

25 November 2014**Agenda Item:11****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ACCESS AND PUBLIC
PROTECTION****REQUEST FOR RESTRICTION REGARDING THE USE AND SALE OF SKY
LANTERNS****Purpose of the Report**

To restrict the use and sale of sky lanterns on County Council land or property.

Information and Advice**Background**

1. The use of sky lanterns is becoming more popular at weddings and festivals.
2. Sky lanterns (also known as 'Chinese lanterns' are small hot air balloons typically around 100cm high with a diameter of approximately 60cm. They are made of paper with an opening at the bottom where a small fire is suspended. The construction may involve wire, rope and string. Some are made from biodegradable materials.
3. The increasing usage is having a harmful impact on livestock and on the environment due to litter. This is particularly impacting on the marine environment, farming industry and parks.
4. In addition there is an increased risk of fires starting from the release of sky lanterns. To illustrate:
 - Last summer's blaze at a plastics recycling plant in Smethwick, West Midlands, was caused by a single lantern dropping from the sky. Two hundred firefighters attended the £6m blaze and three of them were taken to hospital.
 - A sky lantern was also the cause of a fire last autumn at a camp site near Tewkesbury and damaged or destroyed 50 caravans and mobile homes. Firefighters from three counties put out the flames before they could spread to a 2,000-litre propane gas tank.

Going Forward

5. In order to protect livestock, property and the environment in Nottinghamshire it is recommended that the Council:
 - refuse permissions for the release of any sky lanterns from any Council owned land regardless of the purpose for the release
 - refuse the sale of any sky lanterns at any Council event or property
 - require Council 'standard conditions of contract' relating to outdoor events and organized functions on Council owned land ban the release of any sky lantern regardless of purpose.

Other Options Considered

6. The option of not enforcing a ban has been considered but this would not safeguard the public and livestock.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. A ban on the sale and release of sky lanterns on Council land would reduce the risk of harm and fire as outlined in the Report
8. The Fire Service, 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.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for the Public

10. This will have a positive impact as it will significantly reduce the risk of fires.

Recommendation/s

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) refuse permission for the release of any sky lanterns from any Council owned land regardless of the purpose of the release
- 2) refuses the sale of any sky lanterns at any Council event or property
- 3) requires Council 'standard conditions of contract', relating to outdoor events and organized functions on Council owned land, ban the release of any sky lantern regardless of purpose.

Paul Mckay
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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LM 17/11/14)

11. The recommendations in the body of the report fall within the terms of reference of the Community Safety Committee.

Financial Comments (KAS 17/11/14)

12. There are no financial implications contained with the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- ASCHPP Committee Report Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub July 2013
- ASCHPP Committee Report Progress Access and Safeguarding September 2014.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All.