

## **MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL**

### **STATEMENT ON DARK SKIES**

This Council recognises the importance of preserving the natural night environment for the health and well-being of its residents, wildlife and the inherent beauty of the night sky drawing on the guidance of the draft Wealden District Council Local Plan, the High Weald Management Plan, the Institute of Lighting Professionals and the Dark Sky International Association.

By adopting this statement, the Council commits to defending the night skies, conserving energy, protecting wildlife habitats, and enhancing quality of life for all parish inhabitants

#### **Objectives**

- To reduce glare, light spill and sky glow to improve the night-time environment.
- To promote awareness and understanding of the benefits of dark sky preservation.
- To adopt lighting practices that minimise light pollution and energy waste.

#### **Scope**

To address outdoor lighting within parish boundaries, including public and private lighting installations, recognising the need for different levels of lighting between the centres of Mayfield and Five Ashes and outlying areas, while minimising all as far as possible and respecting professional guidelines on lighting zones and darkness preservation

#### **Lighting Measures and Technologies**

Planning applications should have regard to relevant guidance on lighting set out in:

- Draft Wealden District Council Local Plan policy on dark skies
- High Weald National Landscape Management Plan 2024 objectives DS1 and DS2
- Institute of Lighting Professionals Guidance Note 1 for the reduction of obtrusive light 2021
- ILP/Bat Conservation Trust Guidance Note GNo8/23: “Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night”
- International Dark Sky Community Program Guidelines 2018 Update September 2023

All practicable available means should be used to bring about:

- Shielding of light fixtures emitting more than 1000 lumens.
- LED lighting with a correlated colour temperature of 3000k or lower to reduce blue light emission.

- Motion sensors and dimmers to reduce unnecessary light during off-peak hours.
- Avoidance of over-lighting by focusing lighting on the area where it is needed.

### **Dark Sky Zones**

Much of the Parish at night time has an intrinsic quality of natural darkness, which needs to be preserved. The default policy should be not to put any light in dark places, especially if it impacts wildlife, with any necessary safety lighting shielded and directed downward.

It is recognised that built-up areas may require some artificial lighting for security and human activity and the preservation of natural darkness should not take precedence over safety.

Farm buildings will be expected to meet comparable standards and every effort will be made to align domestic lighting with the DSIA Dark Skies Pledge

### **Public Education and Community Involvement**

The Council will support information campaigns to communicate the importance and benefits of dark skies preservation and it will support dark sky events and activities to foster community appreciation of starry skies.

### **Review and Updates**

This statement will be reviewed after five years to incorporate technological advancements in lighting and to address new findings related to light pollution.