

## **11.1 Proposed by Councillors Cattanach, Crane, Musgrave, Packham and Pearson.**

### **Background**

Sky Lanterns, also known as ‘Chinese’, ‘Wish’, ‘Floating’ and ‘Party’ Lanterns, are made from paper over wire or bamboo frames and have an open flame heat source.

Increasingly popular, it is estimated that 200,000 sky lanterns are released in the UK each year. In addition to this, many thousands of balloons are being sold with a number intended for mass release.

Many people are unaware of the deadly consequences fallen lanterns and deflated balloons can have for animals and the environment.

The RSPCA and many other organisations including the Marine Conservation Society, Women’s Food & Farming Union (WFU), Soil Association and National Farmers Union (NFU) all support a ban on sky lanterns.

To date over 60 councils within England have a sky lantern and/or helium balloon release ban in place. Councils within our region which have introduced a ban (sky lanterns only) are Calderdale, Kirklees and Scarborough.

### **Proposal**

That Council notes:

Many thousands of sky lanterns are now sold in the UK each year, along with many thousands of balloons also being sold with a number of them intended for release.

Most people are unaware of the deadly consequences fallen lanterns and deflated balloons can have for animals and the environment.

They are deadly to wildlife, present a real risk of fire to buildings and land, can be mistaken for emergency flares, and end up littering the countryside.

Birds and wildlife can become entangled in lantern frames and balloon strings, leading to injury or death and livestock can accidentally ingest fallen lantern parts or balloons which can lead to a slow painful death. There is also a risk to sea life as many of fallen lanterns and balloons end up in the sea.

Fallen sky lanterns also pose a significant fire hazard with a number of reported incidents. One fire caused by a sky lantern at a recycling plant caused £6 million worth of damage.

The RSPCA and many other organisations including the Marine Conservation Society, Women’s Food & Farming Union (WFU), Soil Association and National Farmers Union (NFU) all support a ban on sky lanterns.

Over 60 councils have passed a motion to ban the release of sky lanterns and /or balloons on all council owned land and property.

**That Council therefore commits to: banning the use and release of sky lanterns and balloons on all Council-owned properties and land.**