

GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF PUBLIC LIGHTS FOR MEMORIALS

The Following guidance was considered and approved by Cabinet in January 2019:

Changing the colour of lights in a public space to indicate the Council's support for a cause is reserved for a limited number of occasions or in response to major events.

A select group of nationally recognised commemoration days, agreed by the Council's Event Board and Cabinet, will be identified and published on our website in January each year. This programme will normally be the only pre-set commemoration or campaign days with which we align our lighting schemes. In determining which causes are marked in the lighting programme, consideration should be given to the extent to which the use of a coloured lights will be understood by the public to signify the cause in question, this in turn is likely to be a reflection of the scale of the national or local campaign of which the memorial lighting is a part.

Responsive lighting changes to denote support for those affected by an unforeseen event will be limited in number to preserve impact. Whilst it is impossible to say specifically what should or shouldn't qualify, it might help to think in terms of events that happen very rarely and have a profound impact on the general public.

For an event occurring outside the area to be marked by a change in our lighting scheme it should be comparable with the death of the monarch or perhaps an incident involving more than a hundred deaths or serious injuries, such as the Grenfell Tower fire.

It may be appropriate to mark a local event of a smaller scale, perhaps involving the death or serious injury of a number of local people, or a particularly emotive incident involving groups of vulnerable people. However care will be taken not to set a precedent by marking any individual, despite the emotional impact on those closest to the individual.

When a request to add or change a lighting memorial event is received by SBC, the Director of Culture, Events & Leisure will consider its suitability against the criteria in this guidance and recommend the appropriate response. Where it is not clear, for those that are borderline in terms of scale/impact, or concerned with local issues that could be of political interest, the Director will consult the relevant Cabinet members and make a recommendation to the Leader of the Council.

To assist officers and members in assessing requests for the inclusion of new campaigns or causes, a simple form will be developed to capture the essential information about the origin and purpose of the campaign and its perceived significance to the people of the area.

The following note will be published on the Council's website, alongside the annual calendar of anticipated lighting changes.

GUIDANCE ON THE COUNCIL'S MEMORIALS, CAMPAIGNS AND SPECIAL EVENT LIGHTING PROGRAMME

The Council's memorials, campaigns and special events lighting programme is agreed annually and runs January – December. It includes lighting of the Riverside, Newport Bridge and Town Centre Lighting Columns/Fountain lights.

The annual programme details a select group of nationally recognised commemoration days, including those of a particular relevance and significance for Stockton Council. The Lighting dates are published on our website in January and will normally be the only pre-set commemoration or campaign days with which we align our lighting schemes.

The Council may agree to periodic responsive lighting changes, however these are expected to be limited as they would only happen in response to a major event/incident, which has a profound impact on the general public.

Please note that the Council will consider lighting requests from members of the public, community groups, charities etc. and these can be submitted at any time of the year using the form below/attached. However, these requests will only be reviewed for the next year's programme and due to the number of requests received we cannot guarantee that requests will be approved. A decision to use the Council's lighting to promote or commemorate a particular cause does not imply any further undertaking in respect of that cause. Inclusion of a campaign or cause one year does not guarantee that it will continue to be marked in subsequent years.