



Furzedown Safer Neighbourhoods Team **COMMUNITY BULLETIN October 2009**

- **Halloween and Fireworks Night:** The Metropolitan Police are keen for people to be safe whilst out enjoying themselves, and as such, the last few weeks has seen a number of partner agencies working together with the Police and London Fire Brigade, in order to implement strategies for reducing crime and anti social behaviour often associated with this time of year. Months of planning has taken place so that the law-abiding majority can enjoy this autumn's festivities without their fun being spoilt by a small number of troublemakers. There will be an increase in police activity to deter anti-social behaviour, disorder and crime during this busy time. Every Safer Neighbourhoods' Team will be on duty to support a large-scale policing operation on the 31st October and in the run up to this busy period, Safer Schools' Police Officers will be in Schools, offering education and crime prevention advice, working to protect and reassure young people. In the run up to schools' breaking up they will be focusing on the end of the school day when large numbers of young people come together on and around the public transport system. The small minority who remain intent on using this period as an opportunity for criminal activity can expect police attention. In particular those who choose to carry knives and other weapons can expect to be arrested and sent to court.

Advice during this time of year -

- We want you to enjoy yourselves but will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour.
- Ensure you are safe by staying with others.
- Leave your valuable property at home.
- Attend organised events wherever possible.
- When trick or treating avoid knocking on elderly neighbours and causing unnecessary worry.

For more information on safety visit <http://www.berr.gov.uk/fireworks/public.htm>

- **Tackling Fireworks Misuse:** The main legislation that exists to protect communities from misuse of fireworks includes:
 - THE FIREWORKS ACT 2003
 - THE FIREWORKS REGULATIONS 2004
 - THE FIREWORKS (AMENDMENT) 2004
 - THE FIREWORKS (SAFETY) REGULATIONS 1997
 - THE FIREWORKS (SAFETY) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2004.

It is illegal to sell adult fireworks to anyone under 18, for anyone under 18 to possess adult fireworks or sparklers in a public place and to throw or discharge a firework in a street or public place.

- **Legislation and Powers:** In order to help the police protect communities from the misuse of fireworks and anti-social behaviour associated with the Halloween and firework period, the following laws and powers exist – carrying a maximum £5,000 fine, six months in prison, or both:



THROWING FIREWORKS OR SETTING OFF FIREWORKS IN PUBLIC PLACES

Section 80 of the Explosives Act 1875 prohibits throwing or setting off fireworks on any highway, street, thoroughfare or public place (for example, local parks, streets, car parks and bus stations).

POSSESSION OF 'ADULT FIREWORKS' BY ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 IN A PUBLIC PLACE

Adult fireworks are any except for a cap, cracker snap, novelty matches, party poppers, serpents and throwdowns.

POSSESSION OF CATEGORY 4 FIREWORKS (PUBLIC DISPLAY FIREWORKS) BY ANYONE OTHER THAN A FIREWORK PROFESSIONAL

Category 4 fireworks are clearly marked.

Curfew on Firework Use: Through the Fireworks Regulations 2004, it is an offence for any person to use adult fireworks between the hours of 23:00 and 07:00, except for on the following 'permitted' fireworks nights:

- 5 NOVEMBER – FROM 24:00 TO 07:00
- DIWALI – FROM 01:00 TO 07:00
- NEW YEARS EVE – FROM 01:00 TO 07:00
- CHINESE NEW YEAR – FROM 01:00 TO 07:00

Stop and Search: Section 115 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 allows police to stop and search an individual or vehicle suspected of possessing illegal fireworks.

Penalty Notices for Disorder: Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs), for those aged 16 years and above, allow Police Officers to issue £80 on-the-spot fines for curfew and possession offences.

Other Powers:

Where the misuse of fireworks is part of wider anti-social behaviour, other options such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), Dispersal Orders and Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) can be used. Parents also have a role to play in teaching young people the consequences of anti-social behaviour and firework misuse. In appropriate circumstances, the use of Parenting Contracts or Parenting Orders will be considered to help deal with wider disorder and nuisance behaviour.

Community Initiatives and Engagements

- **7th November 2009** Property Marking Event 12pm Furzedown Recreation Park
- **9th December 2009** Drop in Clinic 4pm Samuel Johnson