

**Council: Tuesday 19 October 2021**

**Administration Motion in the name of Cllr Felix Byers**

**Protecting Animals from the Effects of Fireworks**

Council notes that:

1. Fireworks are used lawfully by residents throughout the year to mark various celebrations
2. The unpredictable, loud, and high-intensity noises that many fireworks make can cause fear and distress in pets, livestock, and wildlife. In the worst cases, animals require behavioural therapies and drug treatments for their fear responses, and they may never recover fully
3. The RSPCA expects an 18% rise in the number of residential garden firework displays in England and Wales in 2021, compared to 2019
4. Animal welfare is a widely held concern for residents in Barnet and across the country
5. Residents have a statutory duty under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to protect from suffering those animals for which they are responsible.

Council believes that:

1. Residents should give their neighbours reasonable advance notice if they are planning to host a private firework display, so that arrangements can be made regarding the wellbeing of pets and livestock
2. The Council should do more to promote awareness of the impacts that fireworks can have on pets, livestock, and wildlife.

Council resolves to:

1. Require where possible that all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, enabling residents to take precautions for their pets
2. Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.

**Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.**