

Wiltshire Council

Council

21 February 2017

Notice of Motion No. 40 – Reducing Single Use Plastic

From Councillors Terry Chivers and Ernie Clark

To consider the following motion submitted in accordance with the Council's Constitution:

“According to recent research, eight million metric tons of plastic waste ends up in the world's oceans each year, endangering marine life. There is also a growing understanding of the risks posed to human health by toxic chemicals present in plastics.

Six months after the introductions of the 5p bag charge, use of the single wrap plastic bags had already dropped by 85%, while the TV programme Hugh's War On Waste has raised public awareness of the problems of our throwaway culture. It is time for Wiltshire to take a lead on this issue.

Council RESOLVES to ask cabinet to:

1. Develop a robust strategy to make Wiltshire a 'single-use-plastic-free' authority by the end of 2017 and encourage the County's institutions, businesses and citizens to adopt similar measures
2. End the sale and provision of SUP products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws in council buildings where possible;
3. Encourage traders in Wiltshire to sell re-usable containers and invite customers to bring their own, with the aim of phasing out single-use plastic containers and cutlery on markets stalls by the end of 2017
4. Investigate the possibility of requiring pop-up food and drink vendors at large council events to avoid SUP's as a condition of their contract; and work with tenants in commercial properties owned by Wiltshire Council to encourage the phasing out of SUP cups, bottles, cutlery and straws

Facts about plastic:

- Over the last ten years we have produced more plastic owned by Wiltshire Council to encourage the phasing out of SUP cups, bottles, cutlery and straws
- 50% of the plastic we use, we use just once and throw away

- Billions of pounds of plastic can be found in swirling convergences in the oceans making up about 40% of the world's ocean surfaces
- The great pacific garbage patch is located in the North Pacific Gyre off the coast of California and is the largest ocean garbage site in the world. This floating mass of plastic is twice the size of Texas, with plastic pieces outnumbering sea life six to one.
- One million sea birds and 100,000 marine mammals are killed annually from plastic in our oceans
- Chemical added to plastics are absorbed by human bodies. Some of these compounds have been found to alter hormones or have other potential human health effects.”