

Full Council

22 FEBRUARY 2023

NOTICE OF MOTION 1 – MOTION ON THE SALE OF NITROUS OXIDE.

Mover Councillor Crow and Seconder Councillor Burgess

This Council notes that:

In September 2021, the Home Office asked the independent Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) to review the harm caused by Nitrous Oxide, known as laughing gas, after it was reported that over half a million young people took the drug in 2019-20.

The sale of Nitrous Oxide for its psychoactive effects was made illegal after the Psychoactive Substances Act in 2016, but it is not currently a crime to be caught in possession of the drug, despite the fact that inhaling Nitrous Oxide can cause serious long-term health impacts.

Nitrous Oxide is commonly used at anti-social gatherings and leads to widespread littering in public places, including in Crawley, where the amount of discarded small silver canisters often seen suggests a significant local problem.

This Council welcomes:

The media reports on 26 January stating that the Minister for Crime, Policing and Fire, Chris Philp MP, had requested that the review into Nitrous Oxide be fast-tracked to April this year, with a view to making a formal announcement on a ban that could be made as part of the Government's wider Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy which is due later this year.

This Council resolves to:

Write to Chris Philp MP, on a cross-party basis on behalf of the Council's entire membership, to urge him to ensure the ACMD review is fast-tracked and that legislation is brought forward this year to ban all direct consumer sales of Nitrous Oxide.