



Balloon and Sky Lantern Release Policy

Policy Objective

To define the intentional outdoor release of balloons and sky lanterns (“lanterns”) as an act of littering, thereby discouraging such activities in the Weymouth Town Council area and to prohibit releases from Council owned/leased land and premises.

The policy covers all types of balloon and lantern materials. The main types of balloon are latex (rubber) and foil (also known as mylar) can include other materials. Latex balloons, whilst biodegradable, may still persist in the environment for several years and sky lanterns typically contain a metal frame.

Policy Wording

This Council prohibits the release of balloons and lanterns from Weymouth Town Council owned, or leased, land and buildings. This applies to Council run events and events run by third parties. The Council considers the release of balloons and lanterns from any land or buildings as potential littering and will encourage action to be taken under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 where appropriate.

Litter

Where balloons and lanterns are released intentionally outdoors and are not disposed of responsibly, they litter the environment and as such this could be considered to be a potential offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Where the Council receives evidence of littering through the release of balloons and lanterns which are not disposed of responsibly, the Council will support enforcement under the appropriate legislation.

Permitted releases

For the avoidance of doubt, piloted hot air balloons are not covered by this policy.

Helium balloons may also be permitted when used for research purposes, for example weather balloons, as long as supporting evidence is provided, identifying any risk and/ or any hazards to the environment and with any appropriate mitigation.

Working with event organisers/ third parties/ lessees/ licensees

Once the Council is notified of potential releases within the area of Weymouth Town Council the Council will work with event organisers to suggest suitable alternatives to outdoor balloon and lantern releases and/ or to provide advice and guidance on the potential disposal of these items.

Monitoring, Assessment & Review

The Council will inform event organisers of the Balloon and Sky Lantern Release Policy by means of including relevant information within booking forms and other promotional materials. The Council will also at its own discretion and where appropriate include details of this policy within any new leases or licences of land and/ or buildings where permitted events take place at those locations. This Policy will be reviewed in two years' time.

Agreed: 09/09/2020

Review: 2024