

# Minutes

## Formal Council Questions and Responses

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Date: 13 December 2021

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1 **Question to the Leader: 2021/26 - Firework Displays' Impact on Environment and Wildlife**

**Councillor Mogford asked:**

Given the recent declared Ecological and Environmental Emergency how can Newport City Council now support and sponsor firework displays? Surely you are each aware of the effects fireworks have on our environment, our wildlife and pets.

In this day and age would not it not be better to have an alternative 'spectacular' maybe with laser shows for example?

In support of these concerns there are many references to the negative effects of fireworks, just one example of many available below.

*'Fireworks propel a cocktail of chemicals into the atmosphere, many of which can harm both people and the environment. The vivid colours in firework displays come from metallic compounds such as barium or aluminium that can have negative impacts on animal and human health.*

*Additionally, to produce the oxygen needed for an explosion, many fireworks contain oxidisers known as perchlorates. These can dissolve in water, contaminating rivers, lakes and drinking water.'*

<https://www.sciencefocus.com/planet-earth/are-fireworks-bad-for-the-environment/>

**The Leader responded:**

Fireworks Displays are regulated by UK law. Specifically, the Fireworks Act 2003 and the Fireworks regulations 2004. The local authority currently has limited powers in this area.

The Christmas fireworks display was not funded by Newport City Council, but rather the Newport BID, representing the city centre traders. Newport City Council are responsible for the Christmas lighting, which have been replaced with environmentally friendly LEDs.

I have requested officers liaise with the BID to look at what options may be considered.

The councillor will be aware that we are currently consulting on our climate change plan and the council can consider prohibiting fireworks on its own land. I would recommend that the councillor responds to this consultation.