



# Public Consultation Submissions & Responses

## Prohibition of balloon releases and prohibition on use of plastic confetti and their placement on the market

April 2025

Environment & Resources Authority



## CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Ref No.	Name of Stakeholder / Date	Comments Received	Response / Remarks
1	Andrea Navarra 19/03/2025	<p>I strongly oppose the use of balloons and plastic confetti in the open air. These products not only significantly contribute to plastic pollution but also pose a threat to wildlife, which can ingest them or become entangled in them. Furthermore, non-biodegradable plastic persists in the environment for hundreds of years, contaminating soil and water.</p> <p>I therefore support a complete elimination of the use of balloons and plastic confetti in the open air and encourage the adoption of legislative measures to prevent this type of pollution.</p>	Comment is being noted.
2	Paula Calamatta 21/03/2025	The amendment will introduce new provisions into the legislation to prohibit the release of balloons and plastic confetti into the open air - agree fully and would extend the ban to those carried out by certain band clubs during local village feasts these cause equal damage to the environment - why are we so fearful of education this population?	Comment is being noted.
3	Anonymous 25/03/2025	I strongly agree with the above ban on balloons and confetti.	Comment is being noted.
4	Anonymous 25/03/2025	<p>There needs to be an education drive re the harm caused by balloons. Bunting made out of fabric remnants or even old jeans can be used and reused. The practice of releasing balloons by band clubs can be stopped since we have fireworks to brighten up the skies we don't need balloons too.</p> <p>As for confetti they can be made out biodegradable paper or leaves as stated.</p>	Comment is being noted.

5	<p>Vincent Attard</p> <p>EkoSkola</p> <p>11/04/2025</p>	<p>Suggestions from EkoSkola students in response to the public consultation on proposed regulations banning the release of plastic confetti and balloons</p> <p>As part of our commitment to sustainability and education, we are forwarding responses from students from 25 schools across Malta and Gozo regarding the environmental impact of balloon releases. This initiative aligns with the Ministry's recent proposal to ban balloon releases, aiming to reduce littering.</p> <p>These suggestions were the culmination of a student-led initiative that began in 2015 at a primary school in Gozo. The idea gradually spread to other schools and gained national interest through Ekoskola, focusing on reducing balloon releases during the Puttinu Cares Football Marathon.</p> <p>The students presented practical alternatives to ensure the event remained engaging and meaningful while avoiding environmental harm. The initiative was successful, as the organisers implemented some of the students' suggestions and chose not to carry out the traditional balloon release.</p> <p>Following this letter is a detailed list of the students' suggestions. We encourage the Ministry to consider these ideas during the consultation process. Their implementation could set a strong example of how events can evolve to align with sustainability goals while maintaining their significance.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention. We are happy to discuss these suggestions further and explore how they can be brought to fruition.</p>	<p>Comment is being noted.</p>
		<p>The following is an analysis of alternatives to balloon releases proposed by 25 EkoSkola schools in 2018 in response to a call for ideas to replace the balloon release traditionally associated with the Puttinu</p>	<p>Comment is being noted.</p>

	<p>Cares Football Marathon. The suggestions are categorised and ranked by popularity.</p> <p>Here's a comprehensive and definitive list of alternatives to balloon releases, combining the original suggestions and their environmental impact analysis. The suggestions are grouped by category, with a note on their environmental impact:</p> <p>1. Kites and Flying Displays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flying kites: Highly engaging and reusable if made from sustainable materials.</li><li>• Kite making: Educational and eco-friendly, especially when incorporated into art and craft lessons using recycled materials.</li><li>• Colourful kites with banners tied to their tails: Visually appealing and environmentally sound.</li><li>• Homing pigeons: Symbolic and generate no waste, though ethical considerations regarding animal use should be acknowledged.</li><li>• Synchronized Drone Show: Create colourful animations, shapes, and messages in the sky. This eco-friendly alternative uses cutting-edge technology to captivate audiences without generating any waste.</li><li>• Inflatable shapes: Minimal environmental impact if reused, but material disposal should be considered.</li><li>• Parachute display jump: Exciting and leaves no waste if well-managed.</li></ul> <p>2. Bubbles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bubble machines: Fun and eco-friendly with biodegradable soap.</li></ul>	
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	<p>7. Sustainable Decorations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flowering plants in recycled pots: Strongly eco-friendly, promotes sustainability, and can be sold or replanted post-event.</li><li>• Memory tree with ribbons or tags: Minimal impact with reusable or biodegradable materials.</li><li>• Rockpile for commemoration: Completely eco-friendly.</li></ul> <p>8. Other Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maypole reused for ceremonies: Sustainable and reusable.</li><li>• Coloured smoke: Impact depends on material composition – biodegradable options are recommended.</li><li>• Coloured hats, wigs, or pompoms: Low-impact if reusable or made from recycled materials.</li></ul>	
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