
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	1 December 2016
Report By:	Head of Legal & Property Services	Report No:	RMcG/LP/139/16
Contact Officer:	Rona McGhee	Contact No:	01475 712113
Subject:	Sky Lanterns – Request by Councillor McCabe		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Council to consider a request from Councillor McCabe.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Councillor McCabe has requested that the Council consider the attached email from Mr Allan Bowie, President, NFU Scotland asking the Council to ban the use of sky lanterns on Council owned property and at Council run events (APPENDIX).

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Council consider the request from Councillor McCabe.

Gerard Malone
Head of Legal & Property Services

APPENDIX

Dear Sir or Madam,

NFU Scotland represents over 8,500 farmers and crofters from across Scotland, and we need your support to improve the safety in our countryside.

Sky lanterns, also known as Chinese lanterns, can cause untold harm and damage not only to the environment, but also to animals and can cause fires on farms and crofts too.

To date, eight local authorities in Scotland have banned the use of sky lanterns and or helium balloon release on council-owned land, and we're working to urge others to follow suit and help to make our farms, crofts, and wider countryside safer.

The lanterns are constructed from paper with a wire or wooden frame and contain a lighted candle. Whilst seemingly innocent as they are released they can pose a fire hazard to stacks of straw, woodland and farm buildings and amount to litter when they return to the ground. If they land within livestock fields, or amongst crops grown for livestock feed, the wires risk being ingested by livestock and have been seen to cause great harm and suffering to animals.

Given the damage that Chinese lanterns can cause to the environment, property and animals, NFU Scotland would like to see greater public awareness of these risks. The Union believes that it is the responsibility of councils, such as yourselves, to publicly recognise these risks by banning their use on council owned property and at council run events.

NFUS asks that you follow the example of other councils within Scotland and take similar measures to demonstrate that you also take your responsibility towards the environment, property and animal welfare seriously by supporting a ban of sky lanterns within your area.

If you would like further information regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Allan Bowie | President

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