

Ticehurst Parish Council

Dark Skies Policy

15.5.2025

Overview

Ticehurst Parish Council has used the DarkSky International Policy as a template for good practice. The language and requirements contained herein are a proven approach to mitigate *Light Pollution* and misuses of artificial light at night (*ALAN*), which threaten human visual performance and safety at night, brighten the naturally dark sky, cause adverse biological health disruptions, damage nocturnal ecosystems, and waste significant amounts of energy and taxpayer money each year. The requirements herein work together holistically to meet the Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting.

The intention is to achieve the standards required to become a Dark Sky Community, in conjunction with other neighbouring villages, encouraging residents to contribute to this aim.

TICEHURST PARISH COUNCIL OUTDOOR LIGHTING AMBITIONS

Purpose

- A.** This outdoor lighting is intended to protect the health and welfare of all residents within the parish
- B.** enhance the character and quality of life for residents and wildlife,
- C.** prevent inappropriate and poorly installed outdoor lighting,
- D.** reduce lighting conflicts between property owners,
- E.** prevent the increase of potentially harmful sky glow,
- F.** preserve the naturally dark sky for the benefit of residents, visitors, wildlife, and the environment.

The *Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting* will guide Ticehurst's outdoor lighting decisions because:

1. Outdoor uses of *Artificial Light at Night (ALAN)* often include inappropriate and bright sources of light that cause an unsafe reduction in human visual performance; and
2. Excessive, unnecessary, and misdirected *ALAN* contributes to *Light Pollution* and wastes energy resources that would, if corrected, generate tangible cost savings; and
3. Increased use of *ALAN* has contributed to an escalation of *Light Pollution*, thus increasing the brightness of the night sky by 10% annually and rendering the current night sky orders of magnitude (often hundreds of times) brighter than the natural and original sky background; and
4. *Light Pollution* from *ALAN* is known to cause adverse effects on the health and well-being of birds, wildlife, nocturnal ecosystems, vegetation, and under certain circumstances, human health;
5. Ticehurst Parish Council want to protect natural resources and maintain a healthy environment for present and future generations. Ticehurst Parish Council has resolved to enact this outdoor lighting policy and achieve the objectives over the next two years.

Applicability

This Policy applies to all sources of outdoor lighting installed or replaced within Ticehurst Parish Council once resolved.

This includes, but is not limited to, newly permitted development and construction projects involving homes, dwellings, roadways, public right-of-way, signage, buildings, facilities, properties, landscape, car parks, hardscape, and non-habitable structures.

Existing outdoor lighting lawfully but not meeting the requirements of this policy shall be considered legal and repairable but non-conforming. All non-conforming may continue to be used and maintained until one of the following occurs:

A determination by the parish council that an outdoor light source constitutes a hazard to public safety or constitutes a nuisance. It is not the intention of the council to request changes, but more to suggest preferable lighting measures.

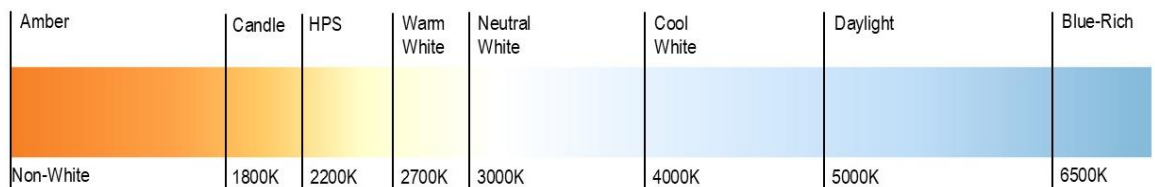
When a property applied for a change of use or for a new land use, Ticehurst Parish Council will request that the planning authority support this policy and determine that all outdoor lighting on the property shall meet the requirements of this policy before the new use commences.

1.0 *ALAN* must not interfere with the safe movement of motor vehicles. Any lighting that distracts or disables the vision of a motor vehicle (e.g., excessively bright or rapid blinking, flashing, and/or motion video) or contributes to traffic control confusion.

- A. Spectrum:** Unless otherwise specified in this ordinance, the maximum allowable correlated color temperature (*CCT*) for outdoor *Luminaires* is 3000 K. Because blue light is more apt to scatter locally in the atmosphere, it is prone to being redirected back toward earth as a physical manifestation of sky glow. This veil of sky glow reduces the visibility of stars within the natural nighttime sky, and the increased illumination may disrupt biological and ecological health. A CCT of 2200 K is the recommendation for the parish.

DEFINITIONS

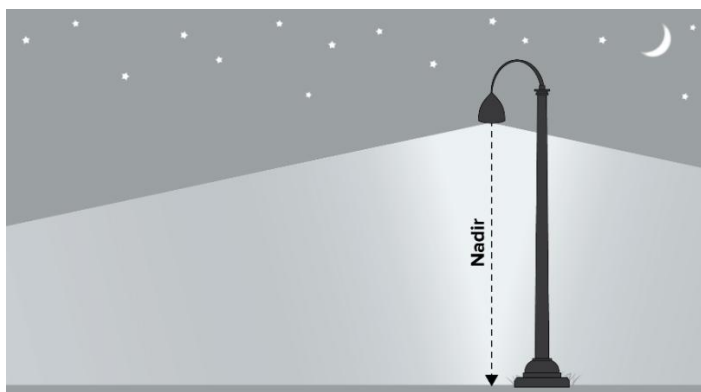
- **ALAN (artificial light at night):** Light that is created from human technology, rather than a naturally occurring process. Also known as anthropogenic lighting.
- **Candela (cd):** The unit of measure for luminous intensity.
- **CCT (correlated color temperature):** The measured color appearance of light emitted by a light source described using a nominal value stated in kelvins (K). Lower CCTs (1800 K to 2200 K) appear very warm or amber. Medium CCTs (2700 K to 3000 K) appear “warm white,” similar to standard incandescent bulbs. High CCTs (4000 K and higher) appear “cool white” or “blue.”



Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting: Co-authored and published by DarkSky International and the Illuminating Engineering Society: 1) Use light only if needed; 2) distribute light only where it is needed; 3) use light that is no brighter than needed; 4)

Lux (lx): The SI metric system unit of measure for *Illuminance*.

Nadir: A downward vertical vector directly beneath a luminaire, opposite to zenith.



Night time Hours: The time between 11 PM and sunrise, or 5 AM Ticehurst Parish Council street lights will be turned off using a timer system of control. Ticehurst Parish Council will replace non-compliant street light bulbs over a two year period to ensure compliance using lanterns of 2200K or less.

- Ticehurst Parish Council will remove unnecessary lighting.
- Ticehurst Parish Council will not install new lighting, but will concentrate on ensuring and assisting that existing lighting is compliant.
- Ticehurst Parish Council will protect sensitive areas where possible, including the water expanse of Bewl Water and its surrounds.
- Ticehurst Parish Council will implement a course of replacing concrete posts, based on structural integrity tests.
- Ticehurst Parish Council will adopt the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) Principles:
 - **Use Light only when needed**
 - **Direct Light Downward**
 - **Minimise Blue Light**
 - **Reduce overall Brightness and**
 - **Raise Awareness amongst the communities.**

Lighting that would not be discouraged:

Seasonal Lighting: Outdoor or site lighting that is portable, temporary, decorative, and used in connection with holidays and traditions. This includes but is not limited to Christmas lighting would not be

Security Lighting: Illumination used specifically to protect people, property, and infrastructure from criminal threat.

Shielding: A *Luminaire* design, optical intervention, or physical accessory (such as a louver) preventing light emission from traveling into a particular area, angle, or region.