

The Problem

Garden or domestic bonfire smoke can be very irritating and cause great stress to those who are exposed to it.

The smoke can potentially contain gases and particles which can affect the health of children and people with asthma, bronchitis or heart problems.

It can also affect the environment, for example, by soiling washing hung out to dry.

Smoke caused by garden bonfires could be a statutory nuisance, and people causing a serious problem may be fined up to £5,000.

The Alternatives

Composting

Most garden waste can be converted into a valuable soil conditioner which will save you money rather than buying commercial products.

Please contact the Mid Sussex District Council Recycling Team on 01444 477440 for information on composting and details about compost bin & food waste digester offers.

Mid Sussex District Council also offer a Garden Waste Collection Service. Garden waste is collected in a wheeled bin once a fortnight for an annual fee. The waste collected is composted.

Recycling

Mid Sussex District has Civic Amenity sites in Burgess Hill and East Grinstead. These have

facilities to recycle waste oil, furniture, old clothes, newspaper and cardboard. The addresses are:

Burgess Hill Civic Amenity Site.
Fairbridge Way, London Road, Burgess Hill.
Tel: 01444 243041

East Grinstead Civic Amenity Site.
High Grove, Imberhorne Lane
East Grinstead.
Tel: 01342 326475

There are also recycling sites in Mid Sussex District where you can leave newspapers and cardboard, glass, textiles and cans.

Mid Sussex District Council offer a kerbside recycling scheme for cans, plastic bottles, mixed paper & card, newspaper & magazines.

Special Collections

For a small fee the Council will collect unwanted furniture and household appliances. Find out more about composting, recycling and special collections by visiting our website or contacting the Recycling Team on 01444 477440.

If you have any queries, please contact the council on wastematters@midsussex.gov.uk or telephone 01444 477440.

If you have a bonfire....

- Never burn household rubbish, plastic, rubber, furniture foam or tarred felt.
- Do not light a bonfire if it is wet or windy.



- Never leave a bonfire unsupervised or leave it to smoulder. Douse it with soil or water if necessary.
- Avoid burning at weekends and on Bank Holidays, or other times when your neighbours may want to enjoy their gardens.
- Site the bonfire so that it causes least disturbance to your neighbours, this may include taking into account the wind direction.
- Only burn dry material, this will reduce the amount of smoke produced

If you have a complaint....

Discuss the matter with the person responsible for the bonfire. They may not realise they are causing anyone a problem. Explain how it is affecting you and try to reach a reasonable solution. This is often the fastest and most effective way to gain an improvement

If the informal approach does not work, or you feel unable to make an approach, then you

can make an official complaint through the Council's Environmental Protection Team.

For the Council to take formal action, it must be first satisfied that the bonfire smoke amounts to a 'statutory nuisance'. This means that the nuisance caused by the bonfire must affect you in an unreasonable and substantial way and more than just an annoyance. For action to be taken, evidence (suitable for use in a court) will be required to support the case.

There are many factors to be taken into consideration when determining if a bonfire is a statutory nuisance. These include:

- o Time of day
- o Duration and frequency of the bonfire
- o Extent of the smoke coming from the bonfire
- o Proximity of the complainant to the bonfire
- o Your location e.g. urban/rural.

In most cases the following procedure may be followed.

- An informal letter may be sent to the person producing the bonfire informing them of the complaint and asking them to take action to reduce the problem.
- You will be asked to keep a diary noting occurrences of the bonfire that affects you - when it occurs, from where and how it affects you.
- If your diary shows that a bonfire nuisance may exist, an officer may visit you at a time when the bonfire occurs to make an assessment.

If a statutory nuisance is found to exist, an 'Abatement notice' may then be served on

the appropriate person to prohibit or restrict the nuisance. Abatement does not necessarily mean 'stop', but may instead mean 'reduce'. If following the service of a notice the bonfire nuisance continues, you would be required to keep a further diary and an attempt to witness the nuisance would then be made by an officer. Finally if the bonfire nuisance continues and evidence substantiates this, the Council may take the offender to court for failing to comply with the 'Abatement Notice'.

If the situation does not improve, you should contact the Council by writing to;

Environmental Health
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1SS

Or contacting us at:
(01444) 477292
Email: pollution@midsussex.gov.uk

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نايا بيويستيت به يارمه تي مهيه بؤ به دهسكه وتني ثم خزمه تگوزاريه؟

এই পরিষেবা লাভের জন্য সংযোগ করতে সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন?

 01444 458166

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Garden Bonfires

Environmental Protection Leaflet No. 7

