



BALLOON RELEASE AND SKY LANTERN POLICY 2020

1.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 Yateley Town Council owns and manages a large area of land within the civil parish of Yateley. We recognise that our activities and permitted activities within our green open spaces have a significant impact on the local environment. Consequently, we have examined the issues surrounding balloon and sky lantern releases and have concluded that it is the responsibility of Yateley Town Council to adopt a coherent balloon and sky lantern release policy.
- 1.2 In light of increasing evidence regarding the harmful impacts of balloon and sky lantern litter to the environment (particularly Marine life, farm animals and the potential for fires caused by the candles in sky lanterns) and after careful consideration, Yateley Town Council refuses permission for any unmanned outdoor balloon and sky lantern release from any Council owned/controlled green space regardless of the purpose(s) for the release.
- 1.3 The release of balloons and sky lanterns should be viewed as littering under the Environmental Protection Act, 1990, which makes it an offence to deposit litter in public places. It is the responsibility of Yateley Town Council to ensure that public green open spaces remain free from balloon and sky lantern litter. It would be against the spirit of the Act if the Council allowed activities on its land which had the effect of littering adjoining lands or the marine environment.

2.0 POLICY SCOPE

- 2.1 This policy covers all balloon and sky lantern releases on Yateley Town Council owned or controlled green space or at outdoor events endorsed by Yateley Town Council.
- 2.2 Within this policy the term “balloon and sky lantern releases” refers to the intentional act of releasing a balloon or sky lantern into the general environment.
- 2.3 Within this policy the term “balloon and sky lantern” refers to any inflatable flexible bag filled with a gas, such as helium, hydrogen, nitrous oxide, oxygen or hot air (excluding manned hot air balloons) and made from materials such as rubber, latex, natural latex, paper, polychloroprene, foil, mylar or a nylon fabric. This includes all biodegradable balloons and flying lanterns.

3.0 POLICY AIMS

- 3.1 Yateley Town Council is committed to:
- Allowing no organised balloon or sky lantern releases take place from Yateley Town Council owned or controlled green space
 - Raising awareness and understanding of environmental issues concerning balloon release and sky lanterns
 - Ensuring, in so far as possible, that Yateley’s public green open spaces remain free from balloon and sky lantern litter

- Being a responsible neighbour and not contributing to littering by allowing activities on Yateley Town Council owned land that result in litter being deposited on adjoining land or in the marine environment.
- Reducing the risk of fires on adjacent heathland and other land and buildings posed by hazard of the candles used in sky lanterns.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITY

4.1 The Town Clerk has the responsibility of ensuring that this policy is implemented.

5.0 CONSULTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

5.1 This policy will be monitored over the course of its lifetime and will be reviewed every five years in consultation with the following:

- Yateley Town Council Members
- Other parties where relevant

6.0 COMMUNICATION

6.1 This policy will be communicated to staff, Members and the wider community using the following mechanisms:

- Yateley Town Council website
- Social media
- Staff and Cllr briefing

Adopted 11/7/2016
Reviewed 1/6/2020