

Balloon and Sky Lantern Release Policy

1. Introduction

In recent years outdoor balloon and sky lantern releases have become a more common event at summer fairs, fundraising events, opening of new stores, or part of commemorative and celebratory occasions. However, once these items are released they can cause many problems:

- sky lanterns pose a significant fire hazard to buildings, woodland and farmland
- some 'degradable' items can last for months or even years
- leftover parts from sky lanterns and balloons fall as litter and can trap or choke wildlife and livestock, on land and in marine environments

2. Objective

The objective of this policy is to discourage and, if possible, to prevent the intentional outdoor release of balloons and sky lanterns on land and premises owned or managed by Reedham Parish Council.

3. Parameters

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

4. Policy

Reedham Parish Council prohibits the release of balloons and lanterns from land and buildings it manages or owns. This applies to its own events and events run by third parties on these premises.

5. Monitoring, Assessment and Review

Reedham Parish 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 material.
- if relevant, include details of this Policy within any new letting agreement or leases of land/building where events may take place.
- promote awareness of the potential harm of balloon and sky lantern releases, where appropriate.

Adopted: January 2020

Review Period: every 2 years

Reviewed: June 2025