

## **Ideas for a Plastic-Free Parish: Botus Fleming and Hatt.**

The parish of Botus Fleming and Hatt (BFH) is a relatively small, rural community of 750 people in south-east Cornwall. Economic activity is largely confined to a small number of farming businesses and a small group of retail outlets in Hatt, centred on the petrol station. To achieve a Plastic-Free Parish it is proposed that BFPC Parish Council would propose this aspiration, but then strive to set up a local “Plastic Watch” group of residents to promote the initiative.

### **Potential Sources of Plastic to Address:**

1. Households
2. Church hall
3. Agriculture
4. Business premises
5. Community annual “Big Event”

### **Household Plastic.**

- Leaflet householders with ideas to reduce plastic, e.g. make a pledge to buy loose fruit and vegetables or those packaged in cardboard or paper; buy bread and cakes from an outlet that sells freshly baked items that can be put in paper bags; buy meat/fish from an outlet that does not sell items pre-packed in large plastic trays sealed with plastic film; pledge to use re-useable coffee cups when out and about; pledge to use fabric bags-for-life.

### **Church Hall.**

- This is our only indoor public meeting space that can be hired for private or public events.
- Luckily it has a large stock of crockery cups and plates as well as metal cutlery. Those who use the Hall tend to use the crockery and cutlery provided there.
- However, we could engage with the PCC to ask them to make it a condition of hire that no disposable plastic items be used.

### **Agriculture.**

- Contact NFU to ask about ways in which the farming community are trying to reduce plastic use/waste.
- Approach local farmers with ideas gained from above, and seek support.

## **Business.**

- Local shop sells wide range of pre-packaged goods, e.g. bread, biscuits, confectionary, milk, soft drinks, etc. Difficult to know how much packaging could be reduced or changed from plastic without significantly reducing shelf-life. Ideas? Shop also sells take-away hot beverages. We could approach owner to suggest recyclable cups when these become more widely available, or to offer discount for people who bring their own re-useable cup.
- The other two small car repair businesses have a lot of footfall from the public, but do not sell pre-packaged goods. They could be included in the households leaflet drop.
- There are two large fast food outlets 2 miles away (outside the parish) which sell food and drink. There is anecdotal evidence that plastic waste litter has increased since their opening. We could contact the relevant town council to ask to set up a meeting with the outlets to see how plastic use/waste could be reduced.

## **Community “Big Event”**

- This is an annual festival/celebration on the village playing field. There is a marquee with a bar, and several mobile fast food outlets. Unfortunately there is no piped mains water supply, so there is potential for single use bottles of water to be used.
- Possible strategies:
  - Request that attendees bring own supply of water in reusable bottles.
  - Have large bottles of drinking water available for people to top up their bottles.
  - Request that bar customers reuse their plastic glasses
  - Do not provide plastic straws for drinks
  - Request that mobile food outlets only use paper or cardboard serving containers and wooden cutlery.

**We need to avoid initiative overload if we are to successfully implement policies and initiatives. The Climate Emergency proposal will demand a lot from us as a PC and from our residents, but there may still be opportunities to reduce plastic use in the parish alongside any actions that stem from the Climate Emergency initiative**

Cllr Malcolm Fletcher

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