



**BIGGAR  
COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL**

## **Boghall – Campsie's Path Lighting - Survey Report**

**Background** An application has been made to South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) by a member of the public to use approximately £8000 of this money to improve the lighting on the path from the steps just past Campsie's garage to the Boghall estate (shown in red below) by installing four additional lamp posts.



In September 2019, SLC assessed the lighting in this area, and found that it did not come up to standards on parts of the path. Since then, the bushes adjacent to Coulter Rd have been pruned allowing more light to fall onto this path. However, some people, particularly those with visual impairment or mobility issues, continue to find it difficult to use this path at night. SLC have indicated that they are unable to fund upgrades to the lighting in this area, although they have agreed to operate and maintain it if installed.

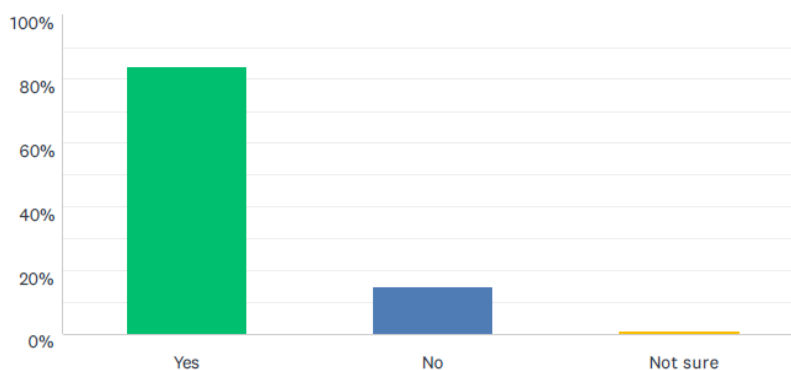
Biggar Community Council have been asked to comment on this application and would like to get the community's views on this. This was done via a survey of residents which ran from Fri 19 Feb to Mon 8 Mar 2021.

An online Survey Monkey survey was publicised via the BCC website and social media. In addition, paper copies of the survey were delivered to houses in the Boghall, Tinto View and Causeway End areas and made available on request.

93 responses were received. 22 of these were submitted on paper, 7 via email and 64 via Survey Monkey. The responses submitted on paper and by email were manually added to the Survey Monkey data.

The first question asked whether respondents were in favour of the proposed use of the Common Good Fund. The second question asked for the respondent's postcode to allow the spread of views across the town to be investigated. The third question was open ended to capture comments about the proposal.

### Qu 1 Do you support the proposal to pay for this lighting from the Common Good fund?



Yes – 78

No – 14

Not sure - 1

Overall 84% of respondents were in favour of using the Common Good Fund to install this lighting, 15 % against and 1 % weren't sure.

### Qu 2 Please tell us your postcode so that we know where in the town you live.

Postcodes were used to filter responses by the area of the town that they came from.

- 44 responses came from the Boghall/Coulter Rd area, which is nearest to the path.
- 21 came from Tinto View or Causeway End. This area is further from the site of the proposed new lighting, but in a direction where residents might use the path as a route to or from the centre of Biggar.
- 28 came from elsewhere in the Biggar area.

The high level of response to the survey from the Boghall/Coulter Rd area and the Tinto View/Causeway End area may reflect the fact that people in these areas are more likely to use this path, or may be due to paper copies of the survey being delivered to these areas.

When postcodes were used to filter responses by the area of the town they came from a more mixed picture of support emerged with strong support for the proposal from residents living close to this path, and less support from those elsewhere.

	Yes	No	Not sure	% in favour
Boghall/Coulter Rd	42	2		95
Tinto View/ Causeway End	19	2		90
Elsewhere	16	11	1	57

64 people responded to this question. Some responses made more than one point, and some comments simply indicated that respondent had no other comments on this. 16 comments just indicated general support for the proposal.

[illegible]

- **The path is too dark** 18 respondents felt that the path was too dark despite recent tree pruning.
- **A ramp is needed to replace the steps** 10 respondents mentioned that the steps made the path very difficult and that they should be replaced with a ramp. Two of these indicated that providing a ramp should be a higher priority than improving the lighting.
- **The path needs repaired** 8 respondents mentioned that the surface of the path and steps was uneven and needed repair.
- **Other priorities** 7 respondents indicated that they would prefer the Common Good fund to be used for other things including providing a ramp to replace the steps on this path and providing improved lighting on the path between the Boghall and Tinto View Estates.
- **Bushes need further pruning** 5 respondents stated that the bushes needed further pruning to improve lighting or because they were felt to be untidy or threatening.
- **SLC should pay** 4 respondents felt that while this lighting was needed, SLC rather than the Common Good Fund should pay for it.
- **Path gets icy** 2 responses noted that the path gets very icy in winter adding to the difficulties negotiating it.

- **More quotes needed** 2 responses noted that standard procurement procedures would require more than one quote to be obtained for this sort of work.
- **Effect on neighbouring properties** 2 responses noted that any new lighting installation would need to be carefully designed to avoid unwanted illumination of gardens and rooms in neighbouring properties. They also noted that it was important that drainage was not adversely affected.
- **Number of lights needed** 1 response supported more lighting in the area, but suggested that this could be achieved with fewer than four new lamp posts.

## Conclusions

The survey indicated support for the idea of spending Common Good funds on improving lighting on the path between Campsie's garage and the Boghall estate. Most of the responses came from people in the Boghall and Tinto View areas where residents are more likely to use this path. Support for the proposal was much higher in these areas than elsewhere in the town where the response rate was lower and the views expressed more mixed, although in other areas there was still a small majority in favour of this use of Common Good funds.

In addition to improved lighting, the survey identified a need to improve the surface of the path and provide a ramp to replace the steps at the Campsie's end of the path. Without these improvements, the path will remain difficult to use for some residents. Further pruning of vegetation would help to create a feeling of safety in this area.

The survey also identified a need for improved lighting between the Boghall and Tinto View areas.

## Annex 1 Do you have any other comments on this?

The punctuation and spelling of responses are as received.

I wish to comment on proposed application for new lighting to be installed at the stairs/ path adjacent to Coulter road. At the cost of £8000. We personally feel that better use of this money could be made in order to benefit the whole of Biggar. We also feel South Lanarkshire council should be responsible for installing and maintaining lighting throughout Biggar. So as you can see we are against the use of common good fund.
No.
Good idea. I do know those who won't go that way at night. A long term goal would be to have a ramp instead of the steps here. Wheeled access to Moss side and Boghall is limited. Thanks
My garden and bedroom windows run alongside this path. I am concerned that the extra lighting may cause unwelcome light at night in my garden and on my windows. Although I quite agree that the path is very dark at night. Also there is a drain by the path to take surface water from the road away. Before this drain was put in place my garden used to flood. I would be anxious that no damage was done to the drain if the lighting was installed. I think more information is needed on the exact location and type of lighting proposed.
Would definitely support this proposal. Very unsafe at present and bushes very untidy. Certainly avoid this in the dark.
Better used for a ramp at the steps at Campie's
The pathway is dangerous in places. Would certainly help with sufficient lighting. It also feels very scary coming down that path in the dark.
It would be a worthwhile improvement
Great idea.
Excellent idea!
During the winter months this path became extremely icy and despite bushes/hedges trimmed back, night time became even more treacherous. Adequate lighting in place would provide extra assistance to aid those who use it.
Reliable lighting long overdue!!!
Do we need 4 maybe 2 enough?
If SLC deemed the lighting to be below the standard required then it should be improved. Trimming of the bushes has not made a significant difference. This is a busy path with residents from Boghall and Moss side using it on a regular basis.
The surface of the pathway is very dangerous and also its quite daunting coming down/up in the dark. Lighting would be a great benefit.
Excellent idea. Has been a cause for concern for quite a while.
SLC should pay for this if its needed. I'm in my 80s and use this path. It's a bit dark, but not too bad. How many people are having problems with this?
At least one more price should be obtained as this is proper practice. This lighting problem has been going on for the last three years. The people of Biggar are all rate payers and should not be held to ransom to pay out money from the common good fund. This is a South Lanarkshire Council lighting problem and should be attended to by the Council. A meeting between Biggar CC and the council lighting Dept as soon as possible before this matter gets out of hand.
I question the legality that when dealing with public funds you can accept 1 quote for a job such as this.
Council should pay for it. Planning should have looked into the pedestrian access prior to allowing more houses built down there.
We would support this if it makes this walking route a little safer at night time.
I find this path hard to use at night and in low light conditions a torch helps but is not enough. It is otherwise the safest route to town.
N/A
Council should pay . Why spend common good funds

I would support this proposal, but would hope that some consideration would be given to where the lights are positioned in relation to the windows of the houses along this path. Also, the drainage in this area was upgraded several years ago due to frequent flooding issues. I would hope that any lighting installation would not interfere with these drains. Obviously any damage done to the drainage would increase the cost of the project.
The steps from this path to the pavement are very dangerous, especially in icy/snowy conditions.
Whilst I agree that increased lighting would help safety in this area, I would respectfully suggest that the area should be considered for an upgrade to enable wheelchairs, prams and buggies to access Campsie's side of the road without needing to cross the main road twice if proceeding from Moss side or Cardon estates.
Doesn't SLC have a statutory responsibility and a more general duty of care to provide and maintain adequate lighting for the safety of pedestrians on public footpaths? If so, is it appropriate for the Common Good Fund to be used in this way, to subsidise SLC in its discharge of this duty and responsibility? Shouldn't the cost be met rather from the SLC's existing budget for roads, lighting and pavements?
This is a very dark section of pathway that would benefit from additional street lighting which would greatly enhance the safety of pedestrians using this section of the path and with negotiating the steps.
This is great news as that part of the pavement is poorly lit at night
None
Great idea. Lots of residents all over Biggar will benefit from this proposal.
Improved lighting is a safety issue. It's difficult to see if anyone is in the vicinity especially where there are bushes, trees and overgrown areas. Pathway would also benefit from resurfacing.
Has always been an issue at night, will certainly make the young and old feel a lot safer
Whilst this is a much needed improvement might I suggest using some of the funding to provide lighting along the path between Boghall and Moss Side in the area where the trees are as this too is very dark and, in my opinion, is even scarier in the dark than the aforementioned path at the garage steps!
The lack of lighting between moss side and boghall specifically through the woodland area is nothing short of appalling. It astounds me that in this age of "stranger danger" there is no lighting in this area which contains a high volume of foot traffic ,especially from young children on their own walking between estates. Looking forward to seeing how this will be rectified.
I use these steps regularly as do my children to get to school, they are far too steep. The lighting is terrible especially with the dark winter nights you can't see where you're going with the pavement uneven also. There should be cycle and pram access here also
This would be really beneficial to our family and make us feel safer going out at night.
I use this path a lot and lighting would make a huge improvement
To help elderly relatives who live there.
The path itself is in poor condition so better lighting would make it safer underfoot.,
I use this path frequently as my main walking route from Moss Side (where I live) to Campsie's and the town centre. It is very difficult to see one's way along the path without proper lighting and I fear falling as a result.
Having given funds to the community toilets the c.c has set a president for funding projects that SLC have no statutory obligation to provide. Many people will benefit from this proposal not just residents of Moss side and Coulter road schemes. Dog walkers from the town also benefit. Trimming of trees provided little benefit. Has SLC been asked to reassess light levels post trimming ?!
Badly needs some additional lighting. Thought that since moving to Biggar 18 years ago when trying to negotiate the dreadful steps and uneven path in the dark.
N/a
SLC assessed the lighting and confirmed it did not meet the required standard. Trimming the trees have not helped in the darkest areas.

My parents stay in cardon drive so we use this walkway a lot with my young children and lighting is very much needed
Think this is a good idea especially as during the pandemic people have been out walking more and I'm sure more lighting along this path would make people feel safer.
The path is in a poor state of repair and the steps are not fit for purpose. Can consideration be given to replacing the steps with a ramp and to make good the path.
No
As a daily user of this path and a resident of the Boghall area this upgrade would be very much welcomed. As a female I don't like to walk along that path on my own at night due to the poor lighting. Would definitely feel more comfortable. Would also like to know if it would be possible to consider a ram to allow for bikes and prams?
This would make walking to school etc so much safer especially in winter the path is so dark it puts many people off using it. Could something be done to help mums with pushchairs as well please? The steps stop people walking to town so would cut car usage too
I use this path going to my brother house and it's treacherous in the dark
I find it spooky going that way so any improvement to make it safer are welcome.
This is long overdue the path is bumpy & so poorly lit it prohibits those with visual issues using it during the winter/in darkness. A ramp would be beneficial also for those who use wheeled walking aids mobility scooters or even prams, the alternative is a long detour via station road or taking your life in your hands crossing the busy Road
I have children walking this area. Can be dark in the winter. Would appreciate increased lighting for safety.
Could there be another lamppost installed further up between boghall and tinto view? As you walk through the wooded area at night it is pitch black as there is no lamppost in this area
Could an update to the path also be carried out with a gentle incline between Boghall Park & Campsies instead of the steps in order to allow pushchairs, mobility scooters & poor walkers to use this route? Otherwise they have to go round the back of the estate or cross the busy road. This would tidy this area up too
Have walked this in the dark many times and felt very vulnerable as couldn't see very far in front. More lighting is definitely required to make us walking feel safe.
I think there are more urgent and pressing issues than this one small area. I am not convinced that this is of particular importance to more than just one or 2 folk.
Excellent idea.
A good use of funds for safety.
There is not a problem with lighting in the area, and the money would be better spent on something else.
If there's money sitting there I don't see why we don't spend it on this cause