



## Smoke Control Areas

Smoke arises from industrial and commercial chimneys, domestic chimneys and bonfires. Over the past 30 years there have been continual improvements in air quality which can be directly related to smoke control.

### Details of smoke control area / bylaw

Industrial and commercial boilers and incinerators are subject to strict controls. These relate to the type and nature of fuel being burned, the operation of the boiler or incinerator, the treatment of the waste gases and the construction of the flue. It is now possible to operate these processes without causing any smoke, except at certain times such as start-up

The Pollution Control Officer will investigate complaints of smoke which cross a boundary and cause problems within neighbouring properties.

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## Bonfires and Smoke Nuisance

## The law

Every year the Council's Environmental Health Division receive a large number of complaints about bonfires causing a repeated nuisance. Such nuisances need never arise if due consideration is shown to our neighbours. This leaflet explains the law and gives some suggestions to help prevent a nuisance being caused.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 allows the Local Authority to take offenders to court should their bonfires cause a nuisance to neighbours (i.e. have an unreasonable effect on their enjoyment of their home or garden). Moreover any bonfire on trade premises which causes **dark** smoke is an offence regardless of whether anybody else is affected (section 2, Clean Air Act 1993 ). The fines could be up to £20,000 for each offence. Persons complaining to the Council will likely be asked to keep a diary of events to assist officers investigating the matter.

Currently there are no byelaws which allow or prohibit burning.



## Do's and don't's

Should you decide though to have a bonfire, kindly note these recommendations:-

- **DO NOT** burn damp grass clippings or 'green' material as this creates thick smoke
- **DO NOT** burn any oily rags, rubber, plastics, damp garden waste or other materials which would inevitably create heavy smoke or toxic fumes.
- **DO NOT** light a bonfire when your neighbours have washing drying, or are out enjoying their gardens or have windows wide open.
- **DO NOT** light bonfires one hour before dusk, or leave them burning overnight. Choose the time of day and weather conditions that will cause the least inconvenience to neighbours.
- **DO NOT** leave your fire to smoulder for long periods. Never leave a fire unattended. Hose it down until cold before you leave it.
- **DO** advise your nearest neighbours before you light a bonfire so they can be prepared for any minor inconvenience that may arise.

- **DO** burn material quickly in small quantities so the minimum amount of smoke is created. An incinerator makes this much easier.
- **DO** choose your bonfire site carefully, well away from trees, fences and windows. Beware of attempting bonfires on very windy days as it can so easily get out of control. Have a hose-pipe and buckets of water handy just in case.

The ashes, when cold, can be raked into the soil as a useful fertiliser. Small pieces of charcoal can be included, but larger pieces should be picked out first.

