

CHADDESLEY CORBETT

Parish Council

Working Together to maintain a healthy environment

AIR POLLUTION

The natural quality of the air needs to be preserved in order to protect human health and the environment. Air pollution and dark smoke may result from the burning of unauthorised fuel, rubbish or the inappropriate disposal of waste and the release of chemicals into the atmosphere. Both commercial and domestic waste should be disposed of safely and legally.

Specific regulations apply to the disposal of waste within the **commercial and agricultural sector**. All wastes are classified and must be disposed of in ways that meet local, national and EU regulations. **Trade waste should not be burned.**

Home owners who have work undertaken on their behalf have a 'duty of care' in law to ensure that waste is disposed of in a legitimate and responsible manner. Failure to do so and the resulting fly tipping that may occur can lead to the home owner being prosecuted.

Whilst garden bonfires are not specifically banned their use is discouraged. However certain circumstances can arise which may make a bonfire unlawful. For example it is an offence to burn plastics, polystyrene, manure and animal bedding because of the dark or black smoke this creates in the atmosphere.

Environmental Protection UK highlights the problems caused by bonfires relating to air pollution, health, annoyance and safety. It promotes alternatives such as composting and recycling.

If you light a fire in your garden remember the following:-

- Only burn dry material
- Never burn household rubbish, tyres or anything containing plastic, foam or paint
- Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions (smoke hangs in the air on dry days and on windy days blows into neighbour's gardens and windows and across roads)
- Avoid burning when air pollution levels in your area are high
- Keep your fire away from trees, fences and buildings
- Never use oil, petrol or methylated spirits to light a fire
- Never leave a fire to smoulder unattended.

Bonfires have traditionally been used to celebrate specific events such as Bonfire Night and Chinese New Year. Such celebrations should be organised within the framework of existing law.

For further information please contact WYDC on 01562 732 928 or at www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk
For leaflets see Air Pollution Know Your Rights published by the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection and Garden Bonfires published by Environmental Protection UK.