



12 January 2016

Parish Councillors
Parish Clerk – For Publication on Web Site

POST EVENT REPORT – BONFIRE NIGHT / FIREWORKS THURSDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2015

References:

- A. Bonfire Night Activities Report to NLPC dated Jul 15.
- B. Health and Safety Executive direction – “Giving your own firework display” (HSG 124). (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg124.htm>)
- C. EON insurance letter dated 15 Oct 13.

AIM

- 1. The aim of this report is identify the lessons learnt from the Bonfire Night Activities held on 5th November 2015.

BACKGROUND

- 2. During the Summer of 2015 a Working Group reviewed the organisation and safety aspects relating to the annual bonfire event . The findings were incorporated into a Report (Reference A) that was endorsed by the Parish Council at its meeting on 20th Jul 15. The Report included a Risk Assessment and made a number of recommendations, namely:
 - a. The size of the bonfire should be reduced compared to that in 2013/ 14.
 - b. Rockets should not be used in the display.
 - c. The length of the display should be reviewed and should be less drawn out. The display should conclude by 8pm.
 - d. Better fencing should be utilized to secure the safety area around the fire and firework launch site.
 - e. Lighting should be provided in the area of the pavilion and access points
 - f. Consideration should be given regarding how best to manage traffic attending the event.
 - g. The requirements laid down at References B and C and issues noted at Para 11 above must be met in full.

With the exception of traffic management (Para f.), which within the limitations of resources available to NLPC was considered unmanageable, the recommendations of the report were successfully implemented. The Police had been informed of the event and no specific direction regarding traffic management had been given. Access to the emergency services was available at all times through the gate at the North of the Oval/Butt Lane.

3. The HSE guidance at Reference B provides clear direction and sound advice and should be read by all concerned with the future running of the event.

OVERVIEW

4. The event took place on Thu 5th Nov 15 on the Oval. I would estimate that 250 people attended the event, a reduction in numbers from those attending in 2014. Note, the weather during the day leading up to the event was wet and miserable and doubtless considerable numbers stayed indoors. The weather was monitored continuously in the period leading up to the event. By 1700hrs the weather had improved significantly and the Wind was estimated to be no more than Force 3 (8 – 12 mph). No change in wind direction or force was noted during the display period. The bonfire was lit at about 1820 hrs and the display commenced at circa 1840 hrs and was complete by 1910 hrs.

SAFETY

5. There was one incident reported of a member of the public being struck on the head by wadding falling from a firework (no injury sustained). There were no incidents reported relating to the bonfire or to fireworks. It is recommended that the safety zone be extended to 35m from the firework launch site to prevent a repetition in future years.

PREPARATION

6. Police and Fire Services were notified two weeks prior to the event, the local Beat Officer contacted the undersigned in advance of the event to confirm details. No incidents were reported to the emergency services.

7. As in previous years, Charles Cade purchased the fireworks in advance of the event and stored them in a locked garage. The storage arrangements were entirely satisfactory. During the event the fireworks were held in a secure container (Van) and managed by a nominated individual with 2 x assistants.

8. The safety zone was bounded by a picket fence, bailer twine and hazard tape and proved to be both secure and resilient. No spectators were allowed in the area to the North of the bonfire bounded by Edith Weston Road and the established, marked safety zone. No 'live' elements of fireworks fell outside the safety zone.

BONFIRE

9. The bonfire was made entirely of wooden pallets – with the exception of straw for lighting no further extraneous material was introduced to the fire itself. A reduced quantity of pallets was provided which created an entirely appropriate and safe fire. The fire was built with a broad base, which ensured no risk of collapse. The fire was checked in advance of lighting for people/animals in line with HSE recommendations. It was lit with a blowtorch using suitable kindling materials. The fire caught immediately and spread throughout the base evenly.

10. The pallets burned very cleanly, resulting in little if any burning debris, beyond the inevitable column of fine embers. The previous damp conditions inevitably reduced the rate of burn of the fire however it remained an appropriate spectacle.

FIREWORKS

11. No rockets were included in the display which meant that there may have been a lack of variety in the display. This will be reviewed for future events, where additional styles of firework may be included. The fireworks provided a spectacular display which lasted for some 30 minutes – a good pace was maintained. All spent fireworks were secured after the event and safely disposed of the following day. Sufficient portfires were available for lighting fireworks. There were no safety incidents relating to fireworks.

LIGHTING

12. 2 x mobile lighting units were procured for the event at a reasonable cost. These were broadly well received and had little impact upon the visual impact of the bonfire and fireworks. The lighting provided resulted in a more secure and safer environment for spectators.

STAFFING

13. Individuals were nominated for specific tasks in advance of the event. The list of those nominated for specific tasks is attached. It was noted that Stewards were required to be 'on duty' from 1730 hrs – 2030 hrs without a break or refreshments this will be reviewed for future events. Sufficient Staff for all tasks were on duty throughout and were briefed in advance. Safety jackets and radios were provided to all Stewards.

FIRST AID

14. CO 2 Medical Regiment kindly provided a qualified uniformed First Aid trained SNCO. First Aid back up was provided by Tim Smith and Paul Cummings. One minor casualty was treated for a cut.

REFRESHMENTS

15. NLPC had decided in advance of the event to maintain a 'No Alcohol' policy, this did not appear to unduly affect the event. There was some evidence of alcohol being consumed during the event, however this did not cause undue safety concern. Due to the weather which resulted in a reduction in the number of people attending the event some stock was not used resulting in a decreased profit margin. Any non-perishable stock should be accounted for and secured for the next event.

CLEAR UP

16. A small team of volunteers cleared the area completely by 1200 hrs the following day. Some work remains to remove minor debris and re-instate the burned grass. It would be useful to confirm a list of those intending to assist with the clear up in a similar way to the list of volunteers.

SUMMARY

17. A safe and very well organised event. It does require considerable planning and resources in terms of staffing, however sufficient volunteers came forward to ensure its success. The members of the PC all made a concerted positive effort to ensure the success of the event. I recommend that the PC review the event in Jun 16 including a detailed review of the Risk Assessment. There is only specific recommendation regarding safety:

- It is recommended that the safety zone be extended from 30m to 35m from the firework launch site to the public viewing area.

PBG CUMMINGS
Safety Officer

Enclosure:

Bonfire Night Staffing List

**NORTH LUFFENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
BONFIRE NIGHT / FIREWORKS 2015 - VOLUNTEERS**

Fireworks	Charles Cade
	John Perry
	Nick Meyrick
	Mike Barnes
Control	Alan Swindley
STEWARDS	
	Paul C
	Paul & Leslie Mann
	Nick Meyrick
	Claudia & Terry Riordan
	Tilly Lovejoy
	Bob Rennard
	John & Sue Willoughby
Catering	Andy Wormald
	Hilary Hudson
	Ian Ferguson
	Hannah Lloyd
	Eric Able
Drinks	Bill Whittaker
	Janet Whittaker
	Lilliane Coogan
	Charlie Hudson
Mulled Wine	Pete & Lynn Burrows
Collections	Tim Smith
	John House
	Roger Marshall
	Hilary Smith
	Kathy Robinson
	Andrew Robinson
First Aid	SSgt Orton - 2 Med Regt RAMC
Lighting Equipment	Jonny Sillett
	AN Other