

Agenda item 8

For Decision - Frome Town Council to become 'single-use' plastic free

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Summary

It is proposed that Frome Town Council commits to becoming a 'single-use' plastic-free council. This will be done by phasing out the use of unrecyclable single-use plastic products in all council activities by April 2018. The Council will also encourage facility users and local businesses to do the same by promoting alternatives.

Background

There is increasing awareness around the impact of plastic, both in terms of waste, oil use and climate change. The UK throws away 1.5 million tonnes of plastic packaging waste each year, including 2.5 billion disposable coffee cups, most of which end up in landfill and waterways.

Glastonbury Town Council recently committed to going 'single use plastic free' and is phasing out products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws in all council activities by April 2018. Frome Town Council already minimises use of these plastics, committing to going 'plastic-free' will raise the profile and encourage other organisations to follow suit.

Wetherspoons for example, are phasing out plastic straws.

These are the things that FTC could do immediately:

1. Raise awareness of the impact of single use plastic
2. Move away from plastic milk bottles to re-usable glass ones
3. Explore installing water proof covers to noticeboards where possible to avoid having to laminate posters

Recommendations

1. Phase out wherever possible, single use plastic in all council activities,
2. Work with local businesses and the media to encourage the phase out of single use plastic and increase awareness of the alternatives. This could include information on alternative suppliers and linking businesses up to share supply.
3. As part of the 'You're Welcome' programme, include free water re-fills to avoid disposable plastic water bottles.
4. Promote a 'Final Straw' campaign to encourage cafes and caterers to avoid plastic straws and engage proactively with venues such as the Cheese and Grain to explore phasing out disposable plastic cups.
5. Promote the "single use plastic free" campaign throughout the town, through our business engagement work and Good Business visits.