

Copies of recent letter to the Derby Evening Telegraph

## **LIGHT RELIEF**

09:30 - 21 December 2004

I Followed, with a mixture of amusement and growing anger, the Evening Telegraph's excellent coverage of the two poor chaps who have been prosecuted by Derby City Council for having the cheek to display banners trying to save their city, which the council is destroying at an alarming rate.

It would have been far better to spend resources on sending men out to repair the phenomenal amount of street lamps which are unlit.

David Radley,  
Duffield Road,  
Derby.

## **HOW MANY CALLS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHTBULB?**

BY DAVID WALSH

09:30 - 05 January 2005

Residents in Chaddesden have been left asking how long it takes Derby City Council to change a light bulb after part of their street has been left in darkness since October.

People living in York Road have told how between them they have made dozens of calls to the city council in a bid to have a street light repaired.

The end of the road, closest to Chaddesden Park Road, is virtually pitch black at nightfall, making it a danger to many of the elderly who live there, they say.

The city council said it has carried out work on the street light three times since September, but for one reason or another it

continues to cause problems.

Now residents are beginning to wonder whether any light will ever be shed on the problem.

Tony Greasley (66), who lives in York Road, said: "It's pitch black at night and everybody's very unhappy about it.

"I've called the council about four times and I know several of my neighbours have called them on more than one occasion as well. They always say it will be done in due course.

"It's not very nice for the women who have to walk up and down the road in the dark."

Mr Greasley's neighbour, Fred Spencer (79), is equally frustrated that the city council has been unable to get the street light working.

He said: "It's very bad. Anybody could get mugged.

"We've already had one person burgled on the road since the light went. Perhaps the burglars wouldn't have been so keen if the street was lit up.

"I've called them a couple of times, like everyone else, but nothing ever gets done. It's time it was."

Another resident added: "It's very dangerous. I went up to the top of the road to post a letter and as I was coming back down there was a bin on the pavement.

"I didn't see it until I'd banged into it."

The road has three street lights on it. Those at the Reginald Road North end of the road and in the centre of York Road are working.

One resident said he saw city council workers repairing a nearby street light on Chaddesden Park Road, but the workers did not attempt to repair the broken light in York Road.

A city council spokeswoman yesterday told the Evening Telegraph: "We've repaired it three times since September, and we're trying to get to the bottom of what's wrong with it.

"We don't yet know whether it's just a

coincidence and different things keep going on it, or whether there's an underlying problem."

## **STEPS TO FIGHT DARK DEEDS**

09:30 - 12 November 2004

A street light in Mackworth which has been vandalised five times in three months is due to be replaced with a "more secure" alternative.

Derby Homes, which manages the city council's housing stock, is responsible for the upkeep of the lighting column in Willesden Avenue.

Paul Pegg (57), of Acton Road, said that the light was constantly being damaged by groups of teenagers on the estate.

Maria Murphy, spokeswoman for Derby Homes, said: "We installed a column as part of improvement works but, since August, we've had five instances of the wires being pulled out of the column.

"Each time we repair it, it's vandalised again.

"We need to identify the people involved in this vandalism because we're just reacting to the damage, rather than being proactive in stopping it.

"We're putting resources into trying to identify the youths and are looking into an alternative, more secure type of lamp column."

## **RESIDENTS WANT SOME LIGHT RELIEF**

BY LUCY REES

09:30 - 25 August 2004

Residents of a Derby road say that they have been left in the dark over why their street lights are not working.

Two lights on the corner of Addison Road and Amber Street, Allenton, have not worked for three months, leaving residents afraid to go out at night.

They said that the only way to see where they were going was to leave their curtains open to enable as much light as possible to shine on to the road.

Residents have complained that the pavement was uneven, with tree roots breaking the surface, and that they were afraid to go out at night in case they tripped and fell or in case someone was hiding in the darkness.

Nora Storer (68), of Addison Road, said: "To understand, people have to come here at night and see for themselves just how dangerous it is.

"My daughter, Nora, who lives on Amber Street, has fallen down a few times, my granddaughter, Linda, has stubbed her toe, and the little girl next door has fallen over and hurt her head.

"I don't think it's right that people should have to stay indoors after 9pm.

"If I had a pound for every time I've rung the council to complain, I'd be a rich woman.

"The council has come out twice to look at the lights but they're still not working. I cheered the first time they came, about three weeks ago, but still nothing's been done."

Sheila Shirley (70), also of Addison Road, said: "A few weeks ago I fell over on the corner because I couldn't see where I was going. I had to go to Derbyshire Royal Infirmary for x-rays.

"Luckily, I wasn't badly injured but I don't like going out in the dark any more."

Nora Moylan (40), of Amber Street, said: "It's disgusting. I've fallen over a few times and it's horrible when someone comes round the corner and scares you half to death."

John Edgar, highways maintenance manager for the city council, said: "It would appear that the power supply for the lampposts has been vandalised.

"We've issued an instruction to Central

Networks to repair it and are waiting for them to do so."

Rebecca Middleton, of Central Networks, said: "We recognise that street lights are important to residents, who are also our customers.

"Now that we've been made aware of the problem, we'll be looking into it as a priority and looking to come up with a solution as soon as possible."

## **LIGHTS PROTEST SET FOR DEFEAT**

09:30 - 08 January 2005

Residents campaigning for £10,000 worth of improvements to a road are likely to have their request turned down.

Members of the Alvaston Street Neighbourhood Watch group appealed to Derby City Council in November for street lighting in Green Lane, Alvaston. The group also called for the road to be resurfaced and better drainage installed.

They said the measures would improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists and reduce the fear of crime among residents.

But council officers said an inspection of Green Lane has been carried out and the surface was found to be in good condition.

A council report into the issue has recommended that no action should be taken because of a lack of funds, but the street may be earmarked for improvement in the next financial year.

The matter is due to be discussed at an area panel two meeting on Wednesday.

The meeting will take place at 6pm at Alvaston Junior Community School, in Elvaston Lane.

## **IT'S BELOW STANDARD**

09:30 - 14 December 2004

It was with great interest that I read that Derby City Council is to replace most of the city's street lights. I hope they all do - light, I mean.

Earlier this year, the street lights along the central reservation of Warwick Avenue were replaced. The standards are lower than the old ones and the lights are not so orange.

From day one of the new system, just one arm of the standard nearest my house has been lit. The branch supposed to light the uphill side has remained dark in spite of numerous calls to the council over a few months.

At first I was told the contractors were still working on the project, so it wasn't the council's responsibility. Then I was told I needed to provide the pole number - which I did.

Then it was: "We'll look into it, duck." Clearly, they're still looking.

Ann Eames,

Warwick Avenue.

## IN THE DARK

09:30 - 08 December 2004

I was very interested in Councillor Brown's letter regarding street lighting.

Perhaps he can do something for us?

Six weeks ago, the one and only light in our crescent went out.

After numerous telephone calls to various departments, we are still in the dark.

**D. Hanson,**  
**Albert Crescent, Chaddesden.**

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