

## REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

(Meeting held on 9 January 2020)

### 1. FIREWORKS MOTION

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel, having discussed and considered the motion from Cllr Hoare on fireworks, is reporting back to Council. The Panel understood the reasons behind the motion in that residents had been frustrated at the frequent use of fireworks and the impact they had. A ban on fireworks was not suggested.

Members discussed the motion and agreed that the use of fireworks was a sensitive issue and that awareness should be raised. The Panel agreed to recommend the motion to Council for adoption, subject to a change to the wording of bullet point (c) to “request” rather than require the advertising of firework displays in advance. It was also agreed that bullet point (d) be expanded to include Hampshire Fire and Rescue, Hampshire Constabulary and Trading Standards.

The Panel suggested a Task and Finish Group be set up to consider the amended motion, inviting relevant stakeholders to consider a joint and integrated approach, in particular regarding the promotion of public awareness.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

- (i) ***That the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel advise the Council that it is supportive of the following amended motion:***

***We live in a unique part of the world and as such we have unique problems and challenges when trying to protect not just our wildlife and pets, but the ponies, cattle and pigs who freely roam the forest. These are an integral part of our history and culture, the animals are people’s stock and livelihood. Fireworks can cause many problems for animals, not just from the noise, but from the debris of spent rockets which land within the forest, countryside and gardens which can cause severe distress or even death, if eaten.***

***Within the NFDC area there are also many people for whom fireworks are a source of distress, for example, the elderly, ex-service men and women and those who are vulnerable due to mental or physical challenges.***

***To this end the Council resolves to:***

- (a) ***Engage with Government and local Members of Parliament to seek greater national regulation with regard to private and organised firework displays.***
- (b) ***Actively promote a public awareness campaign within the District about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people, including precautions that can be taken to mitigate this.***
- (c) ***To request all public firework displays within (and encourage those just outside) the District to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.***
- (d) ***To work with the NFNPA, Forestry England and Hampshire County Council (including HCC Trading Standards and any other relevant***

*services), Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hampshire Constabulary for a joint and integrated approach.*

- (ii) *That the Panel recommend to Council that a Task and Finish Group be set up with key stakeholders, as detailed in (d) of the motion to consider a joint and integrated approach.***

**COUNCILLOR STEVE RIPPON-SWAIN  
CHAIRMAN, ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**