

## Bonfire safety leaflet

### Bonfire Safety:

There are no laws against having a bonfire, however there are laws for the nuisance that they can cause.

Green waste should be the only thing that you consider burning on your bonfire. There are a number of items that you most definitely should **NOT** burn. These are:

- Household waste
- Rubber, Tyres, or Plastic
- Treated wood or timber
- Cans or bottles
- Anything that will produce dark and/or toxic smoke

Statutory nuisance is detailed in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and for garden bonfires to be considered a statutory nuisance they would need to be frequent, consistent, unreasonable and affecting you in your home. Therefore we think that a seasonal bonfire for one night a year is an exception and we would not usually consider this a nuisance. However do not forget to warn your neighbours and be considerate so they would be much less likely to complain.

- Before lighting, always check the bonfire for pets or wild animals that may be hiding inside it, such as hedgehogs.
- Only burn dry material to prevent lots of smoke being produced
- Be mindful of the material you are placing on the bonfire – never burn household rubbish, rubber, etc
- Never use highly flammable liquids like petrol, engine oil or methylated spirits to light the bonfire
- Do not light in windy or unsuitable weather conditions.
- Do not leave a fire unattended. Have plenty of water on stand-by to douse it if necessary and ensure it is put out
- Stand far away from the bonfire
- Ensure the bonfire is going to be in a location that does not compromise safety, such as near trees or buildings, or preventing safe firework displays.