



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL PROUD TO SUPPORT PLASTIC FREE GODALMING

At the Town Council's Environment & Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday, 13 February, Members resolved to recommend that Godalming Town Council support the Plastic Free Godalming Campaign, which is part of the Surfers Against Sewage - Plastic Free Communities Initiative. In showing its support, Godalming Town Council joins with over 600 other local councils and communities who are committed to reducing the amount of single use plastic used in our society, much of which ends up polluting our oceans and waterways.

Becoming a Plastic Free Community needs the support of both residents and the business community. The campaign wants to identify as many retailers as possible who will commit to becoming plastic free, so far two have signed up; The Godalming Food Company and The Yard Market. It also wants to recruit 30 community groups including, Scouts, Guides, Cadets, Churches, Theatre Groups, and Schools and also wants to organise a clean-up day. Godalming-based groups who want to support the campaign are asked to email community@godalming-tc.gov.uk to be put in touch with the campaign.

In resolving to support the Plastic Free Godalming Campaign, Councillors agreed to appoint a representative to the Campaign, encourage plastic free initiatives and importantly lead by example. In collaboration with event partners, the Town Council has already taken steps to reduce single use plastic at town events, single use plastic water bottles will no longer be provided at the water stations at the annual Godalming Community Run and the Staycation Live Music Festival drinks container deposit scheme, which last year drastically reduced the waste generated from the event, will be repeated at the 2020 festival. The Council will also seek to influence local retailers and community groups to become plastic free.

The Council is working in partnership with Waverley Borough Council to install a water refill station in the Phillips Memorial Park and will, as the first display in the Town Council's 'Shop Window' when it moves to its new premises next door to Godalming Museum, be displaying Waverley's Environmental Services Projects Team's Zero Waste Showcase, which is aimed at reducing personal consumption of single use plastics.

The Council will further demonstrate its support for the Plastic Free Campaign by ensuring that it does not use single use plastic items at its meetings or in its offices. Cllr Paul Rivers, Chair of the Environment and Planning Committee said, "I am delighted that Godalming Town Council is to join those who care deeply about their planet and I hope that as many retailers, community groups and individuals as possible will join us in working to eliminate the 320 million tonnes of plastic produced worldwide every year."

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Release Date: 14 February 2020

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