

COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL - MEETING – TUESDAY MARCH 12TH 2024

Item 11 – To support a community led scheme for Copythorne Parish to achieve “Plastic Free Status”

Aim

To help Copythorne Parish tackle Plastic Pollution.

Background

Cllr. Sherri Johnstone has been accepted by the Plastic Free Communities team (Surfers against Sewage) as an individual to be a Plastic Free Community Lead in Copythorne Parish. The aim is to gain Plastic Free Status.

Practically, this means phasing out the use of single use plastic in Copythorne Parish by engaging with individuals, community groups, businesses and Council.

The Government has already taken action on banning straws, stirrers and cotton buds, single-use carrier bag charge, a plastic packaging tax, plastic plates, trays and bowls (not for ready meals). A returnable bottle deposit scheme is not yet in place.

Some examples of extra initiatives are:

Refillable drinking cups and bottles.

Local farmer’s milk sold in reusable bottles in local shops.

More local produce in non-plastic packaging in local shops.

Reusable delivery packaging for businesses.

Returnable packaging for individuals and businesses.

Reuseable wet wipes, nappies, sanitary products, scourers.

Refillable ecofriendly pens.

Refillable washing and cleaning product bottles.

Replacing the sealable plastic layer for non-food packaging, such as mailing films or food films for dry or fatty products (tea bags, confectionery, pet chews, etc.).

Replacing per- or poly-fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) for papers that need to be grease-proof (e.g. fast food packaging).

Requirements for Copythorne Plastic Free Community to achieve Plastic Free Status

1. Put forward a motion to Copythorne Parish Council supporting the initiative.
2. Engage with 3 businesses to reduce single use plastic waste in 3 ways.
3. Engage with 10 Community groups to reduce plastic waste in 3 ways.
4. Create a Steering Group to realise the project.
5. Engage in Community events to increase awareness of how to reduce single use plastics.

Note: the reduction objectives can be retrospective.

Request that Copythorne Parish Council

1. Agrees to appoint a Council member onto the local Plastic Free Copythorne Steering Group.
2. Agrees to support all Plastic Free Communities initiatives in its area.
3. Pledge to act by example and remove single-use plastic items from its premises and operations.

Cllr. Sherri Johnstone

February 2024