

Reducing the use of Single Use Plastics

Honiton Town Council, following its resolution in October 2017, is committed to working with both residents and local businesses in addressing the use of single use plastic. We are all aware of the issues these plastics cause and the time they take to break down, causing major issues to our environment for decades to come.

Cllr Kolek has written to the larger national chains operating in Honiton, particularly the Cafe chains and the supermarkets, with a number responding with details of how they are reducing the use of single use plastics in their day to day business.

The information sheet below is designed to give local residents some suggestions and ideas around how to reduce single use plastics at home. The list is not exhaustive and we welcome further suggestions from members of our community in tackling this issue.

Twelve ways to reduce the use of Single Use Plastics in the home

- 1: Replace plastic straws with paper ones - or do away with using them altogether.
- 2: Buy washing products in cardboard boxes and not in plastic containers.
- 3: Stop chewing gum.
- 4: Use reusable bags for shopping and use paper bags for fruit and veg when needed instead of plastic bags - loose fruit and veg is often cheaper than pre-packaged.
- 5: Reuse glass jars to store left over food.
- 6: If you buy carry-out hot drinks on the way to work use a reusable cup or thermos mug.
- 7: When ordering a take away ask, when you place your order, to take the food home in your own reusable containers and not their throw away plastic (or foil) trays.
- 8: Replace plastic cutlery with reusable cutlery or if you must use disposable cutlery use wooden knives, forks and spoons.
- 9: Replace fruit juice in plastic cartons to eating or squeezing actual fruit.
- 10: Use washable nappies.
- 11: Think about cutting down on the use of toxic chemicals in the bathroom, as well as banishing plastic bottles and use vinegar and baking soda, if possible.
- 12: Until the ban on microbeads comes into force in July this year, check the labels of all beauty products and avoid any containing microbeads.

