

## **Rother District Council**

### **Policy for the use of Council owned land (including the beach) for firework displays**

The Council supports the cultural importance and entertainment provided by professionally organised firework displays and recognises the importance to tourism of these events. The Council aims to ensure that such events are well organised, safe and limit the disturbance to local residents and animals.

Council owned land will only be permitted to be used if 20 working days before the event an application is made to the Council and other responsible authorities are notified.

The event organisers must have sufficient public liability insurance and indemnify the Council against all claims arising out of the event.

To avoid disturbance the frequency and times of displays will be limited and excessively loud fireworks are not permitted.

Satisfactory safety plans and risk assessments must be carried out and adhered to. Event organisers must comply with all reasonable requests by Council Officers, Police, Fire Authority etc. having regard to developing circumstances relating to the weather, site conditions, crowd behaviour etc including cancellation or termination of the event, with no compensation being payable. Event organisers are expected to pay for any costs incurred by the Council arising from the event.

The Director of Services will publish from time to time guidelines to assist organisers in complying with this policy.

The Council supports the RSPCA's campaign to reduce the noise levels produced by fireworks.

The Council encourages other organisations to adopt a similar policy.

## **Rother District Council**

### **Guidelines for the use of Council owned land (including the beach) for firework displays**

#### Notice:

At least twenty working days before the event an application must be made to the Head of Amenities, and copied to the Fire Safety Officer (ESFRS), Maritime & Coastguard Agency (if appropriate) and Police. To take into account changes in wind direction and wind strength where possible an alternative site shall be identified.

#### Insurance:

£5 million public liability insurance shall be obtained and a copy of the certificate sent 10 working days prior to the event commencing.

#### Frequency:

To avoid causing disturbance to local people a maximum of six displays to be held at the same location in one calendar year.

#### Noise and Nuisance:

To reduce disturbance to local people any display shall cease by 22:00 (autumn and winter) or 23:00 (spring and summer). Displays shall not normally take place on a Sunday.

To avoid causing unnecessary disturbance to local people and animals fireworks must only be used which produce a sound pressure level of SEL or  $L_{Aeq}$  95 dB (one second) measured at the minimum safety distance. The 95 decibel level will not apply to one annual event held at each of the towns of Bexhill, Battle and Rye by an organised bonfire society or reputable pyrotechnic organisation within one month either side of 5 November, nor to New Year's Eve: and that the Director of Services be authorised to use his discretion to allow the same exemption for one-off events to mark special occasions at any other time throughout the year.

#### Cleaning:

The cost of cleaning and restoration of the land is normally included in the fee and damage deposit charged for the use of the land as set by fees and charges.

### Safety:

It is the responsibility of the event organiser (the person or organisation that hires the Council's land) to submit the safety plan and ensure that the safety plan is then adhered to. The safety plan and risk assessments shall be submitted with the application. The plan to include the date and precise time of the event, details of the types and sizes of fireworks, the safety distances to be used, the names of the operators and the reasons why persons are considered competent. Fireworks shall only be lit by competent fire display operators.

The risk assessment to refer to the HSE document "working together on firework displays, 1995".

The risk assessments shall consider the requirement for (dependent on the size, nature and location of the event):

- Traffic arrangements
- Car parking arrangements
- Pedestrian routes
- Arrangements to contain and designate the crowd arena
- Alternative exits for the public from the arena
- Arrangements for lost children
- Illumination of entrances & exits for pedestrians
- Security of bonfires before, during and after the event
- Number & role of marshals & where they will be located
- Injured persons and first aid provision
- Use of competent fire display operators
- Fire fighting equipment
- Use of radios for communication
- The name & mobile telephone number of the organiser in overall control of the event on the evening

### Council Officers:

Council Officers may attend the event and must be given free access to all areas. Officers will not provide advice or manage the event. However, Event organisers must comply with all reasonable requests by Council Officers, Police, Fire Authority etc. having regard to developing circumstances relating to the weather, site conditions, crowd behaviour etc including cancellation or termination of the event, with no compensation being payable.

### Alternative site:

If the second choice site is to be used the organiser will notify the Head of Amenities 24 hours before the event.