

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



LEND YOUR EYES TO KEEP LAMPS ALIGHT.

Oxfordshire County Council is asking its half million customers to help it to keep street lights across the country in tip top condition. Stickers are being attached to street lights throughout Oxfordshire as part of a "Don't be in the dark!" campaign. The stickers offer members of the public a freephone number 0800 317082, to report faults at any time so that broken street lights can be fixed as fast as possible.

HEDGES ARE A GROWING PROBLEM

Hedges are a growing problem around the county as they inch forward on to pavements and other places where people need to get past. Owners — whether farmers or householders — are responsible for keeping hedges trimmed back to the edge of the highway to avoid danger or obstruction. When it gets too bad the County Council can order the owner to put it right. To avoid that, please check that your own hedges are not causing problems and advise anyone else of their responsibilities.

GARDEN BONFIRE

The garden bonfire is a traditional method of disposing garden waste. However if care is not taken as to what is burnt and when and where the fire is lit, a serious nuisance may be caused to neighbours as well as unhealthy pollution from toxic fumes.

CONTROLS

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, it is an offence to cause a statutory nuisance. This includes smoke, fumes or gases "emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance". A nuisance is considered to be an act which is persistent or likely to recur, is a cause of material harm or interferes with well being, comfort or enjoyment of land. Prosecution can result in a fine.

MINIMISING NUISANCE

If you **MUST** have a bonfire, warn your neighbours and take the following into account: To limit smoke only burn dry material. Never burn household rubbish or rubber tyres or use oil to light the fire. Never light a fire in unsuitable weather conditions, smoke hangs in the air on damp, still days and in the evening. Never burn when the wind will carry the smoke over roads or other peoples's property. Avoid burning at weekends and on bank holidays when people want to enjoy their gardens. Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder — douse it with water if necessary.