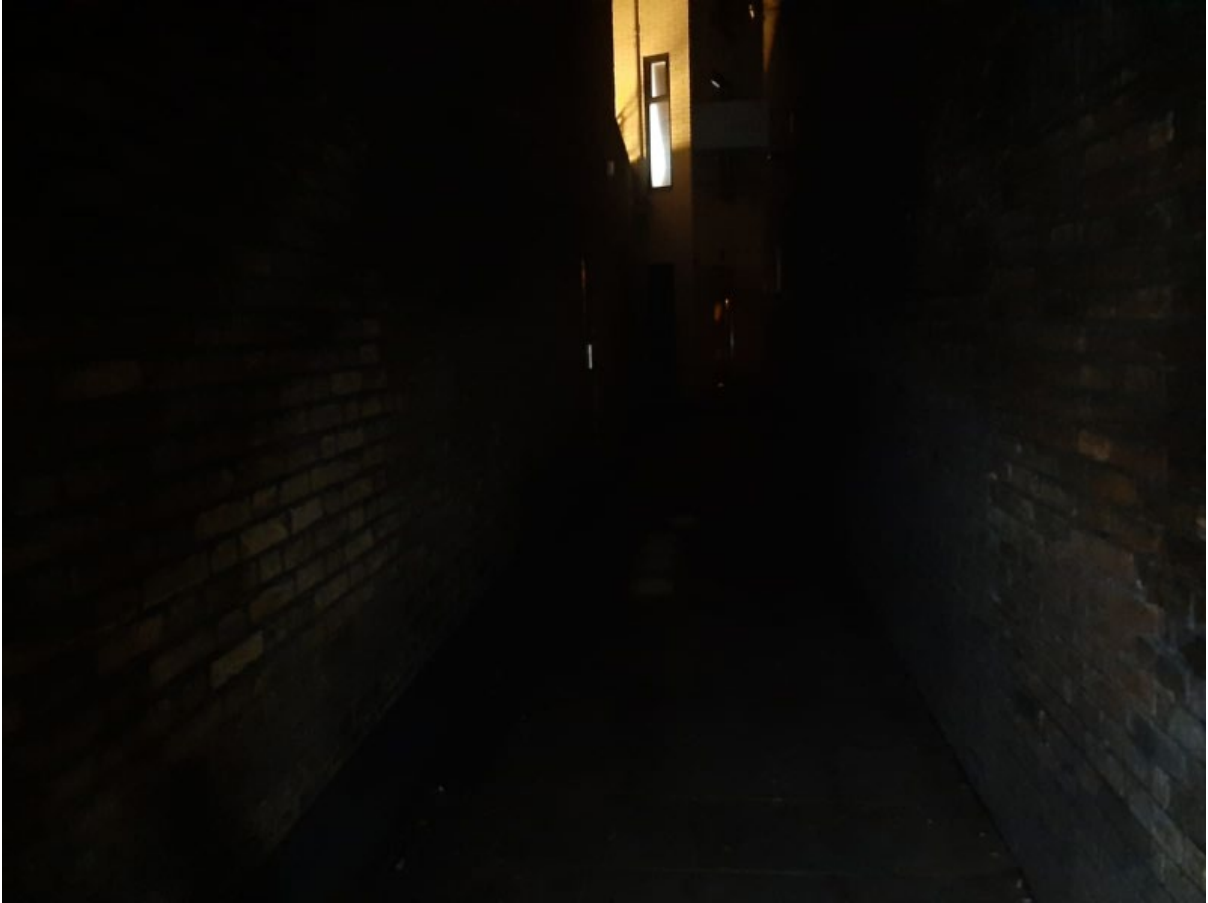


Figure 7: Peascod Place is alarmingly badly lit.



Figure 8: It is almost impossible to make out this street light in Clewer Fields



Figure 9: The same image, this time taken with the flash



Figure 10: Another photo from Clewer Fields, also worryingly badly lit.



Figure 11: Another photo from Clewer Fields, also worryingly badly lit.



Figure 12: Another photo from Clewer Fields, also worryingly badly lit.

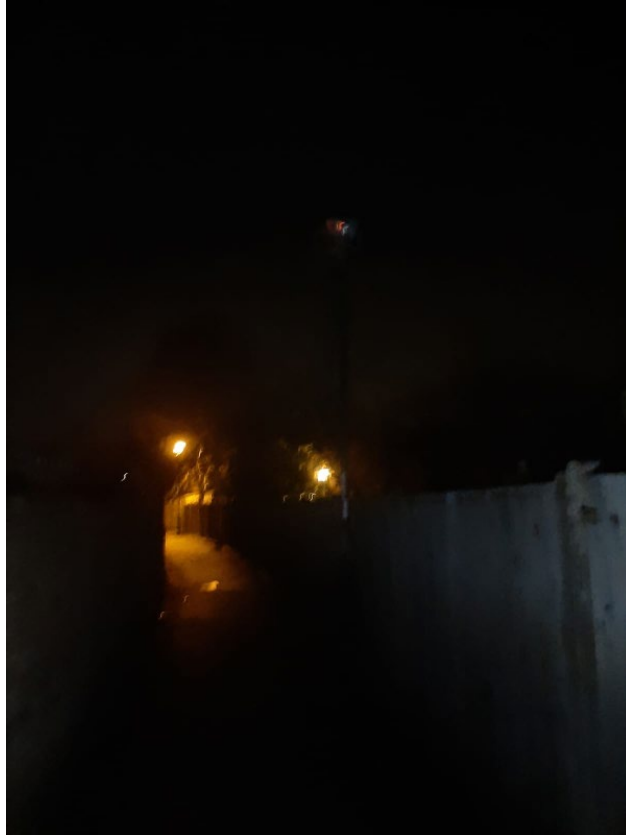


Figure 13: Another photo from Clewer Fields, also worryingly badly lit.

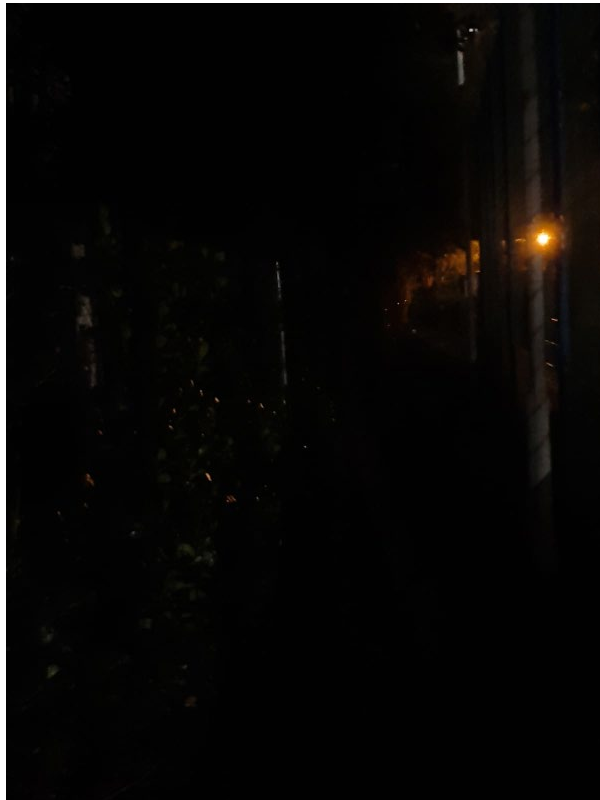


Figure 14: The Alleyway by the Youth Centre, regularly frequented by many young people, is plunged into darkness at nightfall.



Figure 15: The same photo, this time taken with the flash.



Figure 16: Burchetts Green is unsafe for the many students who walk through it in winter months.



Figure 17: Another photo of the badly lit Burchetts Green