

Fireworks summit held in Niddrie

The council led a summit in Niddrie on Monday to discuss the problems which arose there on Bonfire Night 2023. Representatives from other partner agencies and local politicians also attended.

Emergency services were attacked with petrol bombs and fireworks during the disturbances which have now led to 26 people being charged with a total of 51 offences. Police investigations are ongoing.

Those taking part discussed what had happened this year as well as ways of addressing potential issues in future. The council had undertaken preventative community work, including sending young people on trips away from Edinburgh in the weeks leading up to 5 November. The future use of Firework Control Zones is already well underway. A further meeting will be held in March 2024.

Council Leader Cammy Day said: "It was really useful to come together and discuss our collective approach to Bonfire Night and broader fireworks use.

"Unfortunately, in recent years, Bonfire Night has become something of a focal point for potentially life-threatening disorder and violence. This year had the distinction of clear planning and premeditation on the part of those attacking police in Niddrie, which is a deeply disturbing development. I

fear that unless we take decisive action now it is only a matter of time before we see serious injuries or even deaths on a future Bonfire Night.

“I’d like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our fantastic emergency services colleagues who do an excellent job in keeping us all safe.

“I believe that we need to go further and ban the public sale of fireworks, such is the unprecedented risk to public safety and order. Whilst this may seem unfair to the majority of people who celebrate and use fireworks responsibly, what we have seen this year necessitates such a response. I’ll also be looking into whether we can help provide organised displays in the city, so our residents can enjoy fireworks in a safe and secure way.

“We need to face these challenges head on, and I look forward to further summits in the New Year.”



Council Leader Cammy Day in the centre with other politicians and council officers as well as representatives from partner organisations