

Council to replace 47 lamps to improve safety



● IN THE DARK: Station Road, Mickleover.

Picture: Ben Russell
BR251004D-5

Bright idea should cut road crashes

ENGINEERS will tomorrow begin installing new street lights in a bid to improve safety on a Mickleover road.

Derby City Council is funding the five-week project, which will see 47 eight-metre light columns along the length of Station Road replaced with new lamps.

The new lighting columns will be 10 metres tall and will emit white light, instead of the yellow light given out by the existing lamps. It will cost £40,000 to install the lights.

The council believes that white light is more environmentally friendly, as it cuts down on light pollution in the night sky, but improves visibility at ground level. The decision was made to install the lamps after research showed that 18 people had been injured in traffic accidents along the road during the past three years.

Research found that nine of the 18 accidents occurred in the dark and it is hoped the new lights will cut that figure by at least half.

by Ross Fraser

Jon Pumfrey, the city council's accident investigation officer, said: "A large percentage of the accidents occurred in the dark and they normally involved pedestrians being injured."

"The Government has calculated that each accident costs £70,000 to the community."

"That figure is calculated in terms of costs to the emergency services, hospital bed-space, and the loss to the injured person's family and society in terms of that person's earnings."

"This means we could save the community £280,000 if we cut the number of accidents by four during the next three years."

Mr Pumfrey added: "We are also looking at creating a hard-standing area where the mobile safety camera van can park. This should help lower the number of people speeding and accidents that result from this."

"With the new lights, there is also the opportunity to reduce night-time crime and the fear of

crime people might have.

"But we don't want people to get the impression that the Station Road area has a high level of crime, because it doesn't."

David Skinner, traffic management officer with Derbyshire police, said: "This is one site that had a higher than normal rate of night-time accidents. The lighting is a factor which can't be ignored."

"With a combination of the new lighting and increasing the presence of the mobile safety camera van the situation should improve."

Residents welcomed the news that new lamps would be installed.

Jennifer Fletcher, of Portland Close, Mickleover, said: "It is dark around Station Road at the moment, so the new lamps are something I support."

Jan Babik (84), of Burlington Way, Mickleover, said: "The lighting improvements are a good idea, but I would like the council to put in some more pelican crossings in Station Road too."

"It's a job to get across the road sometimes."