Little Witley Parish Council
Dark Skies Policy Statement May 25

The village of Little Witley is surrounded by hills in most directions shielding the village from distant light. There is no street lighting and therefore light pollution is only produced locally. The Parish Council therefore considers the village to be a Dark Skies location.

Malvern Hills has two established Dark Sky Discovery sites at Mathon and Castlemorton.

The Parish Council supports the Dark Skies movement's aims by firstly avoiding and secondly minimising light pollution.

This statement supports the National Planning Policy Framework from which Plans evolve. It states that all planning policies and decisions should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.

Below are various forms of light pollution and mitigation measures that might be undertaken. The Parish Council will resist strongly both the introduction of any form of street lighting and obtrusive forms of exterior lighting. They would also wish to strongly encourage householders to be thoughtful in the use of interior lighting particularly where it might have an impact on their neighbour.

Who and what is affected by light pollution?

Humans
Animals
Birds
Insects
Bats

What is light pollution and how can it be minimised?

Light pollution is the result of unwanted and wasted light illuminating the sky. It consists of three aspects:

Sky glow or ambient light. This is caused by lighting being emitted upwards, and by a scattering of artificial light by airborne dust and water droplets, creating a pink and orange glow which can be seen for miles around urban areas. Sources of this artificial light are principally street and large-scale industrial lighting.

Glare. Discomfort results in a loss of visual performance when presented with a light source brighter then the level to which we or creatures are accustomed. Hence the loss of vision when people don't dim their car headlights and use high intensity security lights.

Light spillage and trespass. Light can 'stray' from its intended purpose spilling beyond the boundary of the property on which it is located becoming an annoyance because of glare or intrusion. Sports grounds and industrial installations may also cause a similar effect.

What can we do?

- Turn off exterior lights - don’t leave porch or security lights burning all night long.
- Use exterior lighting which is controlled by a sensor.
- Reduce spillage from windows and roof lights – use thick curtains or blackout blinds.
- Light only what is necessary – trip hazards, steps.
- Use carefully directed lighting using cones, shades, and appropriate aiming angles to ensure that light is only shone in the direction needed.
- Do not use upward facing ground lights or illuminated bollards.
- Be careful of colour temperatures – LED lights are typically high. Aim for lights with a colour temperature of between 1750 - 3000 Kelvin This will minimise the more harmful blue wavelengths.

In conclusion, it is therefore the policy of the Council in response to planning consultations that planning proposals should seek to avoid and minimise light pollution where practical. They will only be supported if they do not jeopardise the status of the village’s dark skies location. Any applications for new development that requires a lighting scheme should show how the status of dark skies will be protected . External lighting installations must be designed and maintained to minimise light spillage.