**HOW CAN WE ENABLE SUPERMARKETS TO USE LESS PLASTIC?**

**Plastic Bags**

Basic info re bringing your own bag is still important. Could there be a sign outside supermarkets saying ‘Did you remember your bag’?

Look at plastic bag free towns e.g. Modbury – how did they do it? 5p is not enough for plastic bags

Sell net bags or hessian bags just outside supermarkets. Turtle bags are on sale in Catherine Hill and in hardware shop opposite Shepherds Barton steps.

Supermarket staff need to be trained not to wrap stuff automatically

**Consumer Pressure**

Applaud and promote Co-op for using biodegradable bags and Iceland for efforts it’s making re moving away from plastic

We can boycott products that not moving fast enough / switch to Iceland to support them in their efforts

Need to pressure supermarkets / supply chain re vacuum packed meat etc

Using social media can increase embarrassment if you # to companies – ask Bha about this

**Packaging**

**#Returntheplastic** – get everyone to return the plastic on same day for packaging of own brand products (could be 31st March or 21sr April). Have petition outside and press release. Could do this repeatedly and go round all the supermarkets. Singing bag ladies outside the supermarkets? Need to warn supermarket in advance, get head office attention and give supermarkets some ideas on how to deal with it. Make 31st / 21st a fun day – dress up, get a whale?!

Could group of volunteers collect plastic at end of tills discarded by customers?

Each supermarket has own freepost address and can send packaging back – people are already doing this

**Alternatives**

Wholefood shop packaging is made from cornstarch but can’t use it for big items

Company called ‘Who gives a crap’ that will send in toilet paper not wrapped in plastic

Supermarkets should offer paper bags for loose produce or biodegradable celophane

Deposit schemes – encourage supermarket to do it e.g. via some sort of collecting vending machine with own branding

Can cost more if you don’t buy existing products as they are. What about poorer families?

**Recycling**

Plastic recycling collection scheme will change in 2020 re collection of other sorts of plastic (than just bottles)

Some charities will take bottle tops e.g. SHARE

**Awareness raising / Education**

Remind people of alternatives e.g. veg box schemes

Plastic oceans group = put facebook page in notes

We could put on film ‘A Plastic Ocean’ at the town hall. T’s free for schools to watch.