

## **Abberley Parish Council – Dark Skies Policy Statement**

The Parish of Abberley currently enjoys a minimum of light pollution which it would wish to preserve and where possible, improve upon. It should be noted that 76% of respondents to a questionnaire identified the lack of light pollution and dark skies as one of the best things about living in Abberley.

Abberley lies between Church Stretton/ Long Mynd which has Milky Way status and Malvern Hills which has Orion status; indeed, it is possible to see the Milky Way with the naked eye from Abberley, part of the criteria for establishing Dark Sky Discovery Status.

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

**In support of the Abberley Neighbourhood Development Plan (specifically ABY 9 para 4 and justification 7.12) the Parish Council subscribes to the Dark Skies movement and seeks to move towards Dark Sky Discovery status by firstly avoiding and secondly minimising light pollution.**

This statement supports the National Planning Policy Framework from which all other 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 than 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.