

Swanage Plastic Free Town**Eco-Town Update**

At the previous Tourism Committee in November 2018, the Visitor Services Manager was tasked to consider a range of suggestions put forward and to research what it would take to become a 'plastic-free' town.

The following table, along with Appendix 1 constitutes the research undertaken by the Visitor Services Manager. Each of the 'suggestions' were identified by the Tourism Committee in November 2018.

No.	Suggestion	Current Position
1.	Plastic Free Town	An action plan for a 'Plastic Free Swanage' has been developed as Appendix 1. It is proposed that an application is made by the Visitor Services Manager, working in conjunction with the proposed 'Sustainable Swanage Steering Group' made up of businesses and a representative from the Town Council.
2.	Increased recycling facilities – within Town Council	The Council is currently undertaking a review of its internal business recycling provision, headed by the Operations Manager. Part of this review will include business recycling at Beach Gardens for the 'Tea on the Green'. Beach recycling provision is not being considered at this time due to cost and collection challenges. It should be noted that roughly 8% of waste collected by the Dorset Waste Partnership from street collections is currently recycled.
3.	Business Recycling	A key issue faced by many businesses across Swanage is limited availability of business recycling. This is currently being considered by the Chamber of Trade and Commerce who are planning to meet some local suppliers regarding additional provision.
4.	Free water bottle refill scheme	An increasing number of local businesses are signing up to this scheme. Currently the Swanage Information Centre and Tea on the Green both take part. The drinking water taps along the seafront will be marked with the relevant logo if possible (otherwise it will be a clear sign saying 'drinking water'). A suggestion we have received is that it would be very useful for visitors to have access to a drinking water fountain or tap near the Square. The Council are asked to consider if there are any options with regards to installing a tap/fountain within the Heritage Toilets.
5.	Local Awards Scheme	The Swanage Town Council Awards Scheme now include a 'Green Champion' who will be awarded this accolade on 11 th March 2019

Recommendation

That Swanage Town Council adopts the 'Plastic Free Swanage' Action Plan detailed in Appendix 1 and the 'suggestions' above are noted.

Culvin Milmer
Visitor Services Manager & Business Development Officer
March 2019

Objective and Actions	Progress to date	Recommendation
<p>Objective 1: The local council must pass a resolution supporting the journey to Plastic Free Community status, committing to plastic free alternatives and plastic free initiatives within its area</p>		
<p>1) The Council must lead by example to remove single use plastic items from their premises</p>	<p>An audit has been made of the various premises operated by the Council and the following recommendations have been identified</p>	<p>Council Offices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to commit to not procuring any further plastic cups for any of its drinking machines once stocks are eliminated <p>Beach Gardens 'Tea on the Green'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to no longer sell plastic bottled drinks, once current small supply is eliminated (canned water will be available along with free water refills and glass and metal canned fruit and soft drinks) • Council to no longer supply plastic condiment sachets, plastic straws or plastic cutlery • Compostable take away cups are currently being provided, although lids will only be available on request and a 20p discount available for customers who bring their own cups. Drinks sold for consumption on the premises will be provided in a ceramic mug. <p>Swanage Information centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic bags will no longer be supplied to customers

Objective and Actions	Progress to date	Recommendation
2) The Council should encourage plastic free initiatives, promoting the campaign and supporting events	The Council currently requires all events on land that it operates to commit to reducing their use of single use plastic. During 2018-19 it has supported the 'Love Swanage' event held in November 2018 at the Swanage Secondary School and promoted a range of other environmental events	The Council should continue to support plastic free initiatives and ban the use of the 10 'worst offenders' as defined by 'Surfers against Sewage' in any events operated on land it controls.
3) A representative of the Council must be named on the Plastic Free Community Steering Group		The Council should nominate a representative to sit on the Plastic Free Steering Group' (see objective 5)
Objective 2: Get local businesses on board		
4) At least three single use plastic items removed from local business 5) For towns with a population of between 5,000 to 10,000 this will require at least 5 businesses to sign up	On 26 th February 2019 a Business Breakfast was held with around 20 local businesses. More than 5 business were identified who already have or are prepared to remove single use plastic as defined by Surfers Against Sewage. The group agreed to meet again in April/May to consider progress	The Council notes that there are more than sufficient businesses within Swanage to meet the requirement for a Plastic Free Town.
Objective 3: Plastic free message		
6) Community engagement – speeding the plastic free message through schools, community organisations and other local institutions	A great deal of work is being undertaken by Litter Free Coast and Sea and community groups such as Litter Free Purbeck to promote the community message	The Council notes that a great deal of fantastic work is being undertaken by a range of groups in the town.

Objective and Actions	Progress to date	Recommendation
Objective 4: Plastic free events		
7) At least two local community events arranged and made open for all to attend, in each year	Within Swanage a range of events and activities currently take place which meet the needs of the application. These can include community beach cleans as well as 'plastic free parties'.	The Council to continue to support community beach cleans and events such as the 'Love Swanage' day (held in November 2018) and to promote this as a more 'plastic-free' themed event.
Objective 5: Set up a Steering Group		
8) Local group of stakeholders, including the Council, to meet at least twice a year to discuss plastic free progress	While a group of local stakeholders does not currently exist, the Business Breakfast held on 29 th February 2019 identified a core of business owners and individuals who would be very keen to sit on such a group.	The Council to encourage and support the setting up of a 'Sustainable Swanage Steering Group'.

Culvin Milmer
 Visitor Services Manager
 March 2019