



## COUNCIL – 3RD MARCH 2020

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION RELATING TO THE EFFECT OF FIREWORKS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DISPLAYS**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

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- 1.1 The attached report, which was considered by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 detailed a Notice of Motion, received from Councillor N. Dix and supported by Councillor D.W.R. Preece. The Scrutiny Committee were asked to consider the Notice of Motion, as set out in paragraph 6.1 of the report and make an appropriate recommendation to Council, in accordance with Rule 11(3) of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.2 Members considered the following Notice of Motion that Council:-
  - i. Write to Welsh Government urging them to utilise any levers at their disposal to mitigate any negative impacts on animals and vulnerable people of the hosting of firework displays.

and

  - ii. 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.
- 1.3 The Committee heard evidence from Mr L Clark (public affairs adviser at RSPCA Cymru) which supported the Notice of Motion. Members were advised that the RSPCA received over 400 calls last year relating to fireworks. Some outlined animal injuries caused as they fled following the noise from fireworks. Mr Clark also highlighted the RSPCA's "Bang Out Of Order" campaign which claims that existing laws on fireworks are inadequate.
- 1.4 During the course of the ensuing debate, discussion took place on how the suggested maximum noise level of 90dB had been determined, and the Committee were advised that this had been recommended by the RSPCA following scientific research. The Committee also discussed the issue of subjectivity in relation to noise assessments.
- 1.5 A Member raised the issue of endorsing the wider RSPCA campaign and the need to include aspects such as actively promoting public awareness. Members were advised that the Council does not have the powers or duties to implement the full range of RSPCA suggestions. Members also discussed the rules and restrictions surrounding the sale of fireworks, together with enforcement responsibilities. Members were advised that there are already a number of regulations in place and that enforcement is the responsibility of the Trading Standards department.

- 1.6 Following consideration and discussion the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee unanimously endorsed the Notice of Motion and recommended its acceptance.
- 1.7 Council is now asked to consider the attached Notice of Motion.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Report 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Agenda Item 7



**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  
11TH FEBRUARY 2020**

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION RELATING TO THE EFFECT OF FIREWORKS IN  
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DISPLAYS**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE  
SERVICES**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in Paragraph 6 of the report, and make an appropriate recommendation to Council.

**2. SUMMARY**

2.1 A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor N. Dix.

2.2 The Notice of Motion meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure is now referred to this Scrutiny Committee for consideration prior to its presentation to Council.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 The Committee is asked to consider the Notice of Motion outlined in paragraph 6.1 below.

**4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 To comply with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

**5. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

5.1 The procedural rules regarding a Notice of Motion are contained within Council's Constitution. The Council's Constitution sets out the framework for the decision making roles and responsibilities which will impact on future generations.

**6. REPORT**

6.1 Councillor N. Dix requests in his Notice of Motion that Council:-

- (i) write to Welsh Government urging them to utilise any levers at their disposal to mitigate any negative impacts on animals and vulnerable people of the hosting of firework displays.

and

- (ii) 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.

6.2 The following information is provided by the Member in support of his notice of motion.

### **Reasons for the Motion**

The Notice of Motion included the following accompanying information from the RSPCA

- 6.3 *Fireworks are used by people throughout the year to mark different events. While they can bring much enjoyment to some people, they can cause significant problems and fear for other people and animals. They can be a source of fear and distress for many animals (including pet animals, farm livestock and wildlife). Animals affected 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.*
- 6.4 *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 and it is estimated that 45% of dogs show signs of fear when they hear fireworks. A New Zealand survey recorded 79% of horses as either anxious or very anxious around fireworks or over the Guy Fawkes Day period.*
- 6.5 *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.*
- 6.6 *RSPCA Cymru believes there is a real need to raise awareness amongst owners of animals about fireworks phobia. This phobia can be treated (in dogs at least) in the long term but owners need to prepare themselves and their pets sooner, rather than just before the fireworks are let off. There is a need to raise awareness about the impact of fireworks on animals to the wider public to encourage them to be more considerate of those with pets, horses and livestock as well as local wildlife.*

## **7. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- 7.1 The Notice of Motion is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the act as it complies with the rules and regulations of the Council's Constitution which sets out a clear framework for how the Council operates in particular decision making responsibilities which will consider the positive and negative impacts on future generations, long term resilience, economic, environmental and social capital.

## **8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no specific equalities implications that directly affect the Council arising from the report.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **10. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

## **11. CONSULTATIONS**

11.1 There has been no consultation undertaken.

Author: Lisa Lane, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Appendices:  
Appendix 1 Copy of Notice of Motion

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**THE EFFECT OF FIREWORKS ON ANIMALS AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN PUBLIC  
AND PRIVATE DISPLAYS**

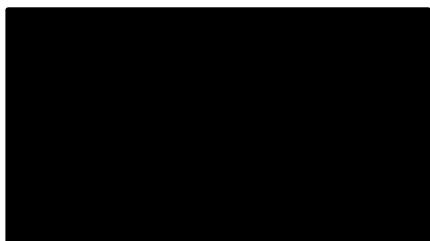
To consider the undersigned Notice of Motion standing in the name of County Borough Councillor N. Dix and supported by those listed below.

We the undersigned elected members ask that this Council: -

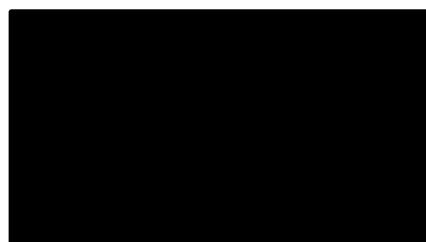
- (i) write to Welsh Government urging them to utilise any levers at their disposal to mitigate any negative impacts on animals and vulnerable people of the hosting of firework displays.

and

- (ii) 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.



Councillor N. Dix



Councillor D.W.R. Preece