

### Proposed by Cllr Princess Bright

#### Motion – Responsible use of Fireworks

Fireworks are used throughout the year to mark different events. This council welcomes the use of fireworks to celebrate cultural and community events, whilst also recognising the need for regulation in order to support vulnerable people and animals.

The unpredictable, loud and high intensity noises that many fireworks make can cause fear. For example, studies have found fireworks to be the most common cause for fear responses in dogs<sup>1</sup>, and it is estimated that 45 percent of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks<sup>2</sup>. A New Zealand survey recorded 79 percent of horses as either anxious or very anxious around fireworks or over the Guy Fawkes Day period<sup>3</sup>

Debris produced by fireworks, if found on the ground, can also pose a hazard to animals, such as horses and farm livestock. Although there is limited direct evidence, it is also likely that fireworks and their debris will cause disturbance to wildlife, and are likely to cause suffering or distress, depending on the distance from the explosive and the noise level.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Blackwell, E., Bradshaw, J., & Casey, R. (2013). Fear responses to noises in domestic dogs: Prevalence, risk factors and co-occurrence with other fear related behaviour. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 145, 15-25

<sup>2</sup> . Blackwell, E., Casey, R., & Bradshaw, J. (2005). *Firework Fears and Phobias in the Domestic Dog*. Scientific Report for the RSPCA, University of Bristol, UK

<sup>3</sup> Gronqvist, G, Rogers, C. & Gee, E. (2016). The Management of Horses during Fireworks in New Zealand. *Animals* 6(20).