

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

12 JUNE 2014

STREET LIGHTING AND CRIME ANALYSIS

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to present the findings of an analysis which has been undertaken into the implementation of part-night lighting in Leicestershire and crime.

Background

2. Leicestershire County Council is engaging in a programme of part-night lighting. This programme includes an evaluation of the potential impact such changes in street-lighting has on affected areas.
3. A review is undertaken in each area one year after the lighting is converted to part-night lighting. To date, the responses from the emergency services and the County Council's Accident Investigation and Prevention unit have indicated that this initiative has not led to an increase in crime or road traffic accidents.
4. In addition to these reviews, analysis has been conducted by Leicestershire County Council's Research and Insight Team comparing reported crimes at parish level in the year leading up to the part-night lighting scheme, with the first year of operation. The outcome of this analysis is detailed below.

Analysis

5. The analysis was carried out by the Research and Insight Team based upon crime figures provided by the Police and street lighting project information provided by the Environment and Transport Department of the County Council.
6. The analysis covers all areas where part-night lighting has been implemented before the end of March 2013, so data is available for a full year of operation.
7. The analysis compares figures for all crimes, excluding domestic abuse, between the hours of 12:01am and 5:30am (in line with switch-off times) covering the whole of each parish area for the full year prior to part-night lighting implementation and for the following year.
8. This means that the analysis covers different time periods for different areas dependant on when part night lighting was implemented. It should be noted that the analysis includes recorded crimes that occurred within a period of time, but

with no known specific time of occurrence (i.e. whilst people are on holiday).

9. This analysis is a snapshot, and the most appropriate parameters for evaluation and future analysis are still being determined.
10. The results of this analysis are also being presented to Leicestershire Highways Forums for their information.

Findings

11. In summary, given the general trend of the data, none of the results in individual areas can be considered statistically to be significantly different from what would be expected, whether an increase or decrease in crimes has been shown.
12. Overall, across all areas affected there were 196 less crimes (10%) between 12:01am and 5:30am in the year following the part night lighting implementation compared to the year prior to implementation.
13. For individual parishes, changes varied from an increase of 14 crimes to a decrease of 58 crimes in the following year. A table showing the changes across all areas is attached at Appendix 1.
14. Of the 97 areas analysed, 36 saw an increase in crime and 46 saw a decrease and, overall, almost half (45) of the areas analysed saw no change, or an increase or decrease by one crime only.
15. The areas that saw the largest decreases in crime are as follows:

District	Village / Town / Parish	Lights	No PNL	% Lights converted	date of implementation	PRE PNL Crimes	POST PNL Crimes	Diff. +/-
NWLDC	Castle Donnington	943	506	54%	28/03/2011	165	107	-58
Melton	Melton Mowbray	3061	2050	67%	03/10/2011	307	252	-55
NWLDC	Ashby de la Zouch	1874	961	51%	01/11/2011	146	110	-36
NWLDC	Coalville	2348	1231	52%	28/02/2012	210	190	-20
Charnwood	Quorn	434	291	67%	04/08/2010	35	17	-18
Blaby	Enderby	1026	460	45%	01/06/2012	52	36	-16
NWLDC	Newbold/ Griffydham/ Worthington	171	133	78%	29/10/2010	16	6	-10
H&B	Newbold Verdon	292	209	72%	08/08/2012	17	7	-10
Blaby	Croft	213	133	62%	16/07/2010	12	4	-8
Harborough	Dunton Bassett	71	52	73%	18/10/2010	13	5	-8
NWLDC	Lockington & Hemington	169	101	60%	21/06/2011	15	8	-7
Harborough	Broughton Astley	1019	735	72%	30/11/2011	41	34	-7

16. The areas that saw the largest increases in crime are as follows:

District	Village / Parish	Lights	No PNL	% Lights converted	date of implementation	PRE PNL Crimes	POST PNL Crimes	Diff. +/-
Harborough	Lutterworth	1213	657	54%	08/11/2012	44	58	14
Blaby	Kirby Muxloe	580	434	75%	21/04/2011	24	38	14
Harborough	Market Harborough	2499	1499	60%	13/03/2011	137	150	13
Harborough	Kibworth Harcourt	151	112	74%	15/12/2010	0	10	10
Charnwood	Mountsorrel	793	533	67%	11/10/2010	41	49	8
Blaby	Stoney Stanton	400	287	72%	15/09/2011	12	19	7

17. Further analysis into patterns of crime for these areas is being carried out, but it should be noted that these are still small increases across a whole year, and apply to the whole parish rather than areas specifically affected by the implementation of part-night lighting.
18. Many factors affect crime and disorder and so it is difficult to identify a lack of street lighting as a single factor affecting a greater or lesser risk of crime.
19. A review of national research into the impact of street lighting on crime is inconclusive, although it does suggest that street lighting has a positive effect on people's fear of crime and reassurance.
20. The County Council continues to work closely with the police and will act upon any concerns they may have. For example, after a spate of burglaries in an area last year, detailed analysis was carried out. It was found that just over 50% of them occurred in properties adjacent to a lit street light, leading to a conclusion that the criminal was not specifically targeting the unlit streets. Nonetheless, almost 200 lights were returned to all-night operation to support resident reassurance. These are now scheduled to be returned to part-night operation, following the arrest of the individual responsible.
21. Whilst this study may prove useful in giving a snapshot of the effect of part-night lighting on crime, a three year sample with crime locations would give a much more statistically viable conclusion. Further analysis over a two-year period is currently being carried out, and this analysis will be further developed and repeated in a year's time.

Recommendations

22. The Board is recommended to :

- (a) Note the findings of the analysis of part-night lighting and crime;
- (b) Agree that the outcome of further analysis undertaken be reported to the Board at a future meeting.

Officer to contact

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