



COUNCIL MEETING

23 January 2020

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor K McClurey will move the following motion:

This Council notes that:

- The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) says the law is failing. It does not prevent or sufficiently reduce the risk of fireworks causing distress, injury or anxiety to people, as well as death, injury or distress to animals.
- Fireworks can have an impact on veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The noise of fireworks and smell of gunpowder can trigger panic attacks in veterans who have experienced conflict.
- Further research is needed to properly understand the impact of noise on animals and people. In the meantime, several things can be done to improve the situation for wildlife and people at risk of being affected by firework explosions.
- A review of the licensing of all public firework displays is needed, ensuring displays are better advertised to the public, informing of noise levels and how it may affect people and animals.

This Council resolves to:

- Ensure all public firework displays within Gateshead are advertised in advance of the event, with appropriate advertising for the size of the display, allowing residents to take precautions for people and pets in their care.
- 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.
- Encourage local suppliers of fireworks to separate ‘quieter’ fireworks from the loud ones so people can choose which ones they prefer with animal and people safety in mind. Give large labels to sticker the products with: green for quiet, red for loud.
- Carry out a review aimed at reducing the sound impacts of fireworks on local communities.
- Ask the Chief Executive of the Council to write to Government ministers calling for firework sales around bonfire night to be brought more in line with New Year’s Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year.

Proposed by: Councillor K McClurey

Seconded by: Councillor M Ord

Supported by: Councillor J Wallace
Councillor J McClurey