



Councillor Dave Leech  
Mayor of Barnsley

24 February 2026

Dear Councillor Leech,

Greetings from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. As Barnsley embraces its identity as the UK's first "tech town," I hope you'll consider upgrading the town's annual fireworks display with animal-friendly, state-of-the-art drone or laser technology. This change would not only align with Barnsley's innovative reputation but would also spare noise-sensitive companion animals, wildlife, and hearing-sensitive humans from distressing explosions.

Fireworks are deeply frightening for wildlife and domestic animals. The loud booms and flashes are perceived as threats and can have devastating consequences. Terrified dogs and cats often attempt to escape the noise by breaking through doors, fences, or windows. Others endure fatal consequences. Molly, an 18-month-old puppy living in Barnsley, reportedly died of a heart attack caused by the stress of loud bangs from fireworks on Bonfire Night.

Songbirds have been known to abandon their nests or collide with buildings and each other, while deer have been known to flee onto roads, where they're susceptible to collisions that could kill them and endanger drivers. Veterans and others who have post-traumatic stress disorder can also be severely affected by the noise of the explosives.

Fireworks also create significant air pollution in a short amount of time, leaving metal particles, dangerous toxins, harmful chemicals, and smoke in the air for hours or even days. Some of these toxins persist in the environment for decades and continue to pollute the air long after the fireworks end. Additionally, debris left from fireworks, including shells and heavy metals, litters the environment.

Richer in colour effects and visual choreography than conventional displays, drone and laser light displays offer a peaceful celebration that delivers all the flash without the frightening noise. Please ensure that Barnsley truly embraces its tech town title by replacing fireworks with state-of-the-art laser or drone shows, thereby improving the quality of life for *all* the town's residents.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Yours Sincerely



Kate Werner  
Senior Campaigns Manager

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

PO Box 70315  
London N1P 2RG  
United Kingdom  
+44 (0) 20 7837 6327  
+44 (0) 20 7923 6242 (fax)

Info@peta.org.uk

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)  
FOUNDATION – a charitable  
company limited by guarantee,  
with its registered office at  
Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street,  
London EC4N 6AF.  
Registered in England and Wales  
as charity number 1056453,  
company number 3135903.

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