



**Quiet
Fireworks Policy**

Quiet Fireworks Policy

If you wish to use council-owned land for a function or event, you will only be permitted to allow the release of silent/quiet fireworks. This also applies to any events supported by the council, including those not on council land.

Loud noise from fireworks can have an adverse effect on the welfare of vulnerable people and animals:

- Children and adults with sensory processing disorders or who are on the autistic spectrum can have hyper sensitivities to sound, light, touch, taste, smell and pain which stimulate anxiety and feelings of being overwhelmed or confused. These feelings are also common for people with conditions that affect the brain or nervous system such as Dementia.
- People with hearing conditions such as Hyperacusis which can cause a difficulty in tolerance and volume of sounds that would not be considered loud by individuals with normal hearing.
- People with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) may have difficulties with loud sounds such as an exaggerated startle response, fear of sound (Phonophobia) or aversion to specific sounds (Misophonia), which may trigger flashbacks or panic attacks.
- People with respiratory conditions such as Asthma, COPD and Lung Disease may also experience adverse impacts of the air pollutants and particulate matter expelled by fireworks, though air quality degradation is short-term.
- Significant fear and distress can be caused to all animals due to the sudden noise.

Fireworks are often used throughout the year to mark different events, and while they can bring much enjoyment, for some they can be stressful, especially for vulnerable people, pets, livestock and other wildlife. Not only can they cause psychological stress but can also lead to serious injuries.

All public displays on council owned land now need to be advertised in advance to allow residents to take precautions where needed, and the council will be promoting the RSPCA #BangOutOfOrder campaign to raise awareness of the impact of fireworks on animals and vulnerable people, highlighting precautions that can be taken.

Local fireworks suppliers will be encouraged to stock quieter fireworks to help minimise the disruptions and the council will be working with community groups to ensure the rules around only using quiet fireworks are adhered to.