

IN THE DARK: SWITCHING OFF PARISHES' STREET LAMPS IS TESTED

Time to turn lights off?

Parishes are being invited to test a theory that streetlights can be switched off to save cash and cut pollution.

Leicestershire County Council will seek volunteers next year for trials in 2009.

The council said streetlights would be turned off between midnight and 5am – but pledged to be very careful about where the scheme applied.

If successful, the idea would be used on the quietest rural streets.

The authority said ideally two areas would be tested.

Street lights would be kept on if road safety was compromised or if police warned there was a danger of encouraging crime.

A county council spokesman said: "Various projects have delayed us moving forward with this proposal, but we believe we will test this idea within two years.

"We will also be inviting parishes to come forward if they are willing to take part in a pilot project, though we will not be asking for volunteers until next year.

"We are aware that this is a very sensitive subject, which will split opinion among residents.

"People can rest assured we will be very careful about any site we choose to test.

"We will also take time to consult

by **MARTIN ROBINSON**
POLITICAL REPORTER

with partners such as the police, to ensure they are happy."

Groby Parish Council chairman Peter Batty said: "Even though few people will be on the streets between midnight and 5am, I find it difficult to believe residents will like the idea of this.

"The major complaints we receive are because of anti-social behaviour. I don't believe anyone will feel safer in their homes knowing pockets of streets will have little or no light.

"Yobs will often be on our streets drinking until 3am, giving them the opportunity to run riot in the dark."

COST-SAVING

As part of cost-saving measures, the council's lighting team is already testing a new type of lamp in Anstey. It emits the same amount of light as conventional models, but uses two-thirds of the energy.

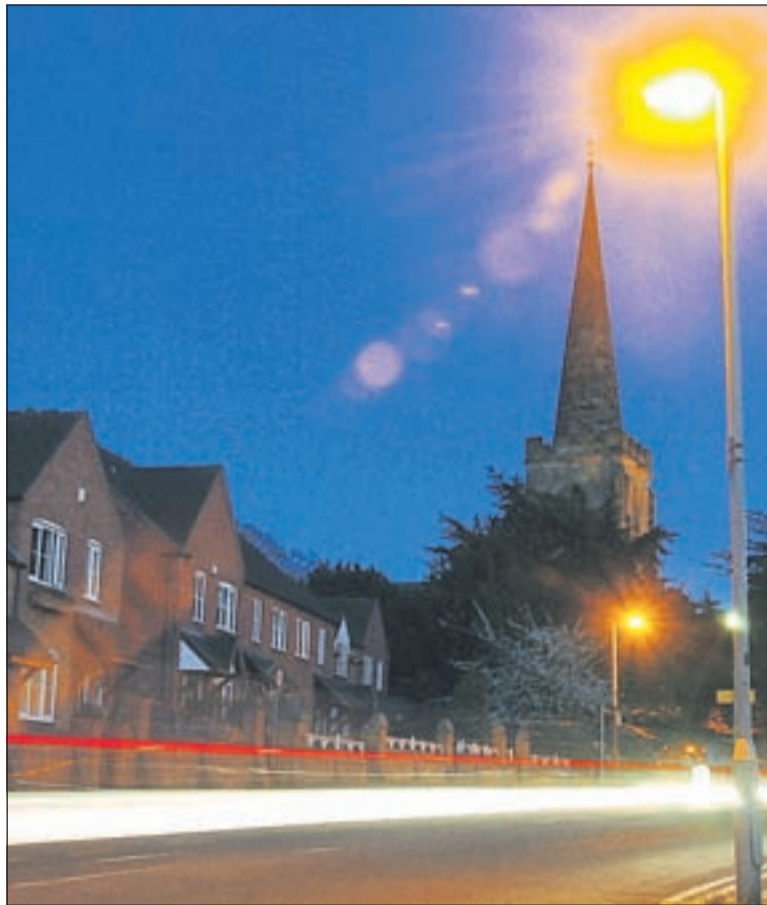
Existing lamps use 100-watt lamps, but the ones being tested are 60 watts. Another lamp, of 45 watts, will be tested in the coming year.

As the nights draw in, the council is asking the public to report broken lights to it immediately.

To report a broken light, call 0800 626203 with its location and if possible the number on it.

Faults can also be reported at:

www.leics.gov.uk/highways



ILLUMINATING: Turning off streetlights could save money, backers say

Appeal to patients

A **PATIENT** watchdog is appealing to people to come forward with their experience of mental health services.

The patient and public involvement forum for Leicestershire Partnership Trust, which runs the services, wants to know how people with mental health problems are being looked after.

Throughout November, the forum will be urging people to fill in surveys.

Janet McKenzie, chairwoman of the forum, said: "The survey is completely anonymous unless people ask for their details to be included."

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Lavender Road Dental Practice, just off Narborough Road, in Lavender Road, Leicester, is waiting for your call today.

The practice embraces technology like few others and has the solution, especially if dentists normally petrify you.

Add to this the possibility of appointments on Saturdays and an interest-free payment plan for treatments in excess of £500 and there's already plenty to smile about.

Their passion for the latest technology is great for patients because it makes treatments more comfortable and the results more effective. There is so much more on offer here than a humdrum filling or routine check-up.

For example, did you know that the Lavender Road Dental Practice is believed to be the first dentist in Leicestershire to install a CT scanner? This means that the practice's sev-

en dentists can gather even more information to ensure that you are left with the best possible results, whether you opt for orthodontics for a straighter smile, crown and bridge work, or any kind of cosmetic dentistry.

It's also an added advantage for patients that principal dentist Dr Chris Lucas is something of a guru and jetsetter: His particular forté is implant dentistry and as soon as new methods for implant treatment become available, he's off to whichever part of the globe is developing it, bringing the benefits of this newly-acquired knowledge straight back to you.

Implants can take years off your looks and make you denture-free if you've lost the odd tooth or two over the years.

How? When you lose teeth, the jawbone gradually shrinks, with an ageing effect. But as soon as Chris fixes implants, attached in the jawbone itself, the problem is solved.

The results last for life and what's more, you'll never have to endure cumbersome, uncomfortable dentures again.

And how many other dentists do you know with their own on-site laboratory? This means your dentures or implants can be made up or repaired in considerably less time



FACILITY: Dr Chris Lucas taking a CT scan on a patient

than you would normally have to wait at most high street dentists.

You may love the thought of achieving that bright, white, picture-perfect smile, but the one thing that's stopping you from achieving this is an uncontrollable fear of all things dentist-related.

Sounds familiar? At Lavender Road Dental Practice, staff understand your predicament and are experienced in keeping you calm and reassuring you. Mild sedatives are also available.

In addition to Chris, Kevin Campbell is a leading and much sought-after denturologist who runs weekly

sessions at Lavender Road. See his work more closely at www.naturaldentures.co.uk

The practice's prices remain competitive, including free consultations for implants.

Find out just how the Lavender Road Dental Practice can make the changes to your smile you've always wanted by making an appointment today: Call 0116 222 1880, or visit: www.lavenderroad.co.uk.

Alternatively, pop in to make your first appointment. The practice is open from Monday to Friday, from 8.15am to 7.30pm and on Saturdays, from 8.15am to 12.30pm.

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is our main concern

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For further information please contact us on
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