



Lighting Policy

Introduction and Purpose

Audlem Parish Council recognise the importance of appropriate lighting for public safety, security, and accessibility while minimising light pollution, energy consumption, and harm to wildlife.

In Audlem, Cheshire East Council is responsible for street lighting, including along the boundary of Turnpike Field.

This Lighting Policy sets out how the Parish Council will manage, maintain, and install any future lighting on land and assets it owns or controls.

The policy complies with:

- Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
- Environmental Protection Act 1990 (statutory nuisance)
- Highways Act 1980
- Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) guidance on reducing obtrusive light (2025/2026)
- Bats and artificial lighting guidance (Bat Conservation Trust)
- Cheshire East Council policies on dark skies and sustainable design
- Best practice for parish councils

Objectives

- Provide safe and effective lighting where needed for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicle users.
- Reduce energy use and carbon emissions through efficient technology.
- Minimise light pollution, sky glow, and intrusion into neighbouring properties.
- Protect nocturnal wildlife (particularly bats, birds, and insects) by using sensitive lighting.
- Ensure all lighting is cost-effective and maintainable.

Audlem Parish Council Lighting Policy

Adopted: July 2026

Review date: July 2028

Principles of Lighting Design

- Lighting installed or maintained by the Council will follow these principles:
- Only where necessary – Lighting will be provided only in areas with identified safety or security needs.
- Right light, right place, right time – Use of appropriate brightness, colour temperature, and timing.
- Energy efficient – Preference for LED lighting with high efficacy and long life.
- Dark Skies friendly – Full cut-off or shielded luminaires to prevent upward light spill. Warm white or amber light (colour temperature $\leq 3000\text{K}$) preferred.
- Wildlife sensitive – Avoid lighting near known bat flight lines, hedgerows, trees, and watercourses. Use motion sensors or timers where possible.
- Minimise glare and intrusion – Lighting directed downwards and away from residential windows.

Lighting Maintenance

Maintenance Standards:

- All lighting will be inspected annually for safety, functionality, and alignment.
- Faulty lights will be repaired or replaced promptly.
- Cleaning and alignment checks will be carried out as part of routine maintenance.
- Obsolete or inefficient lights will be replaced with modern, wildlife-friendly LED equivalents when funding allows.

New Lighting Installations

Any proposal for new or replacement lighting must be supported by a Lighting Assessment that demonstrates:

- Clear justification (safety or security need).
- Compliance with this policy (shielding, colour temperature, timing controls).
- Consideration of alternatives (e.g., passive safety measures, reflective signage, or community use patterns).
- Consultation with residents and wildlife groups where significant impact is likely.

New installations require Full Council approval and must be added to the Lighting Register.

Turnpike Field Specific Provisions

Turnpike Field, as a key community recreation space with recent enhancements (picnic tables, boardwalk, notice boards), will have sensitive lighting:

- Low-level, motion-activated path lighting only where essential for evening community use.
- No constant overnight lighting to protect bats and dark skies.
- Any future lighting must use warm-white LEDs with timers or sensors.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Full Council: Approves policy, major installations, and budget for lighting.
- Clerk: Maintains the Lighting Register, arranges inspections and repairs, and coordinates new installations.
- Councillors & Volunteers: Report faulty or misaligned lighting promptly.

Monitoring, Review and Energy Reduction

The Council will monitor energy consumption from lighting and seek opportunities to reduce usage (e.g., part-night switching or solar power).

This policy will be reviewed annually or after any significant incident, technological advance, or change in legislation.

Related Documents

- Health & Safety Policy
- Security Policy
- Green Space Audit Policy (including Turnpike Field)
- Environmental / Sustainability Policy (if adopted)
- Asset Register