

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR - MARTIN EDEN
DATE: 26 JANUARY 2017**

FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT

Trading standards staff worked closely with the Police, Fire Service and colleagues in Community Safety to play their part in ensuring that bonfire night stayed as safe and controlled as possible. In the run-up to bonfire night, officers vetted every application for a fireworks licence which was received, to make sure that licences were only issued to fit and proper persons. An inspection programme saw officers checking fireworks storage at retailers, and an under-age sales test purchasing operation checked 10 premises, none of whom sold. Officers also acted on unlicensed sales through Facebook and prevented unauthorised supply. Two officers were on duty on the night itself but were not called on to take enforcement action.

PROSECUTIONS

Public Protection tries hard to deal informally with most breaches of legislation informally, but sometimes court action is unavoidable. Three Public Protection prosecutions have been heard in the period October to December 2016. The first related to noise nuisance caused by cockerels crowing, and resulted in a total penalty of £1484. The second related to dumped waste, and resulted in a total penalty of £407. The third related to illicit tobacco, and a guilty plea has been entered; sentencing is expected to take place in January or February 2017.

WASTE

The introduction of alternate weekly collections in October has progressed satisfactorily, with reductions in tonnages seen on October, although tonnages rose to pre-October levels in November for burgundy bin waste. We have though seen a rise in recycling tonnages in November.

Promoting the introduction of the Garden Waste Collection scheme has commenced, with all households receiving notification in December, prior to the scheme commencing in March. In December alone, nearly 1,000 customers have joined the scheme, benefiting from a reduced rate of £20 to join the scheme.