

West Meon Parish Council

Best Fireworks & Bonfires Practice

WMPC is aware that many parishioners like to use fireworks for celebrations and light bonfires in their garden. Both are acceptable practices in law. However, there are concerns that some use of fireworks and lighting of bonfires has caused disputes between parishioners. WMPC has decided to create a best practice policy to provide helpful advice about both matters.

Regarding Fireworks

1. Respect your neighbours when planning to use fireworks. Use only the minimum number and appropriate types in your garden.
2. It is always helpful to post on *We Are West Meon* warning of when you are going to use fireworks. This helps neighbours with small children, nervous pets and farm animals take appropriate action.
3. Modern rockets are far more powerful than those in the past, often containing plastic parts that retain heat and pose a fire risk many hours after they were lit. In a community where there are so many thatched roofs rockets pose a real fire risk. Please do not use rockets if you live near thatched properties or launch them where they might cause a fire risk or be ingested by livestock.
4. Fireworks cannot be let off on the recreation ground. This is not permitted by WMPC.
5. Fireworks are dangerous explosive devices and should always be used with care. Attending organised public displays is always the safest way to see them.

Regarding Bonfires

6. Bonfires can pose a health risk to those with breathing disorders and should be lit when materials produce least smoke.
7. Be considerate and avoid lighting when the wind can take the smoke into neighbouring properties, especially if they have their washing out and/or windows open!
8. Always ensure bonfires burn for as short a time as possible and are put out before dark.

Please remember the person using fireworks or lighting bonfires can be held accountable for any damage caused to neighbouring properties.