

**LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**SINGLE USE PLASTICS REPORT**

**Current buildings owned and operated by LTC:**

- Public Hall
- Town council offices
- Liskeard Museum
- Guildhall
- Sungirt Toilets
- Westbourne Toilets
- Dean Street Toilets
- Pengover Allotments
- Lake Lane Allotments

**Public Hall & TC office**

The Town Council has taken conscious steps to remove single use plastics from use in the public hall. Plastic spoons were the most commonly used single use plastic and these are no longer purchased. Tony Misson believes there may be an odd pack left over but not in active use. The town council uses single use black bags and bin liners.

There are very few single use plastics within the building. Plastic bottles are used to store cleaning chemicals, but these are fully recycled. Cores from toilet paper and paper hand towels are also recycled.

The current waste collection is provided by SITA through a bag purchase scheme. The town council purchases white bags from SITA for waste which is then collected from a tall wheelie bin at the rear of the public hall. The bags cost around £4. There is minimal space at the town hall hence why a tall wheelie bin is used. Waste from the museum is brought up and collected at the same time. We do not know if the waste is sorted by SITA.

The Town Council is in the process of reviewing all aspects of its waste management and a separate report will be brought to Council.

People that hire the hall are made aware that LTC is single use plastic free, however, it would be proactive to maybe add a small additional document to the hire agreement to inform people of the policy, the facilities manager has also recommended placing signs in the kitchens.

Having spoken to one of the regular hirers of the hall, they mentioned that the lack of plastic spoons would be slightly inconvenient but are happy to use metal spoons. He mentioned that they had tried to source paper cups but could only find plastic ones. It may therefore be worth exploring keeping a supply of paper cups or finding a good source where people could obtain them from. Glass hire could also be explored. The hirer also felt that if they were compliant with recycling their waste, they should not be charged a waste removal fee. It was discussed as to who would be responsible for going through the recycling as well.

At PFL meeting it was discussed about having recycling bins within the hall. Realistically, this would need to be in each room rather than a central location as people hiring one section of the hall are unlikely to make a special effort to walk to a central bin location.

### **Liskeard Museum**

The museum has very little single use plastic, however, the ice creams sold in the TIC contain a plastic spoon and the Ice lollies have plastic packaging. As mentioned before the small amount of waste is brought up to the public hall weekly to be added to their collection. I have contacted Callestick who make the small tub ice creams stocked in TIC. Their tubs are now biodegradable, and they are in the process of removing the plastic spoon to move to a wooden or biodegradable one.

### **Toilets**

Waste from the toilets is relatively minimal. As mentioned previously, the Town Council is in the process of reviewing ALL aspects of its waste management and a separate report will be brought to Council from the Facilities manager.

### **Guildhall**

The guildhall currently has 6 tenants plus a store room and the clock tower. Similarly, to users of the hall, it may be worth considering writing a positive letter to the tenants informing them of LTC plastic free status and as tenants we would actively encourage them to comply.

### **Allotments**

The Town council owns 2 allotments in the town. There is a manure scheme in operation where tenants pay towards a delivery of manure which is kept in allocated storage bins. Tony mentioned that plastic plant pots are used on these sites, but these can be reused through the pot swap scheme. There is concern about the use of plastic wrapped compost bags. Plastic Free Liskeard are investigating whether compost wrapping can be recycled via Mole Valley Farmers who currently take silage wrapping for recycling. It would be worth considering updating the garden rules to include a note about single use plastics.

### **Recommendations**

*It is recommended that the following actions are adopted by the relevant committee*

- Review of waste management processes to be completed and brought to council.
- Investigate other waste contractors to find out if they offer a waste sorting system
- Investigate sourcing paper cups or glasses for people to hire
- Trial cardboard recycling bins in Hobhouse, Wheal Phoenix and Public Hall
- Consider adding a plastic free information document to hiring T&C's

- Place notices in kitchens advising PF info
- Letter to be written to Guildhall tenants to let them know about PF status and inviting them to participate
- Update allotment rules to include a section about single use plastics and encouragement of recycling existing plastic items.
- PF info boards to be displayed at public hall relaunch

I have contacted other Town Councils in Cornwall to enquire about how they manage the plastic free status and will report on any findings. I asked the following questions:

- How is your waste and recycling from town council owned properties currently handled?
- Do you have any openly available recycling facilities within your TC buildings?
- What steps have you taken to reduce single use plastic within your properties?
- What steps do you take to encourage people that hire your premises not to use single use plastics

I received the following responses:

### **St Austell Town Council**

#### ***C/18/37) Plastic Free St Austell (at the request of Councillor King, Mayor of St Austell)***

*Councillor King introduced a report which he had drafted on his desire to launch a plastic free St Austell initiative to reduce the use of single use plastics.*

*Members discussed the dangers associated with the disposal of plastics, the extent to which national chains would co-operate, the potential economic benefits and the need to encourage the use of alternatives to plastic including paper and vegetable alternatives. It was RESOLVED that:*

- 1. St Austell Town Council, wherever possible, will phase out the use of all single use cups, lids, plastic bottles, plastic-lined cardboard and any other single use plastics during the coming months.*
- 2. St Austell Town Council urges all businesses with which we work, through procurement avenues and other networks, to promote the eradicating of use of similar products in their business environments.*

- *How is your waste and recycling from town council owned properties currently handled?*
- *Library – we have weekly re-cycling/normal waste collection at these premises. Council Offices – the staff take it in turns to take the re-cycling home as there is very little (mainly plastic milk bottles and coffee packaging). The cleaner disposes of the normal office waste. We have a confidential waste collection as and when needed which gets taken away and re-cycled.*
- *Do you have any openly available recycling facilities within your TC buildings? Yes*
- *What steps have you taken to reduce single use plastic within your properties? The staff at the Stable Block have stopped buying water in plastic bottles and plastic cups*
- *What steps do you take to encourage people that hire your premises not to use single use plastics The Town Council has no formal policy in place at the present time.*

*Our Mayor is a member of “Plastic Free St Austell”.*