



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

21st OCTOBER 2020

FIREWORKS – NOTICE OF MOTION

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update in respect of the Notice of Motion considered by the Council at its meeting on the 27th November 2019 and the RSPCA campaign calling for greater controls.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the recommendations of the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services in conjunction with the relevant portfolio holder, as set out in the attached Cabinet report (Appendix 1); and
- 2.2 Note the outcome of the decision taken by Cabinet at its meeting on the 13th October, following consideration of the recommendations.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide an update on the Notice of Motion that was previously considered and adopted by Council.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 On the 27th November 2019, Council considered the following Notice of Motion which requested an Officer report for consideration by Cabinet, outlining how this local authority may support the RSCPA Campaign. It also called for the Council to write to the 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 fireworks displays:-

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors S. Rees, J. Bonetto, L. M. Adams, D. R. Bevan, H Boggis, S. Bradwick, J Brencher, A Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-

Jones, L De- Vet, J Elliott, S.Evans, G. Jones, M Fidler Jones, M. Forey, A. Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, J. Harries G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G. W. Hughes, R. Lewis, W Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M. A. Norris, D. Owen-Jones, S Pickering, S. Powell, S. Powderhill, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, G Stacey, M Tegg, G Thomas, W Treeby, R K Turner, M. Webber, D. Williams, T. Williams, C. J. Willis and R. Yeo

“The use of fireworks has long been a tradition in our communities to celebrate events such as Bonfire Night and the New Year. The impact of Fire Works is increasingly a concern to residents who either own pets or to Armed Forces personnel suffering with PTSD.

RSPCA Cymru have launched a campaign to increase public awareness and reduce the potential for injury or distress to animals by proposing the adoption of a policy for the responsible sale of fireworks, including the potential for silent fireworks, which would achieve a compromise between allowing our communities to celebrate key events, while ensuring that these celebrations are conducted in a sensitive and respectful manner.

The Council therefore requests an Officer report for consideration by Cabinet, which outlines how this local authority may support the RSCPA Campaign by:

- Considering a requirement for 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.

- Consider the development of 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.

- Consider encouraging local suppliers of fireworks to retail ‘quieter’ fireworks only for public display.

This Council also resolves to write to the 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 fireworks displays.

This Council notes the strong commitment already shown by the authority towards animal welfare through its support for the Lucy’s Law campaign and to our Armed Forces community through the Armed Forces Covenant, with a cinema screening for veterans with PTSD recently being held at the Park and Dare Theatre on Bonfire Night.

This Council notes the lead taken by the Nos Galan Committee, which has already agreed to review its use of fireworks for the 2020/2021 event”

- 4.2 At the meeting and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4.1 the proposed amendment to the Notice of Motion was not adopted and therefore the notice of motion was agreed as originally submitted (see point 4.1)

4.3 In accordance with the requirements of the Notice of Motion an officer report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on the 13th October 2020 and the outcome is attached in the Cabinet Decision Notice and set out below.

4.4 Cabinet agreed:-

i) To note the existing controls available in UK Law to control the sale of fireworks and their use in public areas;

ii) That the Director of Corporate Estates reviews and where necessary imposes greater restrictions on the use of Council land for the purpose of public firework displays; and

iii) To support a promotional campaign for 2021 (coronavirus restrictions permitting) that encourages responsible use of fireworks and the early notification to the public of planned events in the community.

4.5 It is proposed that Council will be informed of any developments to arise from the agreed actions via a report from the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 There are no consultation implications arising from this report

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED.

8.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

9.1 The Notice of Motion is linked with the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, helping to create a resilient Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities and creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Members have been provided with an update in respect of the Notice of Motion considered at Council on the 27th November 2019 and the subsequent actions to have arisen from the recommendations. The reporting mechanism strengthens the process of providing Council with clear outcomes as a result of their Notice of Motion.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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COMMUNICATIONS**

Item: Notice of Motion -Fireworks

Background Papers

- Council –[27th November 2019](#)