



FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

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**Policy on Release of Helium Balloons & Chinese Lanterns on Council
Owned or Managed Land**

Policy Adopted: Oct 2014
Last Reviewed: June 2025
Next Review Date: June 2028

Fordingbridge Town Council

Policy on Release of Helium Balloons & Chinese Lanterns on Council Owned or Managed Land

This policy identifies the council's approach to the release of balloons and lanterns from land owned or managed by Town Council. It is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors and Council employees to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach and to support the conditions of hire for the Recreation Ground.

The Council has considered concerns raised over the environmental impact and dangers to wildlife and farm animals following the release of both Helium Balloons and Chinese Lanterns. Not all Balloons biodegrade and in any case this is not an instant occurrence; balloons may lie around on the ground or in the sea for in excess of 6 months – during which time they can be eaten by animals or marine life. Chinese Lanterns create both a fire risk and a potential litter problem.

New Forest District Council has already agreed to a “no release of balloons” clause in their conditions for events and the New Forest Park Authority and the Forestry Commission do not allow the release of lanterns in the New Forest without the prior agreement of the Forestry Commission.

Due to the location of the Town on the fringes of the New Forest National Park and in order to protect the wider environment from wildfires or injury or death to animals and marine life, the Council has agreed to adopt this policy prohibiting the release of Helium Balloons and Chinese lanterns on any land owned or managed by the Council. This Policy will apply at all times, regardless of whether the use of the land is for an organised event or as an ad-hoc recreation use. This shall include the following locations:

- The Recreation Ground & Brownsey's Field (including Play Area & Skatepark)
- Stuckton Road Cemetery
- Fry's Field Allotments
- Play Areas at Flaxfield End, Whitsbury Road, Queens Gardens
- All other Open Space owned or managed by the Council

End of Policy