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SINGLE USE PLASTICS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Plastic waste is one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world today. The UK government estimates that there are currently more than 150m tonnes of plastic in the world's oceans, and that some 100,000 sea mammals and one million birds die from eating or becoming tangled in plastic waste each year. Globally we produce 380 million tonnes of plastic a year and 50% of this is single use. 12 million tonnes of this is dumped in the oceans.

Surfers Against Sewage first created the 'Wasteland' campaign to create plastic free coastlines, Wasteland being a metaphor for the largest concentration of plastic in the ocean. Thanks to the success of like-minded people wanting to rid the oceans of plastic litter, they created the Plastic Free Communities campaign to take into account all of the inland communities that wanted to act.

There are five objectives that Surfers against Sewage qualify as the criteria in getting towns to successfully become plastic free. Once they have been achieved Peacehaven will be awarded the 'Plastic Free Status' which is similar to the Fair Trade model. Businesses and the town will then be awarded approved business stickers and certificates when the whole community is approved.

Peacehaven Town Council is committed to tackling the plastic waste problem by taking responsibility for its own impact on the environment and society, both within the local area and across the globe. The Town Council will work towards minimising use of single-use plastics across its own facilities and services and by all staff and pro-actively work with partners to find positive solutions for reducing unnecessary waste plastics across the town.

WHAT ARE SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Single-use plastics can include any disposable plastic item which is designed to be used only once e.g. plastic bags, disposable utensils, beverage containers, coffee capsules, wet wipes, disposable razor, plastic drinks bottles, food wrappers, bottle tops, straws, stirrers and plastic lids, glo-sticks and sauce sachets

BECOMING A SINGLE USE PLASTICS FREE TOWN

To support Peacehaven becoming a single-use plastics free town, the Council commits to:

- Work with staff to ensure that single-use plastics are eliminated across our offices.
- Support the community in its efforts to make their buildings plastic-free zones.
- Communicate the importance of protecting our urban, rural and marine environments, and support and promote positive initiatives, town campaigns and actions for reducing plastic waste.

- Work with our event organisers to eliminate single-use plastics across all town events held on council land and share guidance for this more widely.
- Support communities and litter-pick initiatives to ensure our parks, beaches and open spaces are free from plastic litter.
- Use government legislation that regulates against the use of single-use plastics to support our efforts where we can.
- Require all our suppliers to minimise the use of single-use plastics in their service provision and find sustainable alternatives (where appropriate).
- The council will encourage the use of recycled plastics, where practicable, and support manufacturers that make products from locally sourced waste plastics.
- Work with partners in joint ventures and innovative projects for reducing single-use plastic waste.
- Share best practice and information about plastic free initiatives, to residents, businesses, visitors and beyond through the council's social media and communication channels.

This council will work to embed these commitments into its strategy objectives, policies and plans.

Adopted on: 30th January 2024

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