

MINUTE EXTRACT

COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2020

45 MOTION - WIRRAL COUNCIL ASKED TO BACK THE RSPCA'S FIREWORKS CAMPAIGN

Councillor Lesley Rennie moved and Councillor Ian Lewis seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Following a debate conducted in accordance with Standing Order 15, and Councillor Rennie having replied, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That

Council is keen to ensure that all Wirral residents' concerns regarding the correct and safe use of fireworks in the Borough are taken seriously.

Council thanks Wirral residents who have shared concerns over the use, and misuse, of fireworks in the Borough, following the national campaign by the RSPCA and others, in 2019 and this year.

While they can bring much enjoyment to some people, fireworks also cause significant problems and fear for others.

They are a source of fear and distress for many animals, including pets, farm livestock and wildlife. Animals affected not only suffer psychological distress but can also cause themselves injuries – sometimes very serious ones – as they attempt to run away or hide from the noise.

Council also notes that fireworks, when misused, are dangerous and can be used to cause a public nuisance.

Council notes the work undertaken by the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, through Operation Banger, to reduce anti-social behaviour and sporadic events, linked to fireworks and bonfires and thanks all Fire Officers for their work on this.

Council therefore resolves to:

- **continue to support a number of organised, local displays with residents encouraged to attend, including the River of Light Festival (a large scale organised public display which the Council plans responsibly for) and when safe to do so**
- **continue with its practice of working with Parks, Communications and other Council Teams and partners to promote safety messages and advertise events well in advance of the planned dates, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people**
- **continue 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**

- **ask the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee to investigate how the Council can work with our licensed venues to encourage the safe, responsible and neighbourly use of fireworks within their grounds**
- **request all Group Leaders write to the 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 and to consider options that could limit the private sales of fireworks to individuals**
- **support visits by Trading standards and the Fire Service to local suppliers of fireworks, including 'pop up' fireworks suppliers, to ensure compliance with existing legislation and to encourage fireworks that are appropriate for public display.**