

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 12
27 JANUARY 2016	PUBLIC REPORT

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

The following notices of motion have been received in accordance with the Council's Standing Order 13.1:

1. Motion from Councillor John Holdich

That Council:

1. Acknowledges that there is increasing concern being raised amongst the general public and other organisations including the fire service, the police and the RSPCA, in relation to the release of sky lanterns and the mass release of balloons, and the potential risks they pose.
2. Acknowledges that the release of sky lanterns and the mass release of balloons has the potential for serious impact upon public safety, wildlife and the environment, including:
 - Fire risk from sky lanterns. Unexpired sky lanterns pose a fire hazard to residential properties, in particular thatched properties, business premises, hazardous material sites, livestock, agriculture and camping activities. An example being the immense fire in 2013 at the plastics recycling plant in Smethwick which was started by a sky lantern;
 - Danger to wildlife. Through entanglement, ingestion or entrapment. Marine life is also at risk from lanterns and balloons falling into the sea;
 - Environmental issues. Although some lanterns and balloons may be classed as 'biodegradable', some elements may take years to degrade. This leads to an increase in litter and waste, both on land and in the sea;
 - Danger to humans. Through hazardous metal waste being left behind from non-biodegradable sky lanterns;
 - Loss of resources. Lanterns can be mistaken for distress flares or aircraft and can lead to the police and the coastguard suffering a loss of resources whilst having to deal with these false alarms.
 - Hazard to aircraft. There is a danger of both lanterns and balloons being sucked into aircraft engines and the Civil Aviation Authority has a policy in place which provides guidance for individuals or organisations wishing to conduct displays of 'directed light, fireworks, toy balloons and sky lanterns' within UK airspace.
3. Acknowledges that although there are guidelines available around both sky lantern and mass balloon releases, there are no plans in the foreseeable future for the Government to make any changes in legislation relating to their use.

Therefore taking all issues into account, that Council:

4. Agrees that the release of sky lanterns and mass balloon releases be prohibited from Council occupied land and properties;
5. Agrees that the release of sky lanterns and mass balloon releases be prohibited from taking place as part of projects or events over which the Council has control, in consultation with the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services and the Licensing Service as appropriate; and
6. Encourages the use of alternative and original ways to commemorate events rather than the release of sky lanterns or the mass release of balloons.

2. Motion from Councillor Julia Davidson

1. Council notes that our current Local Transport Plan (LTP3: 2011-2016) contains the following policy objectives:
 - Promotion of public transport;
 - To seek to increase the proportion of eligible secondary school pupils travelling to school by public transport, where walking or cycling to school is not possible;
 - To seek Section 106 contributions from developers to implement measures contained in travel plans for new businesses, new residential developments, district centres and schools; and
 - To implement measures identified in travel plans to ensure all new developments are built with a high level of accessibility.

This has not happened in Manor Drive.

2. Council therefore regrets the fact that the Manor Drive development in Gunthorpe, including thousands of houses and significant industrial and commercial premises, appears to have been developed with no regard to providing services for a community, in particular the development has been delivered without any bus service, despite the fact that it is separated from existing bus services by a considerable distance and a busy parkway.
3. Council requests the relevant Cabinet Member to arrange urgent discussions with ward councillors, relevant officers and bus operators to find ways of providing some public transport to this rapidly growing area of the city.