

# Peakirk Parish Council Single Use Plastic 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.

Plastic is a contributor to climate change. Chemicals derived from fossil fuels are used to make almost all plastics. The more plastic made, the more petrochemicals are required, and the more petrochemicals required, the higher the demand for gas, oil and even coal.

## 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, razor blades, plastic drinks bottles, food wrappers, bottle tops, straws, stirrers and plastic lids.

## Policy

Peakirk Parish Council commits to:

- Work with our event organisers to eliminate single-use plastics across all parish events held on council land and share guidance for this more widely
- Support communities and litter-pick initiatives to ensure our parish is free from plastic litter
- Use government legislation that regulates against the use of single-use plastics to support our efforts where we can
- Require our suppliers to minimise the use of single-use plastics in their service provision and find sustainable alternatives (where appropriate)
- Where the use of plastics is unavoidable, 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 communication channels

Henry Clark

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