

STREET LIGHTING LED UPGRADE

Our Most Ambitious Project To-Date

In 2015/16 Church Aston Parish Council expended 37.7% of its annual precept on street lighting with energy costs accounting for £3,808.45 (22.1%) and repairs and maintenance £2,693.09 (15.6%).

At the time the overall standard of service were *acceptable* however local Parish Councillors considered this to be too high a cost and started a review process aimed at getting a better value for money i.e. a better service for the same or preferably less money.

After careful consideration of technical options it was clear to all concerned with the project that a move to LED lighting units would yield significant savings in annual energy costs – potentially 60% savings or around ~£2,285 savings per year. This proposed technical option was not unique with many local authorities across the county seeking similar solutions including Telford & Wrekin Council.

An additional gain for the project is that any new LED lighting would be covered by a new products warranty, and LED lighting has a longer projected life-span than traditional forms of lighting helping to reduce repair and maintenance (R&M) costs. The Parish Council anticipates R&M cost savings in the order of £1,000 per year.

The second part of project focused on how a small Parish Council like Church Aston with limited resources might fund such a project. Various options were explored including saving funds up over a number of years, phasing implementation of the project over 3 years, to part funding directly and topping up with a loan from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB).

The latter option emerged as the most cost effective route with the Parish Council applying for and receiving a PWLB loan for £12,800 over a 5-year period. Annual repayments were calculated at £2,600 with projected savings in energy costs of £2,285 per year and R&M of ~£1,000 making the project completely self-financing.

The third part of the project involved writing a technical specification for the new LED lighting units and inviting suitably qualified contractors to bid for the work. The project timetable aimed to award a contract in the summer of 2017 with all of the work to be completed by end of September 2017. EON Street Lighting Solution Ltd, the successful contractor, successfully delivered the contract within time and to specification with minimum disruption to the local community.

STREET LIGHTING LED UPGRADE

The fourth part of the project involved updating the Parish Council's street lighting inventory to include the technical changes. This inventory was then presented to power distribution company Western Power Ltd who issued new energy certificates which were then passed to the Parish Council's energy providers (West Mercia Energy Ltd) to confirm the new, lower tariffs relevant. Early indications show that the 60% savings target is likely to be delivered.

The fifth and final part of this ambitious project was to assess its impact for local residents. Parish Councillors had always anticipated many positive views and issues for some residents. However, they remain committed to listening to and resolving these issues wherever possible. A formal project review is to be carried out at the July 2018 meeting so please let us know how this project affects you – **see the item on the Community Noticeboard for further information about how to "Have Your Say"**.

END