

**Supporting Document to agenda item 10c. To consider and agree the proposal by Cllr Chapman to investigate the feasibility of installing lighting at Old Road play area**

**Information provided by professionals in respect of the implications and practicalities of installing lighting at Old Road play area, Kirkbymoorside**

I can only provide information from a safety perspective. When considering installing lighting please be aware that the play area will then be used at night time and this may cause concern to any nearby residents. It could attract teenagers as a place to drink and we do see lots of broken glass on play areas from previous evenings. I am of course not denigrating all of our youth. If you go ahead we recommend high level robust lighting columns.

Glynn Hughes  
Technical Advisor  
RoSPA Play Safety

Unfortunately this is not our field of expertise. On the rare occasions we get asked about lighting around Multi Use Games Areas for example, we would always look to subcontract this element out to lighting specialists (eg Abacus Lighting). But these elements rarely actually come to fruition due to planning applications.

Common issues you are likely to face with lighting play areas could be associated with planning applications. I can't remember if the park is in proximity to any residence but you may come up against objections due to light pollution. It could also be seen to encourage loud behaviour into the evening hours which may not go down well with residents. These are things you might want to consider.

James Halewood  
Area Sales Manager  
Fawns Playtime

Lighting in a play area is always controversial.

Does the community want children playing after dark?

What happens if there is an accident caused by inadequate lighting of the area?

Would the council be liable for the accident?

If the lighting were needed in the winter months could this also cause an issue with slippery paths and equipment?

Would an illuminated area attract unwanted visitors?

As a business it is not something we get involved in because there is so little demand in the UK.

Kevin Sellwood  
Area Sales Manager  
Sutcliffe Play

Is planning permission required to install lighting at Old Road play area?

When planning permission would or would not be required:

Planning permission normally not required - The lighting is installed by the Town Council, is administered by them and is no more than 4m above ground level.

Planning permission normally required - the lighting is installed by another body that is not a local authority such as the Kirkbymoorside Play Areas Association that have submitted other applications for the site, or the lighting is above 4m above ground level.

It is therefore restricted who can install and administer lighting without planning permission and there are also height restrictions.

If you do not need planning I would still advise following any guidelines available on outdoor lighting to minimise any light pollution outside the playground site. I am sure lighting companies will advise on this.

I hope this answer gives some guidance.

Colin Douthwaite  
Customer Service Officer