

# In the loop

Good evening. I'd like to thank you all for coming out on this cold evening. As you're aware, the lighting surrounding this building needs be improved, with a view to reducing the carbon footprint without compromising the situation for the people working here. It's my job this evening to give the local residents – that's you – a chance to see what's being proposed.

To help things along, we've prepared this plan to show where... yes, this is a plan of the entire site. Now, you can see from... no, this is the main entrance here, where you drove into the site. Yes, the plan's upside down. Apologies for that, I'll just turn it round. Is that OK for you on the other side of the table?

Now. Where was I? You can see the location of the three car parks around the main building. Of course, the car parks are already well lit but lighting technology and design standards have moved on so... yes, that's one of the car parks that you can see out of the window. No, not that one. It's this one, on the other side of the plan.

Actually, this is very useful because, being such a misty evening, you can see



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one of the things that will be improved. That rosy glow that you can see from the lanterns demonstrates how wasteful of energy a light fitting can be. The new lanterns will be much more efficient and... Yes, you're right, that glow around the lantern can be very attractive... like a Christmas card, exactly. Unfortunately, it costs money and energy to create that effect and it doesn't do anyone any good, as any amateur astronomers here can testify... No, I wasn't anticipating there being any astronomers here... No, I wasn't being sarcastic. Light pollution was originally raised by the astronomy community, that's why I mentioned it.

Yes, taking the lighting away entirely would solve that issue, but it's not realistic is it? Of course cars have headlights and pedestrians could wear hi-viz jackets and carry torches – in fact, that's not the first time I've heard that suggestion – but that's not the answer. My client feels it has a responsibility towards both staff and visitors and the ability to see and be seen is vitally important... What? No, you're thinking of the old TV campaign to 'wear something light at night'. 'Clunk-click' was Jimmy Saville, wasn't it? No, I'm sure Kevin Keegan did the Green Cross Code thing. I don't think that had much to do with lighting. Unless you happen to run over a pedestrian... Thank you for your time. I really have to go now.

**John Bullock**

Read John's regular blog at [www.lighting.co.uk](http://www.lighting.co.uk)

