

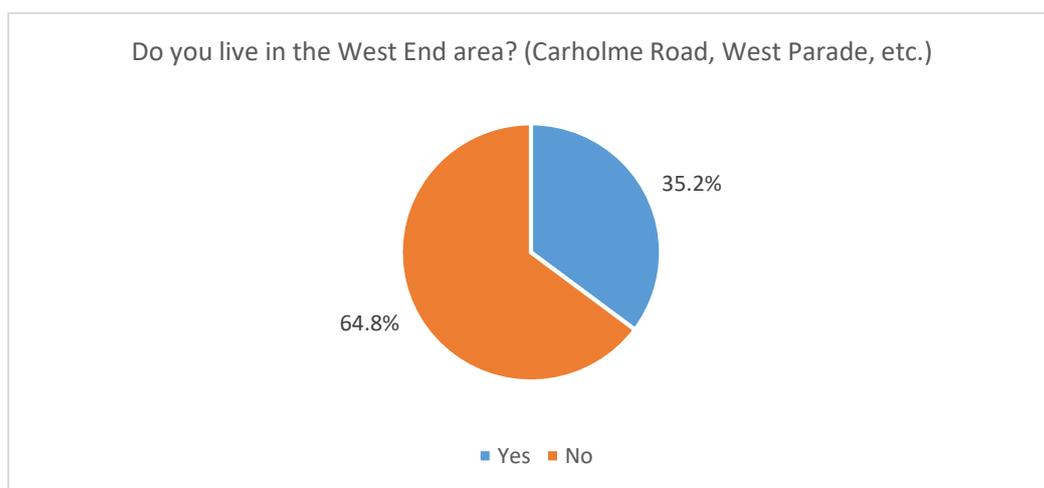


City of Lincoln Streetlight Survey

In early 2016, following a period of consultation and planning, Lincolnshire County Council began to make changes to street lighting, including in the City of Lincoln, particularly a significant reduction in the length of time they are in use, which has seen more of the night-time go without adequate street lighting. The decision, largely made in the interest of sustainability and green impact (and as a financial measure) has often been met with criticism from long-standing and student residents alike; there is a question of personal safety implications which many feel have not been considered.

Vice-President Welfare & Community, Tasnim Hassan, produced a question set to gather student opinion about the changes to street lighting, focussing specifically on matters of safety which may have been negatively affected by the changes. Intended originally to be a catalyst for change in Lincoln's West End, responses to the survey have arguably identified wider concerns about public safety and further opportunities for meaningful conversations on the matter.

Graph showing percentage of respondents who live in the West End area.



Of the 725 responses to the Survey, a little over one-third live in the West End area; where appropriate, this report will consider both sets of students separately.

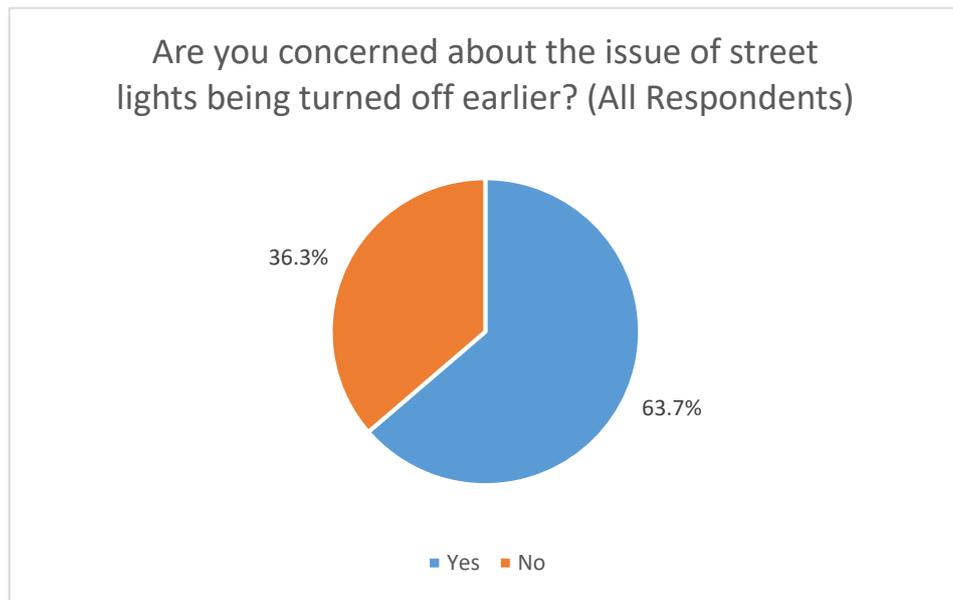
Headline Statistics

- Nearly two-thirds of respondents are concerned about streetlights being turned off earlier
 - Specifically, 78% of West End respondents and 56% of non-West End respondents are concerned about the issue
 - Over half of First Year (Level 1) respondents are concerned about the above
 - 84 percent of Level 2 and 80 of Level 3 students are also concerned
- Over 51 percent of respondents have experienced fear for personal safety, and anxiety when walking to and from their home, as a result of the street lighting changes
- Less than 30% of respondents have avoided walking home when it gets dark as a result of the street lighting changes
- Under 20 percent of respondents have changed their normal route home as a result of the changes made to streetlights in the city

Key Recommendations

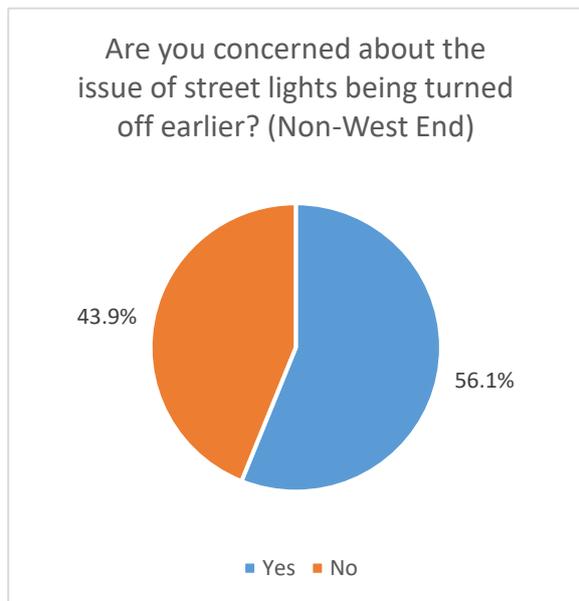
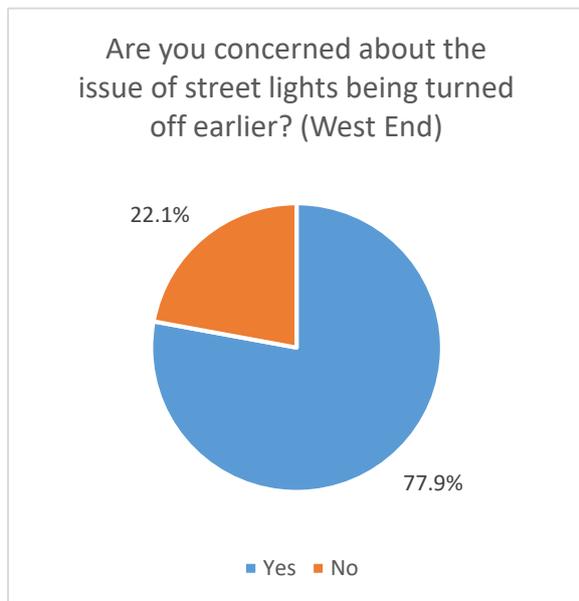
- The University will discuss the effect of changes to street lighting on students' actual and perceived safety, with the ultimate aim of increasing the use of streetlights across the city
- The University will ensure students are well-informed about who to contact should they be a victim of crime or have fears for their personal safety, promoting this information regularly throughout the year via the University Advice Service
 - These essential contacts will include local police, the Students' Union Advice Centre, and University's wider Student Support Services
- The Students' Union will ensure students are well-informed about who to contact should they be a victim of crime or have fears for their personal safety, promoting this information regularly throughout the year
 - These essential contacts will include local police and University's wider Student Support Services
- The University will request statistical information from the County and City Councils to study the effects of the street lighting changes on criminal damage, physical violence, and perceptions of personal safety, in order to support lobbying efforts to increase street lighting in the city, involving the Students' Union in the activity
- The University will gather Information from the County and City Councils about future plans for street lighting, including any developments of the provision (more, new time structures, less, etc.) to identify ensure local and student residents are consulted on the matter
- The University will lobby the County Council to increase street lighting, either directly or through the City Council, including the Students' Union in this activity
- The SU will investigate the possibility of providing a night bus service, to run from the Students' Union through the West End area, so that students feel safe when going home

Graph showing the percentage of all respondents who are concerned by streetlights being turned off earlier

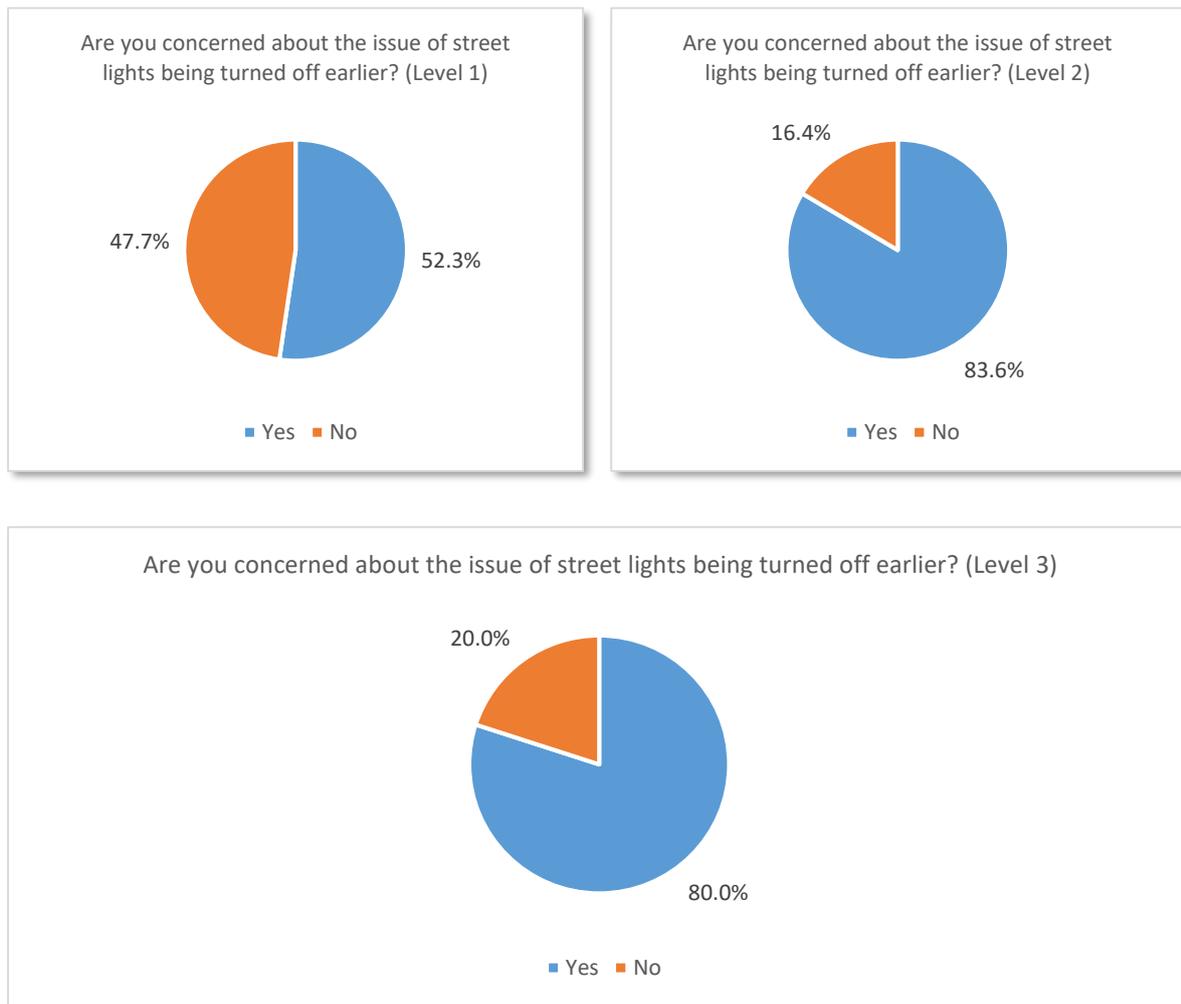


Nearly two-thirds of all survey respondents stated that they were concerned about streetlights being turned off earlier. When considering specific areas, almost 78% of those living in the West End, and 56% of those outside the area, noted their concern. While these responses show that streetlight changes are a particularly significant issue in the West End, it is evident that it should also be considered a matter of concern in other areas of the city.

Graph showing the percentage of respondents, by local area, who are concerned by streetlights being turned off earlier



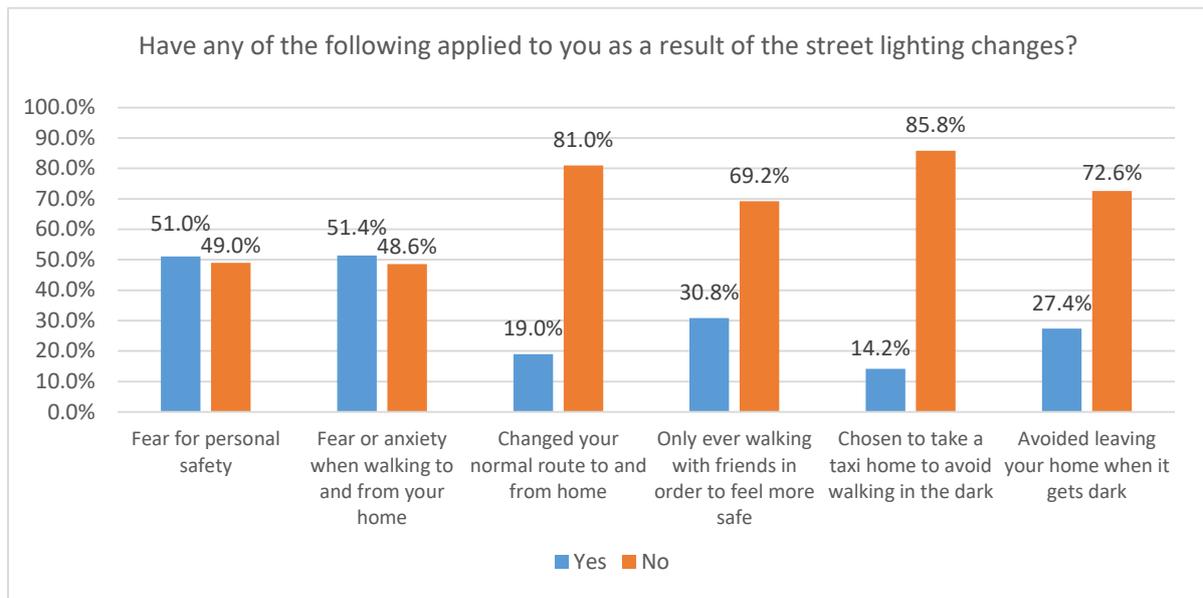
Graph showing the percentage of respondents, by year of study, who are concerned by streetlights being turned off earlier



Over half of Level 1 students are concerned about the street lighting changes; given that a significant number of these students will live in Courts (a close-by and well-lit area), this is to be expected, though it does still identify problem for them. From Level 2, over 83% are concerned, and exactly 80% of Level 3 students say the same. Higher responses from the latter two years is likely largely owing to their having experienced previous streetlight usage (and therefore noticed the significant changes this year, whereas First Years have not); equally, they will be more aware of, for example, previous criminal activity in the city which may well be compounded by a reduction in street lighting.

With significant concern across all respondent study levels, consideration should be given to safety, damage, and criminal matters and, specifically, whether or not the County Council's changes have negatively impacted these; those living in Lincoln may benefit from having access to this data if possible. Regardless of its nature, there is certainly an exercise in ensuring that students and long-term residents alike are well-aware of the mitigations in place to combat anything which may pose a danger to any Lincoln resident, how (and to whom) to report issues, and where to seek advice, support and information.

Graph showing the percentage of respondents who have experienced adverse effects because of street lighting changes



Of all resultant effects which relate to changes in street lighting, the most statistically significant are 'Fear for personal safety' and 'Fear or anxiety when walking to and from your home'. More than 50% of respondents have experienced each of these emotional responses; a little less than one third of respondents noted that they 'Only ever [walk] with friends in order to feel more safe'. Considering these three options, there is some evidence that the changes in street lighting have had an adverse effect on the day-to-day lives of the respondents and have, to some degree, impacted their sense of personal safety; that said, the majority of the options in this question have not been experienced by a significant portion of the respondents (there is variation in 'Yes' and 'No' responses of between 38.4 and 72.6 percent, in favour of 'No'). Given that students' concern about isolation, loneliness and bullying have rated significantly in previous research (36% moderately to very concerned, Strategic Planning Research), as has concern for personal safety (46% moderately to very concerned in the same research), we should also consider it a notable issue that over 27% of students have all together avoided leaving their homes when it has gotten dark.