

Chairman's Announcements

Subject:	Helium Balloons and Sky Lanterns
Web contact:	Click here for Council Minutes of 10 July 2018

We are very pleased to report that following the tireless efforts of Alison Butler, Chippenham Cares Champion that at the full Council meeting of 10 July 2018, Cllr Peter Hutton put forward the following motion –

To delegate to the Corporate Director for Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Waste and Property, to introduce a policy to prohibit the release of helium balloons or sky lanterns on land in the ownership of the Council, or under its control; and

To ask officers to contact all Town and Parish Councils in the Wiltshire Council area to make them aware of the risks to the environment, public, and animals from helium balloons and sky lanterns, and to ask them to consider taking steps to prohibit the release of balloons or sky lanterns on land in their ownership or under their control.

At the Council meeting this was supported by the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Councillor Jerry Wickham.

Matters raised in the debate included: whether the issue should be discussed outside of the review of the core strategy; whether existing policies give sufficient support to tree planning; the community and wider benefits of increasing the number trees; whether the policy would work in an urban and rural environment; whether other land owners could be encouraged to take similar steps; the risk of fire and the harm to animals; how the area boards can draw attention to the resolution; the possible impact on businesses; how legitimate scientific or schools use can be protected; how the use of our land for events is controlled, and how this process can be amended to accommodate this.

At the end of the debate, having been put to the vote, the meeting,

Resolved:

- 1) To delegate to the Corporate Director for Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Waste and Property, to introduce a policy to prohibit the release of helium balloons for recreational purposes or sky lanterns on land in the ownership of the Council, or under its control; and**
- 2) To ask officers to contact all Town and Parish Councils in the Wiltshire Council area to make them aware of the risks to the environment, public, and animals from helium balloons and sky lanterns, and to ask them to consider taking steps to prohibit the release of balloons or sky lanterns on land in their ownership or under their control.**
- 3) That a letter be sent the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs be written to request that a national wide ban on the release of helium balloons & sky lanterns.**

Votes for the motion (70)

Votes against the motion (0)

Abstained (5)

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We thank Alison once again for her tenacity and determination in relation to this matter; it is marvellous outcome and pleasing to note that Wiltshire Council will be contacting Town and Parish Councils to encourage them to take the same steps.