

Single Use Plastics

Report of the Informal Working Group to the E&C Committee

Tuesday 5th March 2019

People Involved

Members

Councillors:

Parish (Chairman);

Bower;

Bubb;

Fraser;

Westrop;

Squire (under SO34);

Devereux (portfolio holder)

Officers and others

Barry Brandford - recycling

Tony Hague - procurement

Becky Box – officer survey

Rebecca Parker – keeping us on track

Kirstie Mifsud – Plastic Free Falmouth

The wider public

Introduction to Report

Issues raised at the E&C meeting of 12th June 2018: environmental impact of single use plastics, littering, personal responsibility, behavioural change campaigns and publicity.

The Informal Working Party has conducted research and learnt a lot about what can and cannot be done and have recognised that good practice needs to be exemplified, publicised and published and bad practice clearly identified.

Since formation of the working party increasing action regarding single use plastics has been taken by many groups, including councils, nationally.

Reduce their use, recycle them better, and prevent them from entering the environment, are probably the three tenets that should be adopted.

Single Use Plastics



Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These items are things like plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles and most food packaging.

*In the process of breaking down, they release toxic chemicals (additives that were used to shape and harden the **plastic**) which make their way into our food and water supply.*

Intentions

Reduce /eliminate the use of single use plastics by BCKLWN.

Provide an example to other organisations within the Borough.

Provide guidance to people living and working within the Borough.

Support and promote good practice identified in the Borough and elsewhere.

Improve recycling, reduce littering.

- [Single-use plastics: Budget 2018 brief - GOV.UK](#)
- [Single use plastic: banning the distribution and/or sale of](#)
- [Government launches plan to ban plastic straws, cotton-buds](#)
- [UK Government Announces Plans To Ban Single-Use Plastics](#)
- [Single-use plastics ban approved by European Parliament](#)
- [UK businesses make world-first pact to ban single-use plastics](#)

11 recommendations in response to the emerging national concern regarding single use plastics

1. Officer focus group to promote internal good practice.

(In liaison with relevant managers and portfolio holders)

2. Relevant officers to be instructed to provide guidance to Parish Councils and to Tourist guides and locations.

Planning Department to provide Code of Good Practice to builders and developers.

3. Waste and Recycling Manager to review how waste generated at holiday parks is managed so that recycling is optimised

4. Council to support and promote:

Refill Initiative; good practice within local businesses; appropriate initiatives by partners and other organisations.

5. Council to give consideration to marketing campaigns: food waste service; 'selling to us page'; Christmas wrapping; Norfolk Waste Partnership.

6. The Leader be invited to appoint a Member Champion for Single use Plastics.

7. E&C Panel work with Portfolio Holder to ensure responses to Government initiatives.

8. Waste and Recycling manager and Portfolio Holder investigate ways to increase recycling levels in tourist areas.

9. Portfolio holder and Member Champion (if appropriate) keeps watching brief on the NCC Task Group and report back to E&C.

10. Council to hold design competition with schools – winning design to be wrapped onto bin vehicles.

11. E&C to schedule updates in its Work Programme on the work of the Norfolk waste Partnership (via Waste and Recycling Manager and Portfolio Holder)

The End