


APPENDIX 1
PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Bonfires on Public Land

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Bonfires on Public Land
Link Officer/s:	Marc Stephenson (now Sharon Cooney)
Action Plan Agreed:	November 2022

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

Recommendation 5:	To further deter the construction and lighting of unauthorised bonfires, SBC identifies any alternative sites within the Borough where official bonfires may be able to be facilitated in the future.
Responsibility:	SBC Head of Community Safety
Date:	November 2022
Agreed Action:	SBC will monitor and where reasonable advertise diversionary events including official bonfires to deter the practice on public land.
Agreed Success Measure:	Evidence of a communication / engagement strategy which accounts for advertisement of diversionary activity during this period.
Evidence of Progress (March 2023):	<p>There is continued work to identify and accurately track bonfire hotspots and this will continue throughout the year and approaching 2023 season.</p> <p>During Autumn 2022, the Authority conducted a Social Media campaign on the approach to Mischief Night and Bonfire Night, advertising many diversionary activities to attract families, children and Young People to alternative sites and activities, including the Halloween Spooky Walk that coincided with Mischief Night. Bearing in mind that not all bonfires and ASB in the season take place on 5th November, work was undertaken with SBC Youth Workers to divert young people throughout the period.</p> <p>The Shrewsbury Town Council approach is being explored and our own strategy being developed based on this for implementation in Autumn 2023. Environmental Crime Officers have been tasked with engagement activity over the next few months to identify appropriate sites and discuss with residents and businesses.</p>

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Assessment of Progress (March 2023): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)
Evidence of Impact (March 2023):	<p>The data for 'Recommendation 1' demonstrates the achieved reductions in deliberate fire-setting for Bonfire Season.</p> <p>An update on the implementation of an approach similar to The Shrewsbury Town Council method will be presented to the Committee in due course. Autumnus 2023 will incorporate a collaborative approach with Youth outreach and schools.</p>
Evidence of Progress (September 2023):	<p>There is continued work to identify and accurately track bonfire hotspots and this will continue throughout the year and approaching 2023 season.</p> <p>The overall strategy is outlined in the supplementary document (see Appendix 2). Case Management Officers have been tasked with engagement activity over the next few months to identify potential sites and discuss with residents and businesses. We are also working with Licensing and with Corporate Comms to identify and publicise organised events across social media platforms.</p>
Assessment of Progress (September 2023): (include explanation if required)	2 (On-Track)
Evidence of Impact (September 2023):	n/a
Evidence of Progress (December 2023):	There was a sustained programme of partnership working between September and November 2023, with Police, CFB and Housing associations. Particular attention was paid to those locations that had been identified via intelligence and information analysis.

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Letter drops were done for identified hot spot areas, warning people of the dangers of fireworks, bonfires and waste accumulations, and of potential consequences and penalties. Joint social media communications were also carried out. (see below example)



🔥🔥🔥 OFFICERS STEP-UP FIREWORK SALES CHECKS AHEAD OF BONFIRE NIGHT 🔥🔥🔥

Our Trading Standards and Licensing teams have been busy carrying out test purchases to ensure fireworks are not sold illegally in our Borough during the run-up to Bonfire Night.

It is illegal to sell fireworks to anyone under the age of 18 – and businesses must also be registered in order to sell fireworks for private use, which also must adhere to safety regulations.

Councillor Norma Stephenson, the Council's Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety, said: "We want to ensure that all our residents can enjoy Bonfire Night safely, which is why we are continuing to carry out proactive checks and make sure rules aren't being broken.

"If you suspect that somebody may be selling fireworks illegally, you can report it to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, or alternatively you can make our Licensing team aware by emailing licensing@stockton.gov.uk.

"And for more tips on how to keep safe this Bonfire Night, please stay tuned to our social media channels."



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	<p>Environmental audits and community walkabouts were done in Ropner, Newtown, Hardwick and Billingham. CFYA were on duty to remove accumulations in the week prior and on Bonfire Night itself.</p> <p>CFYA, Cleveland Police, Enforcement and CCTV/Drones worked together to identify waste accumulations and antisocial behaviour on the run up to and on the night of Bonfire Night.</p> <p>Using SBC drones, a property was identified on Hardwick Estate that was accumulating waste, most likely to use on the community bonfire that takes place every year. A joint visit was conducted with Environmental Health and police to warn the resident about the potential dangers and penalties for accumulating the waste and to burn it on public land. The gathering on Hardwick was substantially smaller and less impactful than last year. Both police and CFB reported less antisocial activity than last year.</p> <p>In terms of the identification of any alternative sites within the Borough where official bonfires may be able to be facilitated in the future, no sites are obvious but we will continue to consider moving forward in the future.</p>
<p>Assessment of Progress (December 2023): (include explanation if required)</p>	<p>1 (Fully Achieved)</p> <p>A clear reduction was achieved on previous year statistics and reports are that the Hardwick Bonfire was significantly reduced in size. Encouragingly, there has been some local social media chat suggesting residents may be willing to get involved in the 'clean up.' However, this must be balanced against being seen to allow illegal activity to go ahead.</p>
<p>Evidence of Impact (December 2023):</p>	<p>Deliberate Primary Fires – 17% reduction on 2022 Deliberate F3s – 10% reduction on 2022 Violence To Staff – 0 occurrences on bonfire night</p>

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1 Fully Achieved	2 On-Track	3 Slipped	4 Not Achieved
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