

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Title	Street lighting trial
Objective	Awareness and impact of the trial change in footpath street lighting to LED lights, especially any impact on perceptions of security
Date	December 2009
Methodology	213 doorstep interviews with local residents who regularly use the footpath locations in Barnet and Greenwich

Key findings

- Some residents can see more clearly and further, but they do not use the footpath any more often after dark.
- Over a third of residents in each area are aware of changes after prompting. Awareness might be lower now than when they were originally installed (which was over one year ago).
- Of those who noticed a change, most prefer the new lighting. Most prefer the new lighting because it is brighter. A small number say it is easier to see, or they feel safer after dark because of the lighting.
- When prompted, 39% of the footpath users in Barnet and 41% of the footpath users in Greenwich noticed the new lights had a different colour. Of those who noticed this, around a third had no preference for the colour of the lights. Among those who did have a preference, most preferred the green lights.
- Of those aware of the new lighting, most agree that they can see more clearly with the new lighting on the footpath, and that they can see further. Regular users of the Barnet footpath are slightly more likely to mention positive effects of the lighting than regular users of the Greenwich footpath.
- We can conclude that the lighting has some impact on perceptions of security, but being able to see more clearly and further are not the only factors required for enhanced feelings of security.

Job number: 09042