

Motion 2 - Wirral Council asked to back the RSPCA's Fireworks Campaign

Proposed by: Councillor Ian Lewis

Seconded by: Councillor Lesley Rennie

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.

While they can bring much enjoyment to some people, they can cause significant problems and fear for other people and animals. They can be a source of fear and distress for many animals (including pet animals, 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 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.

Council therefore resolves:

- to continue to support a number of organised, local displays with residents encouraged to attend
- to request all public firework displays within Wirral to be advertised in advance of the event, including the local authority social media channels, 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 ask the Chief Executive to 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
- to continue visits to local suppliers of fireworks, including 'pop up' suppliers in October and November, to ensure compliance with existing legislation and to encourage fireworks that are appropriate for public display.