

Balloon and Sky Lantern Releases

Code of Conduct for ESC staff and councillors



Photo of swift found entangled in balloon string by local artist Fran Crowe.

East Suffolk Council will not release balloons or sky lanterns. We will not allow those using our land to release balloons or sky lanterns.

There have been cases of livestock or other animal loss, including cattle, horses, sheep and goats as a result of ingestion of parts from sky lanterns and balloon debris. Entrapment and panic are also issues affecting livestock and wildlife. Unexpired sky lanterns pose a documented fire hazard and a significant risk to the proper and effective operation of coastal rescue services.

We, as a District Council, value and want to make sustainable use of our environment, support our rural economy and do not want to encourage activities which could negatively impact on coastal rescue. We are also under a legal obligation to tackle litter and waste defacing publicly owned land and are committed through our Joint Environmental Policy to actively support and encourage community action to reduce waste arising and littering the natural and built environment and to manage waste in ways that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

For these reasons we have banned sky lantern and mass helium balloon releases from the land we hire out for events and encouraging alternative fund raising, celebratory, promotional or memorial activities.

We would in addition encourage other land owners, town and parish councils, and event organisers to consider doing the same.

Some fun alternatives to mark a special occasion or raise money can include:

- Planting a native tree, a [flower](#) garden or a [butterfly](#) garden
- Flags, banners, streamers, ribbons & dancing inflatables.
- Kites and garden spinners.
- Bunting.
- Tissue Paper Pompoms.
- Floating flowers.
- Lighting candles and lanterns.
- Blowing bubbles.
- LED lights.
- Petal floating.
- A minutes clapping.



Photo by local campaigner Jason Alexander of dead gannet found entangled in balloon string at East Lane, Bawdsey.