

**From:** [Glen Elgrat](#)  
**To:** [Jamie Eckenswiller](#); [Notice](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments re ZA28.2023 The Blairs  
**Date:** September 15, 2023 2:28:58 PM

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Dear Clerk Eckenswiller, Please find below my comments for the public meeting this coming Tuesday. Thank you, Marian

Re ZA28.2023

I am writing to remind Council, Staff and Developers that West Grey declared itself a Dark Sky Friendly Community in 2016 (162-16) and the Grey County OPA #11 includes the new section 7.14 Dark Sky Protection that requires all lighting in the developments to be dark sky friendly and I have been told by Director Taylor that this clause is in effect. This policy also requires lower tier Municipalities to include a Dark Sky Policy in their own Official Plans. I would make it clear that dark sky also means a naturally dark environment and a general reduction in light pollution, this is also clear in the preamble to policy 7.14. Also, note that point 10) in the policy portion of 7.14 reads - The policies of section 7.14 shall apply to all new forms of development across the County, including residential, industrial, employment, commercial, recreational, and institutional development.

The 5 Principles of Responsible Outdoor Lighting should be adhered to in the design of the new home:

**Useful** – All light should have a clear purpose. Before installing or replacing a light determine if it is needed. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and the environment. Consider using reflective paints or self-luminous markers for signs, curbs, and steps to reduce the need for permanently installed outdoor lighting. Seriously, ask the question, do we really need this light, is there anyone around using it?

**Targeted** – Light should be directed only to where needed. Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downwards and does not spill outwards beyond where it is needed.

**Low Light Levels** – Light should be no brighter than necessary. Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended. The full Moon has a maximum illuminance of about 0.26 lux, but is usually around 0.1 lux and that is pretty bright.

**Controlled** – Light should be used only when it is useful. Use controls such as timers, dimmers and motion detectors to ensure that light is available when needed, dimmed when possible and turned off when not needed.

**Colour** – Use warmer colour lights (<3000K) where possible. Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed. Ask the lighting suppliers how much blue light is present, the IDA recommends aiming for less than 7%.

I ask that the builders be advised to respect the natural environment, plants, insects and animals, as well as their neighbours when considering outdoor lighting at night. Also to ensure that there is no glare light impacting passersby on the road. Check with Sile and Kodey, there are materials used this year for public education available in West Grey offices to assist homeowners, including the Dark Sky Friendly Home Lighting Checklist. And as always I am available to help.

Best regards,  
Marian Ratcliffe

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Marian Ratcliffe.

Save the Fireflies, turn off the lights.