

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 30 July 2020

Public Questions

Number	Question by	To be answered by	Subject
1	Mr Jonathan White	Councillor Bramhall, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services	Use of Helium Balloons on Council sites

Mr Jonathan White will ask the **Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Mrs Natalie Bramhall** the following question:

Question: Use of Helium Balloons on Council sites

Will the council please consider a ban on the use and distribution, by third-parties, of small promotional helium balloons at events held on its land?

These kind of balloons are quite frequently given out by various organisations from their stands at events such as those in Priority Park for instance.

The reason for my request is that many of the balloons are deliberately or accidentally released and many then end up in the sea becoming part of the microplastics problem presenting a danger to birds and other sea life and, can end up the food chain.

As an example of the kind of thing the council may be able to do I refer to resolution passed by the Council of the Isles of Scilly, a coastal community affected by the problem.

They resolved that the intentional release of balloons, sky lanterns and non-biodegradable streamers are prohibited as part of any event on council land and property and for any council event held on non-council land, including the marine environment, or any event endorsed by the Council.

I should make it clear that I am not asking for any policy that is agreed to be subject to active enforcement, simply inclusion in the rules for use of council land backed up by written reminders to the hirers concerned if not followed.

In the scheme of things it is a small step but more public authorities taking similar action could begin to make a difference.