

Old Town lighting - a national first

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A groundbreaking lighting scheme has been switched on in Hastings.

The LED street lights, designed in a Victorian style, and decorative white light laser beam, were turned on in George Street at the official launch on Monday (15 October).

The single white laser beam of light will zig zag the length of George Street, while the LED lights will illuminate the pavement.

Hastings is believed to be one of the first towns in the country to use LED lighting instead of more traditional style street lamps.

LEDs are incredibly environmentally friendly, they use less electricity and last much longer than ordinary lamps. They also produce a crisper, clearer light as an added safety feature. This particular design was developed by Advanced LEDs Ltd, working closely with Hastings Borough Council and East Sussex County Council.

The laser scheme derives from an original idea by Jason Bruges that was selected by local residents and traders after public consultation in April 2004. Although Jason's scheme could not be developed due to conservation issues, it became a catalyst for the laser scheme which was designed by lighting designer Mo Gibson.

In line with the area's conservation status the white light has been designed in sympathy with the character and feel of George Street.

Councillor Matthew Lock, lead member for community prosperity, said: "This is an innovative and useful scheme, funded by money from the European Union Interreg programme. It's also part of our Coastal Treasures projects, flagging up the unique sites along our coastline from Rother to France."

