

Full Council

22 February 2023

Amendment 1 to Notice Of Motion 1 – Motion On The Sale Of Nitrous Oxide.

*Mover Councillor S Mullins and
Seconder Councillor Pritchard*

*(The new words are in **Red Bold** and words **Purple** and crossed through are
proposed to be removed)*

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~~ **there is an issue with this within the Borough.**

This Council welcomes notes:

The ~~media reports on 26 January stating that the~~ Minister for Crime, Policing and Fire, Chris Philp MP, ~~has~~ **already** requested that the review into Nitrous Oxide be fast-tracked **with a call for evidence that closed yesterday**, ~~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~~ **in order to support further action on Nitrous Oxide by the government** later this year.

This Council resolves to:

For the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Protection 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.~~ to bring forward legislation this year to ban direct consumer sales and possession of Nitrous Oxide without lawful reason. Such a lawful reason would include sale and possession of nitrous oxide for the purposes of food or drink production i.e. cake making.

Proposed Amended Notice Of Motion 1 – Motion On The Sale Of Nitrous Oxide, if approved, now read:

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 there is an issue with this within the Borough.

This Council notes:

The Minister for Crime, Policing and Fire, Chris Philp MP, has already requested that the review into Nitrous Oxide be fast tracked with a call for evidence that closed yesterday, with a view to making a formal announcement in order to support further action on Nitrous Oxide by the government later this year.

This Council resolves to:

For the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Protection to write to Chris Philp MP, on a cross party basis on behalf of the Council's entire membership, to urge him to bring forward legislation this year to ban direct consumer sales and possession of Nitrous Oxide without lawful reason. Such a lawful reason

would include sale and possession of nitrous oxide for the purposes of food or drink production i.e. cake making