

NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR A-M BARKER - FIREWORKS

Executive Summary

At its meeting on 13 February 2020, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to the Executive.

Councillor A-M Barker

“A number of councillors have been contacted by residents in relation to the RSPCA initiative to reduce the impact of fireworks and Sky Lanterns on animals, and have asked their Council to support a motion to support measures which will help ensure people can enjoy fireworks responsibly whilst minimising the risk to animal welfare, horses, farm animals and wildlife and residents.

Woking Council can play its part in this by direct action or by lobbying other Government departments and retailers to play their part. Accordingly, the Council resolves to:

- Request all publicly organised firework displays within the Woking area to be advertised on the Woking Council website in advance of the event, so that everyone can enjoy the celebrations and residents are able to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
- 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.
- 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 display.
- Encourage trading standards to enforce more rigorously the regulations of the selling of fireworks both in terms of age appropriateness, licencing and CE markings.”

Officer Comment

“The Council could support this Notice of Motion;

- The Green Infrastructure Team will be notified of all events which include fireworks on Council owned land, and these could be advertised in advance on the Council’s website;
- A press release could be published regarding the impact of fireworks and precautions that could be taken, including encouraging residents to let their neighbours know if they intend to have their own garden fireworks;
- The Council could write to the UK Government as suggested; and
- The Council could ask Trading Standards how it enforces the selling of firework regulations. Trading Standards may have limited resources when it comes to carrying out enforcement checks, but as the Council’s Environment Health Officers frequently visit local businesses those Officers could act as ‘eyes and ears’ and report businesses to Trading Standards where it is believed that there is non-compliance with Regulations.”

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Background Papers: None.

Reporting Person: Councillor Ann-Marie Barker
Email: cllrann-marie.barker@woking.gov.uk
Geoff McManus, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Email: geoff.mcmanus@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3707

Contact Person: Geoff McManus, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Email: geoff.mcmanus@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3707

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Kevin Davis
Email: cllrkevin.davis@woking.gov.uk

Shadow Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ken Howard
Email: cllrken.howard@woking.gov.uk

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