

COUNCIL – 24 JANUARY 2024

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Questions to Portfolio Holders

Question from Mr Jim Borchers

“At the recent Council debate on cycle path lighting concerns about wildlife and dark skies were mentioned. What principles has the Council got in place for new and existing external lighting on buildings and structures in the town with respect to wildlife and dark skies?”

Answer (Cllr Simon Speller – Executive Portfolio Holder for Environment & Performance):

When considering lighting on buildings and structures in the town, where it is within the powers of Stevenage Borough Council, as opposed to Hertfordshire County Council, we seek to ensure that sufficient lighting is in place for safe and illuminated public spaces, while balancing the impact of light pollution on residents and wildlife.

Government legislation and advice is split between rural and urban areas, with protection for dark skies and residential amenity being the focus of each. In Stevenage, given the urban fabric of parts of the town, we focus on the residential and animal impacts of light pollution. However, when large scale developments are considered, the impact on residential and dark skies, as per the guidance, are considered.