

Motion on Notice – Fireworks

Proposer: Cllr Colin Hartley

Seconders: Cllr Erica Lewis, Cllr Jean Parr, Cllr John Reynolds, Cllr Jason Wood

Fireworks can be frightening for domestic, farm and wild animals. Each year the firework 'season' can last for several weeks around Bonfire Night and again at Christmas/New Year time with the year interspersed with fireworks to mark birthdays/weddings and other events. Added together and there don't seem to be many months when fireworks are not heard!

"This Council resolves:

- to require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people*
- to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks*
- to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays*
- to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display."*

OFFICER COMMENTS

Officer advice on the four points of the motion is-

- to require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.**

Organised events on Council owned land require approval. Notice of these events via the Council website and social media can take place.

The Council does not have information on the number of public firework displays that take place on non- Council land. A media release asking organisers of events on non- Council land to advertise their events in advance etc could be done and they could be promoted as above.

This of course would not cover the impromptu firework displays that sometimes take place on both Council and non- Council land.

- to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks**

This could be achieved through a Council led media campaign and via the Council website.

- to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays**

This would be done if requested by Council. The Firework Act 2003 imposes some controls on the sale of fireworks and public fireworks displays. All fireworks sold must comply with BS EN 15947 which currently sets a noise level of 120db, for fireworks available to the public.

- **to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public display.”**

Council would need to consider the extent to which it would wish to encourage local suppliers to do this and by what means. As an example as part of the campaign outlined above it could be done within existing resources. If more was required eg officers visiting all outlets then the resource implications would need to be considered.

The licensing of retailers selling fireworks is regulated by Trading Standards (Lancashire County Council). Retailers should be visited every year so Council may wish Officers to explore if County would work with the City Council to spread the campaign message of quieter fireworks.

MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS:

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments

SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTS:

Level of resources required will be dependent upon the decision Council makes. For example a public awareness campaign providing the relevant information on the Council’s website would involve less resource than Council officers visiting all outlets selling fireworks.