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Please ask for: Lisa Willoughby

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Our Ref: Attachments

Your Ref:

Date 8th June 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Attachments to Swindon Borough Lighting columns.

Due to some clarifications that have been identified in the latest guidance, wall anchors and existing street lighting assets that were not expressly designed to support festive lighting or other attachments now need to have a structural assessment and regular structural testing before any additional load can be added to the columns. Relevant excerpts from the guidance are copied for your convenience below:

Columns

'When a column is designed the attachments and luminaires that may be attached to it at some time in its life must be specified. The specified attachments and luminaires are then considered to be approved for use on the column. If, in the future, there is a need to use additional or larger attachments, larger or heavier luminaires, or fix a height extension, it is essential that structural considerations are made to ensure that the column can withstand any additional induced loading'

Asset-Management Toolkit: Minor Structures Guidance Note 22/19, Appendix 15

Anchor points

'The regular inspection of all brackets and their anchor points is required to ensure that the anchor points remain in serviceable condition, can carry the required loads, and have not suffered any damage or deterioration likely to affect this capability…..every three years test loads to be applied, usually the same as the proof test load applied at the time of installation. If the load test equipment cannot be positioned due to bracket design then a weight test should be used and the bracket checked to ensure no movement of the bracket or anchorages. The load attached to the bracket end should be between 1.25 and 1.5 times the applied load.'

Asset-Management Toolkit: Minor Structures Guidance Note 22/19, Appendix 17

To comply with The Code we would need any columns or wall anchor points that are proposed to house attachments such as festive lighting; hanging baskets; banners or CCTV camera's to be tested before they are used for this purpose in the forthcoming 2022/23 financial year. We would then have to commission an external structural engineer to carry out a weight and wind loading assessment based upon the proposed size of the attachment to BSEN40. The Structural Engineer could then certificate or reject the suitability of the column or anchor point for the proposed purpose.

For any columns to which attachments have already been affixed and for any columns which were agreed as being suitable to house attachments in 2021/22, I can confirm that the cost of the testing and assessment works will continue to be covered by the street lighting maintenance budget until such point as the columns are no longer suitable and have to be replaced.

If you wish to install attachments to street lighting columns in any *new locations* from the forthcoming 2022/23 financial year, I have to advise that a fee will be charged to test and assess the suitability of the column to bear the required load before approval will be granted. As the price for carrying out this work may fluctuate depending upon the quantity to be assessed, a quote will be provided when requested however based upon previous procurement exercises, I would recommend that you make an allowance of around £55/column in your budgets for festive lighting or any other attachments. As columns have a finite lifespan, depending upon the results of the structural testing, an allowance with your budgets should be made to repeat the testing and assessment annually or in 3 years' time to ensure that the assets remain fit for purpose until the column has to be replaced.

The authority has procured a contractor to start testing and assessing columns in 2022 and the programme is anticipated to continue into the 2022/23 financial year. **With this is mind could you please provide me with a list of columns or wall anchor points you wish to install festive lights on**. If these are new locations I will provide an up to date quote and if accepted by yourselves make arrangements for this testing to take place as soon as possible, otherwise I will arrange for the columns to be tested. **If any attachments are to be affixed to buildings, I would also appreciate confirmation from any building owners that they are happy for the anchor to be tested and the festive lighting to be affixed.**

After the testing has been completed we will confirm all the columns that have been approved for use. Upon receipt of our approval, you may wish to appoint a contractor to install the attachments/lights or alternatively, you may wish to contact our operations teams who will be able to confirm if they can assist with installation.

If an external contractor is to be used to install the attachments or festive lights, they must have and provide the following qualifications to the Street Lighting Engineer before authorisation can be given for work to be carried out on SBC's assets:

1. City & Guilds 2365 or 2357 Electrical Installation or Electrical Technology **or** NVQ Level 3 in Electrical Installation or Technology **or** AM2 Electrical Technology.
2. BS7671:2008 17th Edition IET Wiring Regulations.
3. G39/1 Authorisation & Working in the Vicinity of DNO Services & Supplies certificates.
4. IPAF.
5. Method statements & Risk Assessments.
6. NRSWA 1992 (New Roads and Street Works Act) Unit 2 – Signing, Lighting & Guarding.
7. A member of the Highway Electric Association (HEA).

I would appreciate if you could please forward the list of columns/anchor points to the Street Lighting Engineer Lisa Willoughby by June 30th 2022 to allow plenty of time for the specific testing and column replacement works if needed in time for the festive season 2022.

I look forward to hearing from you and should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the above named Officer.

Kind Regards



Tim Price
Service Manager Highway Asset Management & Project Delivery
Economy and Development Directorate
Swindon Borough Council

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