

BRIEFING PAPER	
Subject(s) Single Use Plastic Pledge	
From: Karen Crowhurst – Locum Project Officer.	To: Abingdon Town Council Environment and Amenities Committee
Date: 15th November 2022	Item 13i

Background

Abingdon Town Council agreed in the past to work towards reducing single use plastic in the town and at events ran by the Council. A policy has been created and agreed. For various reasons this project became dormant for a while. It was at the recent Jubilee event that the use of single use plastic was considered once again.

Since being appointed as your Locum Project Officer, I have devised a scheme where we can ask local businesses, community groups and organisations to sign up to a pledge which can be run by Abingdon Town Council. I have discussed this with Cllr Barody who is happy to support this initiative. The poster requesting sign up to the pledge is attached to this report.

Recommendations

- 1) The Environment and Amenities Committee resolve the launch of the pledge.
- 2) The Locum Projects Officer contacts business, schools, community groups and organisations to sign up to the pledge.
- 3) For the press release included with this report be released
- 4) To follow up those who have signed up to the pledge to report on different practices or use of plastic they have made.
- 5) To procure cups and beakers. The cost of which will eventually be reimbursed by sales at events. Using the Green Small Projects budget heading which has an allocation of £1,000. – Quotations have been previously circulated and are available in the confidential section of SharePoint for members.
- 6) For the Environment and Amenities Committee to agree the preference of no plastic being used for flowers and wreaths at the Cemetery.

Requests to the Community Committee for consideration and decision

- 1) To request the Community Committee supports the single use plastic initiative.
- 2) To request that all events that Abingdon Town Council runs or manages incorporate the reduction of single use plastic.
- 3) The Community Committee encompasses events that may arise from this initiative and allows resources for any events which may arise from the launch of the initiative or promotion that may arise.

Other thoughts and comments and actions for consideration.

Lead by example

What is the Town Council doing?

Provision of refillable vessels for any drinking water.

Hire of halls- encourage alternative use of plastic for events.

Encourage the Cinema to promote and implement the use of single use plastic by offering refills and cut the price of refreshments by a very small amount for those customers bringing their own refillable cup.

Weddings

Recommend floral displays incorporate other recyclable materials to plastic, including wrapping.

Cemetery

Recommend floral displays incorporate other recyclable materials to plastic so flowers can be removed to a compost heap.

Promote being a champion

Have a poster competition including pupils of local schools. The Mayor could judge and prizes can be given. Display the posters at the Town Hall so children can show their parents.

Promote any Council activity regarding the vision of the Council and single use plastic at the Annual Parish meeting.

Make statements on the website and any other source of communication to the electorate. Such as Facebook.

Mayors Awards to those who have achieved the most in reducing single waste plastic.

Have a pop-up refreshment stall at the market giving away free drinks for those with reusable cups and provide cups which have an alternative to plastic to promote this type of usage. Use Fair Trade products.

For those businesses who have joined the scheme and can demonstrate changes to be included as news on the Town Council website

Create promotional material for those who have joined the campaign. **“This company has joined with the Town Council to support the Single Use Plastic Policy.”**