COUNCIL

27 JANUARY 2021

MOTION

Fireworks are used by people throughout the year to mark different Events and Festivals. While they bring much enjoyment to some people, they can cause significant problems to other people and animals.

They can be a source of fear and distress for many animals including pet animals, farm livestock and wildlife.  Animals effected 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.

The RSPCA believes the law is failing as it does not prevent or sufficiently reduce the risk of fireworks causing distress injury and anxiety to people as well as death injury or distress to animals.

Further research is needed to properly understand the impact of noise on animals and a number of things can be done to improve the situation for animals and people by:

1. Introducing a limit on the public use of fireworks on or close to specific dates and times.
2. Tightening restrictions on the sale of fireworks in the run up to bonfire night.
3. Reducing the maximum noise level of fireworks sold to the public ensuring they are labelled accurately
4. Licensing all public firework displays - and ensuring displays are better advertised to the public.

**It is proposed:**

1. To encourage 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock quieter fireworks for public display.

Proposed by Councillor Wallace

Seconded by Councillor Barton

Supported by Councillor Wright