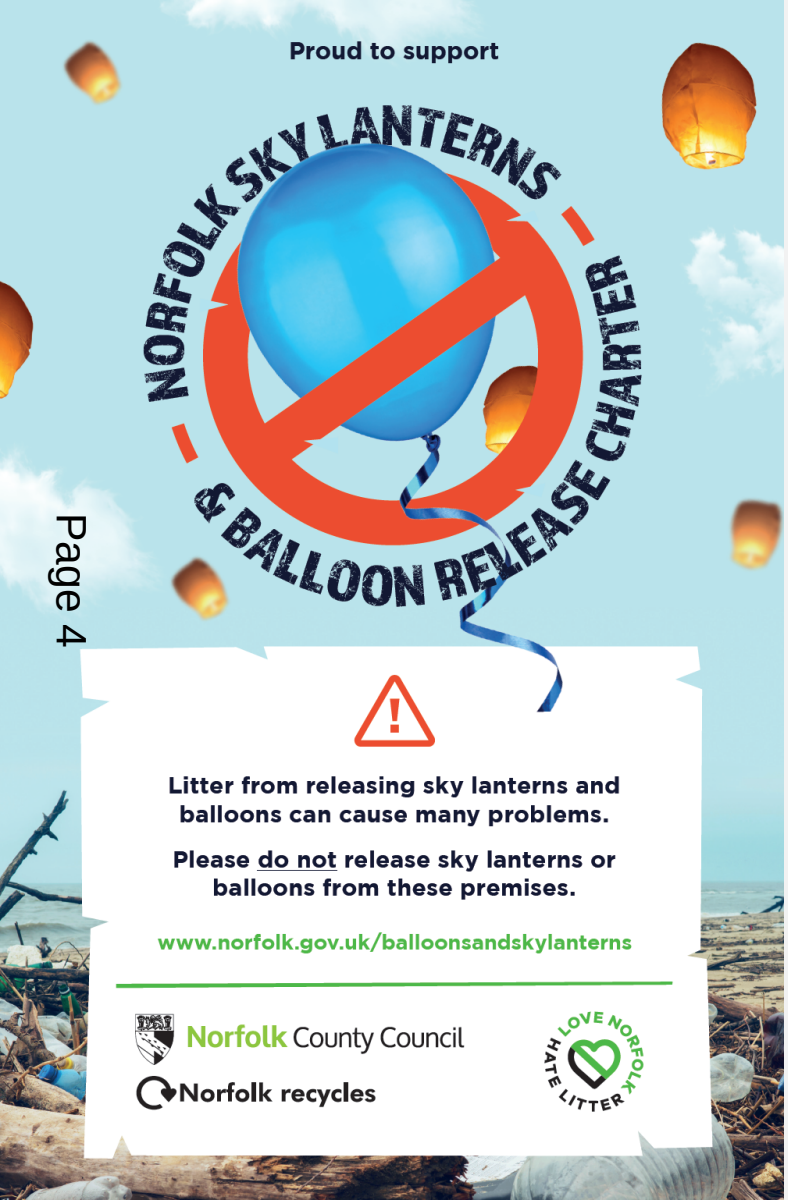
Background

- An estimated 200,000 sky lanterns are sold and released each year in the UK.
- There is currently no UK legislation available to control this issue and sky lanterns aren't currently banned in the UK
- Several councils have banned the release of sky lanterns and balloons on Council owned land, including all 22 local authorities in Wales.
- The National Fire Chiefs Council does not support the use of sky lanterns and asks members of the public and event organisers to refrain from using them.
- The Marine Conservation Society has called for a ban on the release of sky lanterns and balloons after reporting a 50 per cent increase in the amount of balloon litter found on UK beaches between 2015 and 2016

Alternatives

- A number of national organisations and charities promote environmentally friendly alternatives to balloons and lanterns releases.
- These can include the use of flags, banners & pop-ups, the use of static lanterns or solar lights, blowing bubbles or planting a tree.
- Any potential Council ban relates solely to Council properties and land
- There may also be a need to encourage the public to consider the risks posed through the release of helium balloons and sky lanterns and raise awareness of safer and more environmentally friendly alternatives that people can celebrate with.
- **The industry code of practice for sky lanterns highlights that when used as intended in appropriate conditions and in small numbers, sky lanterns do not constitute a high risk.**
- However, lanterns and balloons can be harmful to both the environment and wildlife. Sky lantern and balloon litter takes significant time to decompose



Norfolk County Council pledges to:

- Promote the restriction of the release of all types of helium-filled balloon and sky lantern on property and land owned by the County Council. This includes those that are made from bamboo or claim to be biodegradable.

- Engage with businesses, communities, landowners, schools and individuals in Norfolk encouraging them to sign up to this charter.

- Raise awareness of safer and more environmentally friendly alternatives that people can celebrate with, through promotion and campaigns.