

# Notice of Motion – 25 February 2025

**Motion Title: Balloons and Sky Lanterns on Council Land & Properties**

**Proposer:** Councillor Crompton

**Seconder:** Councillor Jeffcoat

“Council notes with that whilst balloons and sky lanterns look effective when let loose into the sky and are used for a number of celebrations or commemorations, may be used in commemorative services, there are alternative more sustainable options options like planting a tree or a flower provides a place to reflect but also helps wildlife and the environment.

Council further notes that:

1. Helium balloons are single use plastic and sky lanterns pose a risk to buildings, dry standing areas including wildlife habitats.
2. It is impossible to predict and control where balloons or sky lanterns will land after release and the effects on animals, wildlife, marine, pondlife and the environment.
3. Balloon litter can be harmful to all wildlife and birds which includes, ducks, geese and swans, sometimes resulting in death by strangulation or choking.
4. Sky lanterns, made from paper covered wire or a bamboo frame with a candle inside can blow for miles, causing fire hazards to properties, grassy areas, parks and gardens but potentially causing harm to wildlife and habitats.

Council therefore calls on the Leader and Cabinet to:

1. Request the Public Protection Team to explore options to ban the release of all types of helium filled ballons and those that are biodegradable\* and sky lanterns on property and land owned by the council.
2. Request the Communications Team to produce a leaflet that can be posted onto social media and displayed in public places where necessary.
3. Engage with communities, the voluntary sector and schools and other sectors encouraging them to sign up to this initiative.”

Biodegradable balloons – some scientific tests have shown that balloons can take up to 6 years before starting to degrade <https://ecofreek.com/biodegradable/biodegradable-balloons/#:~:text=harming%20the%20environment.-,How%20Fast%20Do%20Biodegradable%20Balloons%20Degrade%3F,time%20as%20an%20oak%20leaf.>