



## **FRAMLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MASS BALLOON RELEASES AND SKY LANTERNS POLICY**

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.

Framlingham Town Council values and wants to make sustainable use of our environment and support our rural economy, and do not want to encourage activities which could negatively impact on coastal rescue.

The Town Council supports East Suffolk District Council which has a legal obligation to tackle litter and waste defacing publicly owned land and actively support and encourage community action to reduce waste going to landfill and littering the natural and built environment.

For these reasons we are banning sky lantern and mass helium balloon releases from the land we own/hire out for events and encouraging alternative fund raising, celebratory, promotional or memorial activities. These could include: balloon popping, guessing the number of balloons, balloon relays, balloon sculptures, petal floating, a minute's clapping and more.

We would in addition encourage other land owners to consider the potential impact of sky lanterns and mass releases of balloons on our rural economy and environment. More information can be found on the Marine Conservation Society website.