

Mrs C. Butcher
Elm Parish Council
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Cllr Simon King
Portfolio Holder for Rural Affairs
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3 August 2017

Dear Mrs Butcher,

As you will recall, Fenland District Council provided £250,000 to replace all Parish Council category one street lights and to use the remaining balance as a contribution to the replacement of category two lights. We believe the termination of our agreement with Balfour Beatty has provided us with the opportunity for a better service. Having fully considered the options the following sets out our comprehensive package of proposals for the future repair, management and replacement of Parish Council streetlights:

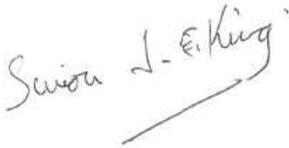
1. A free inventory and condition survey. This will include the rectification of any routine or minor faults and will be wholly funded by FDC. The total estimated cost for this is £58,000, including £32,000 for Parish Council owned street lights. We will then know exactly what assets we collectively have, their location, lantern type, condition and life expectancy. This will improve our ability to target repairs, the better phasing of replacements and the ability to have greater control of costs including energy. If a Parish Council has already paid for a similar survey they will be reimbursed by FDC if they decide to enter into this agreement.
LED lanterns will be used as the standard specification for all new and replacement street lights. Purchase costs are cheaper than for the PFI standard unit previously provided and are far more energy efficient. This will also lead to reduced maintenance and energy costs and greater reliability. Any replacement bulbs will also be LEDs
2. The free future management of Parish Council street lighting stock and service requests
3. The free re-labelling of Parish Council street lights
4. Repairs, maintenance and energy will in future be funded by Parish Councils at an estimated cost of between £47 and £67 per column per annum. Actual costs will be confirmed as part of the procurement process

5. Each Parish will remain responsible for funding the replacement of defective columns, 'knock downs' and new columns. Parish Council street lighting assets can be included in a joint procurement exercise undertaken by FDC to ensure best value is achieved

There is no obligation for any Parish Council to enter into this agreement. In that case there will be no financial support or delegation of budgets from FDC. The Parish Council will have full control over the specification, repairs and maintenance, emergencies, energy procurement, service requests, insurance and all other aspects of the service. Parishes will also need to re-badge their assets with new contact information for fault reporting.

Please confirm to Trevor Watson at assets&projects@fenland.gov.uk as soon as possible, but no later than 15th September 2017 if your Parish Council wishes FDC to manage your street lights as outlined above or if you wish to assume direct responsibility. Thank you for your patience.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Simon King
Portfolio Holder for Rural Affairs

