



Motion to Midlothian Council

SKY LANTERNS/CHINESE LANTERNS

The National Farmers Union Scotland represents over 8,500 farmers and crofters from across Scotland, and is seeking Council support to improve the safety in the 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 the National Farmers Union Scotland are working to urge other councils to follow suit and help to make 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, National Farmers Union Scotland would like to see greater public awareness of these risks. The Union believes that it is the responsibility of councils, to publicly recognise these risks by banning the use of Sky Lanterns on council owned property and at council run events.

On behalf of the National Farmers Union Scotland, we ask Midlothian Council to follow the example of other councils within Scotland and take similar measures to demonstrate and also take responsibility towards the environment, property and animal welfare seriously by supporting a ban of sky lanterns within our area.

Proposed by

[Redacted signature]

Seconded by

[Redacted signature]