



Council – 28 January 2021

Notice of Motion – Fireworks

Notice of Motion from Councillors Lesley Walton, Rob Stewart, Andrea Lewis, David Hopkins, Jan Curtice, Mike Lewis, Mark Child, Des Thomas, Sam Pritchard, Wendy Lewis, Lesley Walton, Robert Francis-Davies, June Burtonshaw, Mike White, Terry Hennegan & Cyril Anderson

This Council notes

- that whilst it supports organised events such as for Diwali, Chinese New Year and 5th November, public & private, the public are letting off fireworks indiscriminately at any time during the year
- that some fireworks sold to private individuals are too loud, with the current legal decibel level at 120
- that over 750,000 people across the UK over recent years have signed petitions raising concerns over this and the general misuse of fireworks & related antisocial behaviour
- that this issue has been raised both at the Welsh Senedd and the UK Government

This Council believes

- that legislation currently in place ie Fireworks Act 2003, is inadequate in stopping inconsiderate individuals being able to let fireworks off at any time, causing distress to both animals & people, and in some cases injury even death
- that the current legal noise limit is set too high

This Council resolves to write to the UK Government urging them to review & update current legislation as necessary such that:

- fireworks are only available for sale by licensed retailers, by introducing mandatory conditions where they are purchased, and restricting the times of day when they can be sold
- licensed retailers are encouraged to stock fireworks quieter than the current legal decibel limit, evidenced as being safe such as having the CE mark, and individually identified with unique serial number traceable identifiers, such as bar codes, to enable tracking if and when required should regulations be broken
- fireworks can only be bought by those producing adequate evidence of their identity including age
- random but organised checks can be carried out by council enforcement officers on shops selling them with significantly increased fines for those selling fireworks without necessary controls or setting off fireworks outside of the permitted timeframes
- the decibel level of fireworks sold in supermarkets or by private suppliers is reduced to a maximum of 90dB

- fireworks sales are restricted to specified times of the year
- residents are encouraged to attend pre-advertised organised public events namely Chinese New Year, Diwali, Bonfire Night/5th November, and New Year rather than holding their own displays
- private parties on these occasions where fireworks available for purchase adhere to regulations and are only permitted on certain dates
- other pre-advertised one-offs during the year where written permission has been awarded to individuals or groups, based on being held at a venue which is a safe distance from residential properties