



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

**TO:** Environment & Planning Committee

**FROM:** Michael Higgins, Chairperson

**REFERENCE:** S611

**SUBJECT:** **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – EP07/11/09** - Report prepared for 15 November Meeting

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The fact that the Environment & Planning Committee is the "first cab off the rank" for committee meetings indicates that we have much to do. I look forward to chairing the Committee through this term of Council and do appreciate the appointment by Council, to this position.

In our agenda today is a list of projects that we need to prioritise through this term. Before working through this list, I ask that Members consider what issues they see as significant, in light of the election process just completed. In identifying those issues and matching them to our existing schedule we can check that we are dealing with the issues that people want us to attend to.

The annual Guy Fawkes celebration is now behind us, and I note that the Government is planning to review the availability of fireworks. These celebrations have been significant in Wakefield for many decades and I note that the Wakefield Fire Brigade has taken the lead and moved that activity to the late Autumn season when the fire risk is reduced. I have over the decades enjoyed these celebrations, but also observed physical injury to young people with an increasing willingness to take risks, and the cost of fire damage. As a Council it will be appropriate I think, to contribute to this review. I am interested to hear Councillor's opinions on this matter going forward.

Michael Higgins

**Chair, Environment & Planning Committee**