

Meeting of:	TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM
Date of Meeting:	29 JULY 2024
Report Title:	STREET LIGHTING COLUMNS
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES
Responsible Officer:	COLIN HILL STREET LIGHTING MANAGER
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect to the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.
Executive Summary:	Outline of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Street Lighting standard specification for the use of Street Lighting Columns as part of new and existing works

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the two common types of street lighting columns is use within the county borough.

2. Background

- 2.1 Street lighting is beneficial to road users and road safety whether as pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, public transport providers or haulage operators.
- 2.2 It provides illumination to footways and highways during the hours of darkness and over recent years has been upgraded to energy efficient luminaries thereby making a saving to carbon emissions as well as financial energy savings. This is more important now as the cost of energy has increased.
- 2.3 A fundamental part of street lighting are the columns themselves which are either typically of aluminum or steel construction and their use is dictated on the basis of safety and also cost. Aluminium columns typically having a longer life span, safer in instances of vehicular impact, but can be more expensive than their steel alternatives.
- 2.4 Aluminium columns are specified for section 278/38 agreements works under the Highways Act 1980 (new developments) and where there are legislative requirements for them to be installed on high speed roads due to their passively safe qualities. However, aluminum columns have less structural strength than steel and is a softer material. They are not designed to have external attachments such as hanging baskets or drilled holes in for the addition of festive lighting. Not only do they have a passively safe quality but have double the life expectancy over steel, and they are also 100% recyclable. They are however generally twice the cost of steel which is why the Street Lighting Section typically uses steel based on the budgets available.

- 2.5 Passively safe means the columns would cause less damaged if struck by a vehicle and would snap under impact making them a legislative requirement when placed on high speed roads.

3. Current situation/ proposal

- 3.1 The BCBC Street Lighting Section typically seek to replace with steel columns due to the higher cost of aluminium, unless there is a legislative requirement for them to be fitted, or to match within existing streetscape.
- 3.2 Whilst the benefits of aluminium columns are understood, their composition dictates that loadings or drilling must be carefully managed so that the structural integrity is not compromised.
- 3.3 Where third parties wish to erect items on columns these need to be advised to the Street Lighting Section (Streetlighting@bridgend.gov.uk) to ensure the loading and attachment method is not going to compromise the safety of a column.
- 3.4 If a Town or Community Council wish to enhance their community with additions to street lighting in their locality they will need to contact the BCBC Street Lighting Section as above so that any request can be agreed and recorded in advance of any installation.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

- 5.1 Aluminium columns have generally twice the longevity of a steel column, the columns are 100% recyclable, have a lower CO2 footprint from manufacture and are passively safe when in an accident scenario.

6. Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 As identified in the report aluminium columns typically have twice the life span of steel columns, therefore having a smaller overall impact in terms of resources to both manufacture and install, as well as being recyclable.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The replacement of columns is provided within existing budgets.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that the Town and Community Council Forum note the report.

Background documents

None