

Bonfire Survey 2017

Summary of Results

The survey was organised in response to an increase in the complaints received from the local residents.

47 answers were received by email or posted in the Friends post-box-We would like to thank everyone who took the time to do this.

Q1: Do you feel Bonfires should be banned both on the grounds of reducing air pollution and neighbour nuisance?

Yes-10 No-37

Q2: If NO, which of the following options would you favour?

Restricted by a)Season - 8 b) Days- 5 c) Hours -34

Continuing as now, but with strict adherence to the rules. -10

Note: Many people chose more than one option, leading to this apparently anomalous result,

Q3: Would you be willing to remind your neighbouring plot holders if you saw a nuisance bonfire being lit?

Yes-32 No- 6 No response -7 plus one comment-depends on the neighbour.

Q4: Would you be happy to reduce your reliance on bonfires by following the suggestions in the accompanying advice sheet?

Yes -35 No-1 No response 11

Suggestions/Thoughts

A wide range here, from reflections on the joy of watching flickering flames, the concerns of how to destroy diseased material to prevent the further spread across the allotment, to the obvious concerns of those for whom the risk to health, and downright unpleasantness of being downwind of the smoke from a poorly constructed bonfire are of paramount consideration.

Practical suggestions -the most popular:

Education: Through posters, masterclasses, reminders at rent time-both of bonfire good practice, and alternatives to bonfires.

Shredder hire: 1-2 per year

Skip hire: to remove non compostable/ non shreddable material

Windsock: To act as a strong visual reference to wind strength and direction.

Discussion points

More people want to retain the right to a bonfire than not. To reduce the legitimate complaints on health and nuisance grounds (see Council Rules) there must be an agreement within the community as to how to achieve this.

1.How do we educate plot holders?

2.If we hire shredders/skips, how is this funded, organised, and not abused to ensure only allotment generated material is dealt with in this way

3. We already have an agreement with Grange school to not light fires during school hours. Is this too draconian (i.e. the Queen Annes Gate end are a long way from the school-also, this skews bonfire lighting hours to evenings and weekends, when residents would also like to enjoy their gardens in a smoke free manner)