

**3 May 2019**

### **Council's area board makes fantastic pledge**

A local Wiltshire Council area board meeting is pledging to go single-use-plastic free from now on.

At the previous Malmesbury Area Board meeting, the board agreed to stop the use of disposable plastic hot drink cups at future meetings and associated events. Hot drinks will continue to be served at meetings but people are asked to bring their own reusable cup to use.

It is hoped with Malmesbury leading the way, other area boards will be inspired to make this change too. If all area boards do make this pledge then this could potentially save around 3,240 plastic cups going to landfill each year, based on 30 cups being used per area board meeting.

This will help Wiltshire Council's efforts on climate change and support local community group, Malmesbury Against Plastic, who are on a mission to encourage the local residents and businesses of Malmesbury to reduce their usage of single use plastics.

John Thomson, chairman of Malmesbury Area Board, said: "This is a relatively simple thing to do but should have a positive impact. I hope other area boards follow our lead as it's important we all take responsibility for this global issue.

"If we all do our bit and make simple changes such as this then it will contribute to reducing plastic pollution of our planet."

A spokesperson for Malmesbury Against Plastic said: "This work has shown the power of individual action. If the other area boards in Wiltshire make similar pledges, then this one action has the potential to save over 3,000 cups from landfill - a fantastic result.

"If people ever need convincing that their actions won't have an impact, then take a look at this example. Any action or habit change, no matter how large or small, will have a significant impact on the health of our planet."

The next Malmesbury Area Board takes place on Tuesday 7 May, 6-7pm with networking from 5.30pm, at the Assembly Hall in Malmesbury Town Hall, Cross Hayes, Malmesbury and all are welcome.

For more information about the council's other climate change work, people should visit the <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/green-economy-climate-change>.

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**Notes to editors:**

For more information please contact the Wiltshire Council communications team on 01225 713115/6 or 01225 713370.