

Stiffkey Parish Council Dark Skies Policy

Stiffkey Parish Council supports the Dark Skies initiative as a way of ensuring that the nocturnal character of the settlement of Stiffkey is protected and enhanced and that light pollution is minimised wherever possible. In a planning context, the Parish Council follows its policy on Dark Skies when commenting on applications. Aside from the formal context of a planning process, the Parish Council actively seeks to engage with its residents and local businesses to reduce existing light pollution and promote increased awareness of Dark Skies.

The Parish Council encourages everyone to use the three observable indicators of a truly Dark Sky when making decisions about light use. The sky is fully dark if you can see:

The Milky Way – a ribbon of faint stars arching across the sky at most times of the year.

The Orion Nebula – A familiar winter sky object rising in the South West

The Andromeda Galaxy – Best seen in the late Autumn

The impact of light pollution on both wildlife and health and well being is widely documented. Stiffkey Parish Council wants to ensure that any impact is negligible – particularly where protected species are concerned.

There are two types of light pollution that the Parish Council is keen to reduce:

1. Pollution from glare. The less populated character of the landscape means that lights are relatively higher in glare than in a more urban area. This is particularly noticeable when looking down onto a landscape.
2. Pollution from Intrusion. This is predominantly caused by light spilling beyond a property – such as from garden lighting, PIR and other types of security lights, decorative illumination of trees and wildlife habitats, and by having external or internal lighting on when it is not needed.

Where evidence of light pollution is found in the village, the Parish Council will actively engage to help address the problem.

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