

Notes of a Meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2019 at Blackgang Chine

Those present: Messrs Alex Dabell and Dominic Wray, Councillors Dave Stewart (Isle of Wight Council) and Tim Addison (Chairman Niton and Whitwell Parish Council), Mrs Vickie Ford (Clerk to Niton and Whitwell Parish Council)

Concern Raised	Blackgang Response
Public consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Dominic Wray, Blackgang Chine Park Manager, agreed to attend a meeting of Chale and Niton and Whitwell Parish Councils
Huge amount of rubbish left over each night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fireworks are biodegradable Field is swept for rubbish after every display and again next morning
Footpath closures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footpath closures are for health and safety reasons Closures kept to an absolute minimum and only while displays are in progress Isle of Wight Council confirmed there were no complaints last year
Viewpoint car park closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The car park remains open at all times
Stress to dogs, horses and livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers with livestock on adjacent land receive a letter giving times of displays
Noise pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fireworks contractor has advised that noise level is equivalent to heavy rain Not viable to use lower noise fireworks due to relative positions of fireworks and observers Isle of Wight Council Community Safety and Environmental Health representatives will monitor
Toxic pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no evidence that gasses emitted are toxic
Damage to wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Fireworks' duration 20 minutes per evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration is no more than 10 minutes Will reduce to 5 – 6 minutes per evening Firing time will be between 9pm to 9:45pm depending on the level of darkness; the further we get into the summer holidays, the closer this will move towards 9pm
Increase to 3 evenings per week from 2 last year and 1 previously	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response to Island residents' and visitors' requests for weekend fireworks (hence Friday evenings) 3 evenings per week is an experiment; there will be a commercial review at the end of the season
Possible extension to 7 evenings per week in future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will not be happening; fireworks displays happen at Blackgang Chine and Robin Hill on alternate evenings

Niton and Whitwell Parish Council has agreed to monitor the fireworks together with the Isle of Wight Council and to meet with Blackgang again at the end of the season to review the impact of going to 3 days and to discuss forward plans.