

Community Responsibilities

At the meeting of Princethorpe Parish Council on Thursday 8th September 2016, there was a lively discussion during our 'Public Democratic Forum' concerning the responsibilities of the village with regard to excessive noise and its impact within our rural community. The discussion was occasioned by representations from a number of landowners with livestock who had experienced difficulties, including regrettably, the death of one animal on the evening of the Princethorpe College 'Princefest', in particular the firework display late on the night of Saturday 3 September.

The Parish Council has no power to licence or, indeed, prohibit events that might present distress to villagers and livestock alike. We did, however, resolve to remind all members of the community of the need for great care in ensuring all landowners with livestock are properly consulted prior to such events and arrangements put in place to mitigate distress to the many livestock within the parish. Furthermore, the Parish Council is mindful of the case for thinking that, in such a rural community, it is very difficult to see how any significant firework display can be safely organised without causing distress to livestock.

There are few legally binding responsibilities governing noise and distress to neighbours and livestock. What concerns the Council is preserving a common sense of responsibility to the community. As we approach autumn, there are a number of ways in which we can have serious negative impact on our neighbours and their animals with such things as smoke pollution from bonfires to the very real distress that firework displays can cause, especially for animals. We are a rural community. There are a great many properties with livestock within the parish boundaries and very great care is required if considering any display.

The UK Health & Safety Executive publishes a useful guide for organising firework displays, a copy is available on the Parish Council website.

(Giving your own Fireworks Display HSG124)