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## **FIREWORKS PRESS RELEASE 2019**

Llandudno Town Council is pleased to announce that the date of the 2019 Fireworks Display will be Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October, with a starting time of 18:10. The location will again be Llandudno North Shore beach.

Should adverse weather conditions prevent the display from going ahead on this date, then the display will be held the night after, on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October starting at 19:00.

These dates are the only ones that fit in with tidal times and ranges that allow sufficient time to safely set up, hold the display, and then remove all the equipment necessary to fire the display.

Chair of the Town Council Fireworks Committee, Cllr Carol Marubbi said “Following on from the huge success of last year’s display, which attracted 17,000 + people to the public viewing areas, we are estimating the number to increase again this year, for what should again be the biggest and best fireworks display in North Wales.

The success of this event is fantastic for residents, visitors, the local economy and for Llandudno’s standing as a premier tourist destination. But this success does bring with it added risks and challenges to the event organisers (Llandudno Town Council) of continued safe operation, crowd safety and management, plus increased traffic management issues.

In order to ensure the continued safe operation of this major event, discussions are ongoing between the Town Council, the Conwy CBC Safety Advisory Group (SAG) and Conwy CBC Events Team.

This year’s display will see medical cover increased to Paramedics and ambulances, with established first aid zones along the promenade. To further enhance the event and, to address increasing health and safety requirements, including access to and from the event by the emergency services, the organisers have been advised to establish road closures along parts of the promenade. Due to the huge success of this annual event, these closures are unavoidable. The Council apologies in advance for any disruption this may cause and asks the public to please understand that it is required to do this to ensure they can enjoy another fantastic display in a safe environment”.

Cllr Marubbi went onto say “We are delighted to also announce that our contractors ‘Ignite Pyrotechnics Ltd’, who were responsible for last year’s stunning display, will again be producing what we are sure will be, another incredible fireworks spectacular.

The Town Council would also like to thank Mr Adam Williams, owner of Llandudno Pier, for again offering to provide all the machinery and manpower needed to ensure the display is able to be 'fired' safely from the beach. His help in this way and, that of his superb team, is invaluable and very much appreciated. We couldn't put on this major event without his help".

Putting on what many consider to be the best fireworks display in North Wales, is not without its problems.

Vice-Chair of the Councils Fireworks Committee Cllr Ian Turner said "We have become a victim of our own success. With the high level of attendance last year and an anticipated increase at this year's event, we have had to increase all levels of health and safety and risk assessments.

This in turn brings with it an unavoidable increased cost element to the public purse. An increase which the Town Council is challenged to cover after this year's event, meaning that future displays are in doubt unless it can find a way to cover escalating costs.

This could be through commercial sponsorship, grant funding (which is doubtful) or maybe even Crowd Funding. Either way, unless financial support can be found outside of the Council, the 2019 fireworks display could be the last one.

It's a real worry, because people look forward to and, enjoy the annual display. But with costs rising and, the call on Llandudno Town Council to commit funding or to take over various areas of responsibility such as Public Conveniences, Car Parks, CCTV, Play Grounds etc, the Council may not be in a position to organise another display after this year.

The last two years displays, which have been fired from the beach, were only possible because of substantial 'in kind' contributions from the owner of the Pier, Mr Adam Williams.

The Town Council would like to encourage businesses or organisations in the area to come forward and offer some financial support to this event.

It would be sad to see this fantastic fireworks display fall by the wayside after having built it up to being one of the biggest attended events in the whole of North Wales and, which brings many benefits to not only the Town of Llandudno, but the surrounding areas too".