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## Press Release

### **Kites fly again on St Annes beach**

Fylde Borough Council is delighted to announce the lifting of the temporary ban of power kites on St Annes beach in time for the Bank Holiday weekend.

The Council has done everything in its power to resolve the issue as quickly as possible – without compromising safety on the beach.

A wide ranging dialogue has taken place with kilters who have been able to give the Council a good deal of reassurance enabling the decision to be taken to lift the suspension this weekend.

The kilters have carried out their own robust risk assessment which has been sufficient to enable kiting to resume on St Annes beach. The new safety measures to which the kilters **MUST** adhere, include a “no fly zone” within 50m of the dunes – this applies to all kiting activity, including setting up.

All those participating in kiting must also behave in a responsible manner to avoid the reluctant but necessary re-introduction of the suspension.

The new operating procedures have been approved by the specialist consultants and RoSPA who are undertaking the full beach review and the Council’s beach patrol will also be on hand to enforce safety measures.

Cllr Susan Fazackerley, Portfolio Holder for Risk Management and Health & Safety, said: “This is an interim measure to allow the safe continuance of kiting

on the beach pending the introduction of a full beach management programme later this year – Safer Sands.

“The Council takes its Health and Safety responsibilities very seriously and this is why the temporary suspension was imposed. However, we are keen to recognise the value of our beach as one of the best kiting venues in the country and have made every effort to re-introduce kiting in time for this bank holiday. We want to encourage all beach activities to take place in a safe manner – allowing all our residents and visitors to enjoy the beach.

“We must however stress that kite buggying and sandyachting are still not allowed on the beach or other council open spaces pending the outcome of legal proceedings.”

As part of the Council’s ongoing commitment to safety, specialist consultants have been enlisted to carry out a full survey into risks on the beach, which will comprise four components: a site specific assessment; an analysis of legal issues; consultation with key beach users and the public and the design of a workable Beach Management Scheme.

This scheme will include details of stewardship and enforcement; communication techniques; capacity and resources issues and providing details of legal issues.

The consultants will utilise expertise from the RNLI and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and the full report is expected to be completed by the end of September 2006.