



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
NORFOLK

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council

3rd June 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

Comments on external lighting proposals regarding planning application for The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House

This proposed development is in an area defined by Norfolk County Council, in its Environmental Lighting Zones policy, as "Rural Dark Landscape". This policy recognises that dark skies and dark landscapes are a special feature of the Norfolk countryside worthy of protection. It recommends the usage of full cut off / flat glass lighting fittings in such environments.

It is pleasing to note that the potential environmental impact of outdoor lighting is acknowledged in the introduction to Roger Parker Associate's External Lighting Report and that some attempts have been made to ameliorate the impact of the lighting proposed for this development on the area in which it is situated.

However the following comments are relevant in order to achieve a further reduction in light pollution from this development:

- 1) The report says that the lighting will be controlled by time switches and photocells but does not specify the time periods over which the lights will be switched on and what proportion of the lights will be "dusk to dawn" – CPRE/Norfolk believes external lights should only be switched on when needed and is very critical of the current general over reliance on all night lighting.
- 2) The proposed 70 watt high pressure sodium lamps will produce a very urbanising effect on surrounding rural landscapes. The high glare pink light produced by such lights is highly inappropriate in a rural dark landscape.
- 3) These are more energy efficient white light sources currently available - e.g. fluorescent or Phillips Cosmopolis. These lights provide better colour differentiation and their white light is far less urbanising than the light produced by either high or low pressure sodium lights. Therefore the high pressure sodium lights proposed should be replaced by a white light source.

CPRE Norfolk
42 – 46 Bethel Street
Norwich
NR2 1NR

Telephone 01603 761660
Email: info@cprenorfolk.org.uk
www.cprenorfolk.org.uk

President
Professor Timothy O'Riordan

Chairman
Greg Peck

Treasurer
John Davies

The Campaign to Protect Rural England exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

Registered Charity No. 210706

4) While the report refers to the shielding of lights it does not specify the use of full cut off flat glass fitments. Such lights not only minimise upward light spill but they also reduce the horizontal light spill over surrounding areas.

The developers need to more fully appreciate that the local residents – many of whom live in houses close to the proposed development - appreciate living in a village without street lights and that they wish to preserve their unlit status.

Yours sincerely,

David Hook
Night Blight Campaign Co-ordinator