Recommendations

1) There is no doubt that the consequences of a firework malfunction and then entering into the crowd are extremely serious and could have been a lot worse than as the case at the 2014 event. The safety distances recommended by the HSE are the minimum recommended and the Brunswick Park site leaves no margin for error even when fully enforced. Due to the possibility of high numbers of spectators attending, and the difficulty in securing an adequate safety and fall out zones for fireworks, it is recommended that Brunswick Park is not used for future bonfire/fireworks events.

2) Following the incident at Brunswick Park and after discussions with the firework company, extra fencing (shell-catcher fencing) was employed around the firing area to restrict the effect of any malfunctioning fireworks. It is recommended that this additional control measure is included at future bonfire/firework events.

3) That the role of Health and Safety Advisor at all future Sandwell MBC bonfire events is held by suitably competent members of the corporate health and safety team as was the case in previous events held at Dartmouth Park.

4) Site plans are improved so that the guidance on minimum dimensions as recommended in HSG123 (Working together on firework displays) are clearly indicated.

5) That all bonfire events are subject to rigorous 'documented' planning prior to the events taking place which includes all interested parties.

6) The 'checklist for venue suitability’ as outlined in ‘managing crowds safely’ is used when considering any ‘new’ venue for large scale special events of this nature.

7) That risk assessments and safety documentation are reviewed for all bonfire events.

8) A review is undertaken of all current sites used for Sandwell council bonfire/firework displays to ensure that they meet the guidance outlined in HSG 123 (Working together on firework displays).