

# Westminster saves Historic gas lamps after GMB campaign



These lamps will now remain in place for future generations to enjoy

Westminster Council has agreed to save almost 200 historic gas lamps following a GMB campaign.

The authority had planned to replace 275 historic gas lamps – which have illuminated London streets for almost 150 years – with LED bulbs. [1]

Following pressure from GMB Union and other campaign groups, Westminster Council has now pledged to keep 138 Grade II listed gas lamps and 36 non-listed gas lamps in prominent positions across the



city.

A further 94 non-listed gas lamps will still be converted to LED

The gas lamps, operated and maintained by GMB members, were originally installed in the late 19th century and were the first streetlights to appear anywhere in the world.

**Andy Prendergast, GMB National Secretary, said:**

“Well done to Westminster Council for saving these historic gas lamps.

“By reversing their decision, Westminster has preserved an important part of London history, as well as a popular tourist attraction.

“Every year thousands of tourists flock to see them and it would be a tragedy if they were replaced in the name of modernisation.

“Thanks to the efforts of GMB Union and others, these lamps will now remain in place for future generations to enjoy.”

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### Member requiring help?

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