

### **Amendment to motion “Balloons and Lanterns”**

To amend “An estimated 200,000 sky lanterns and many thousands of balloons are sold in the UK each year for release.” to “An estimated 200,000 sky lanterns and many thousands of helium-filled balloons are sold in the UK each year for release.”

To amend “Deflated and fragments of balloons are commonly mistaken for food by marine life, and the strings used...” to “Deflated and fragments of helium-filled balloons are commonly mistaken for food by marine life, and the strings used...”

To amend “Both balloons and sky lanterns have the potential to travel miles from their original release site before returning to land.” to “Both helium-filled balloons and sky lanterns have the potential to travel miles from their original release site before returning to land.”

To add immediately after “...parts into aircraft engines.” The following sentence:

“Helium is a finite resource with important medical and industrial uses.”

To add immediately after “...to sign up to this initiative.” The following new paragraph:

“To write to the Members of Parliament for the district requesting that the government review the use of sale of helium for recreational uses.”

### **(iii) Balloons and Lanterns**

East Cambridgeshire is a rural area with many farm animals, as well as a wide and diverse mix of wildlife.

An estimated 200,000 sky lanterns and many thousands of helium-filled balloons are sold in the UK each year for release. While they can look mesmerising, many people are unaware of the deadly consequences fallen lanterns and deflated balloons can have for animals and the environment.

Wildlife and farm animals can easily become entangled in lantern frames and balloon strings, not to mention the fatal effect these parts can have on an animal if they ingest any component of these items. Deflated and fragments of helium-filled balloons are commonly mistaken for food by marine life, and the strings used to tether balloons have been known to cause animals to become entangled or choke and suffer from internal blockages which ultimately leads to their death.

Reports state that balloons are the highest-risk debris item to seabirds; they are 32 times more likely to result in death than ingesting hard plastic. Both helium-filled balloons and sky lanterns have the potential to travel miles from their original release site before returning to land.

There is a risk to buildings, dry standing crops, forestry, hay/straw stacks and habitats.

Wherever the depleted lanterns may fall, they inevitably litter the area in question.

There is an air safety risk associated with possible "ingestion" of parts into aircraft engines.  
Helium is a finite resource with important medical and industrial uses.

This Council resolves to ban the release of all types of helium-filled balloon and sky lantern on property and land owned by the District Council. This Council resolves to ask all Parish and Town Councils within East Cambridgeshire to pass a similar motion to ban the release of all types of helium-filled balloon and sky lantern on Parish & Town Council owned land.

This Council resolves to engage with businesses, communities, landowners, schools and individuals in East Cambridgeshire encouraging them to sign up to this initiative.

To write to the Members of Parliament for the district requesting that the government review the use of sale of helium for recreational uses.

Proposer: Cllr Mark Inskip

Seconder: Cllr Gareth Wilson