



meeting **GENERAL PURPOSES & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

date **3 NOVEMBER 2003**

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (COMMUNITY PROTECTION

THE REGISTRATION OF FIREWORKS STORAGE PREMISES 2003

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the 2003 registration of premises for the storage of fireworks.

2. Information and Advice

- 2.1 Persons keeping fireworks for purposes other than home use must register the premises with the Local Authority and have safe storage facilities.

Registrations

- 2.2 In order to assist traders reminders to renew registrations are sent out in August. The fee this year for registration is laid down in Health and Safety Regulation and this year 2003/04 fireworks registrations are £13 per premise.

- 2.3 To date 160 premises have been registered in Nottinghamshire. When registration certificates are sent out a business information Retailers' Guide together with a letter advising of the Service's policy in relation to attempts to undertake test purchases.

3. Inspection of Registered Premises.

- 3.1 The Business Plan objectives which will be undertaken up to mid November involve inspection of the storage facilities at any premises at which problems were discovered last year, any premises registering for the first time and the 50% of other premises which were not inspected last year. Officers will be looking among other things for excess quantities than permitted, fireworks not in covered storage, storage with other flammable materials or equipment which could possibly start a fire, in particular electrical fittings.

4. Unregistered storage.

- 4.1 All Officers on Inspections will look for unregistered storage. Where the storage is properly undertaken, registration will be effected and a warning issued. Where the storage is not adequate for the amount of fireworks present they will be seized and appropriate legal action will follow.

5. Debris Project

- 5.1 There have been a number of complaints over the last few years of damage caused by rocket debris falling to the ground. This year the service is carrying out a project to try to capture and weigh debris from rockets. A report will be prepared for Government seeking to show that the weight of debris could cause serious injury or damage to persons or property. The report will ask for a limit on the weight of non-combusting material used in the manufacture of rockets.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The fireworks season causes great concerns for many people particularly because of the danger to person and property the fireworks can cause if not correctly stored. The Trading standards Service will through inspection and advice ensure that traders do not expose themselves and other members of the public to danger from inadequate storage conditions.

7. Statutory and Policy Implications

- 7.1 The report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities personnel, Crime and Disorder, and users. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report. Members' attention is however drawn to specifics as follows:

7.2 Crime and Disorder

The illegal storage of fireworks often results in them getting into the hands of persons who will misuse them. Correct storage by well informed traders should reduce this problem.

8. Head of Legal Services' Comments (IR 3 October, 2003)

- 8.1 The proposed enforcement work falls within the statutory duties and powers of the Trading Standards Service. Any action taken to reduce the effect of crime also fulfils the duty that falls upon the County Council under the Crime and Disorder Act.

9. Director of Resources Financial Comments (CC/RWK)

None

10. Recommendation

- 10.1 That Members note the report and the work being undertaken the Trading Standards Service in relation to the registration and storage of fireworks.

11. Background Papers Available for Inspection

Nil.

12. Electoral Divisions Affected

- 12.1 All.

Richard Hodge
Assistant Director (Community Protection)