

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 11 February 2021

Public Questions

Number	Question by	To be answered by	Subject
1	Mr Jonathan White	Councillor Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Fireworks

Mr Jonathan White will ask the **Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Mrs Natalie Bramhall** the following question:

Question:

My question relates to the control of fireworks and is in response to concerns raised by residents about noise.

I will start by stating my question and then move on to provide some background to the question.

Will the council please consider action to help alleviate the impact of firework noise on our residents, their pets, other animals, and birds?

The effect of fireworks on dogs, cats, other pets, horses, farm animals, birds, and in some cases people, of fireworks exploding has been raised repeatedly on social media by local residents, particularly those in the Meadvale & St. John's ward. The issue is not one of fireworks per se, but more the frequency and unpredictability during the October/November fireworks season - broadly, the two weeks leading up to the 5th November.

I appreciate that the law around this is set by national government, and I am grateful for the Leader, Councillor Brunt's, contribution to the discussion about this on Twitter.

There are however steps that can be taken at borough level, and I refer to a draft motion prepared by the RSPCA which, for example, was recently laid before Spelthorne Borough Council and may possibly form the basis for action by our own council.

The motion is as follows:

"This Council resolves:

- to require 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;

- 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;

- 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; and

- to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public displays."