

May 2016

Q. I am trying to establish whether the Park Authority have a policy on minimising light pollution and are committed to reduce the levels of light intrusion from external lights.

A. The Park Authority does not have a specific policy in relation to light pollution. The Authority only has power to deal with lighting issues where they are controlled through the planning system.

Q. I ask this question in view of the numerous schemes underway or completed for the introduction of high temperature LED street lighting retrofits by local council departments within the park. Have the Park authority issued any guidance on these schemes and have they been consulted by relevant authorities?

A. The Park Authority has not issued any guidance in relation to the introduction of LED street lighting. The Authority was consulted in 2014 by BEAR Scotland about street lighting and a cycle route link in Strathyre, however we are not routinely consulted about changes in street lighting.

Q. You will be aware that the British Standard for the design of road lighting makes specific mention of National Parks. Have the Park authority and power to limit light intrusion in the National Park?

A. As stated above, the Park Authority only has the power to deal with lighting issues where they are controlled through the planning system. Upgrades to street lighting are undertaken by the relevant Local Authority, which do not need planning permission as they have 'Permitted Development Rights' to carry out this work under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992. The National Park as a Planning Authority has no control over this type of development.

Q. Do the park Authority as Planning Authority issue development guidelines for control of light pollution?

A. The subject of light pollution is covered in both the Park Authority's current Adopted Local Plan and in our Proposed Local Development Plan. The Adopted Local Plan is our current plan, which we use for decision making but this will eventually be replaced by the Proposed Local Development Plan.

In the Adopted Local Plan, Policy L1 is a criteria based policy which requires all development to meet specific criteria. The relevant section of this policy states that all development must demonstrate that

(g) "They conserve the experience of the night sky in less developed areas of the Park through design solutions with low light impact."

In the Proposed Local Development Plan, the guidance for light pollution is included within the Amenity and Environmental Effects section of Overarching Policy 2, which states that development proposals must

"avoid significant adverse effects of: flooding, noise/vibration, air emissions/odour/fumes/dust, light pollution, loss of privacy/sunlight/daylight."

If the Park Authority was presented with a proposal that included a lighting scheme and we were uncertain whether it would have a 'significant effect', we would seek professional advice from our internal landscape advisor. We can also consult with the Environmental Health department of the relevant council area to seek their professional advice.

Q. I understand that the Scottish Executive was at one time considering to legislate against light intrusion (guidance note issued in March 2007 but I am not sure what transpired from that).

A. The Park Authority has no relevant information held to answer this question. The Scottish Executive may be able to answer this question.

Q. Is the National Park attempting to have recognition as a Dark Skies Park?

A. The Park Authority has no current plans to seek Dark Skies Park status within the National Park.

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