

If you have any questions or  
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# PLASTIC FREE SEVENOAKS PLEDGE

Logo designed  
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In response to the global problem of plastic pollution, Sevenoaks Town Council and Sevenoaks Youth Council have committed to phasing out single-use plastic across all its facilities. This also means it strongly encourages groups and organisations to find alternatives to single-use plastic when using Town Council venues.

### What's the problem?

Plastic pollution is a global challenge. Every year the world produces millions of tonnes of plastic, of which half is estimated to be single use. Much discarded plastic ends up in rivers, waterways and oceans, finally entering the food chain.

### What does 'single use plastic' mean?

Single use plastic (SUP) is plastic that is used once before being discarded. The most common SUP items are disposable water bottles, plastic bags, plastic straws, takeaway coffee cups and other plastic serve ware (e.g. food trays, plastic cutlery and individual sauce sachets).

### What could be used instead?

Many SUP items can easily be replaced by reusable alternatives such as water glasses or bottles, crockery and metal cutlery. Event attendees can be encouraged to bring their own reusable bags, water bottles and coffee cups. Paper straws can replace plastic ones.

### Can tap water be provided in Sevenoaks?

In 2019 Sevenoaks Town Partnership launched the local Refill Scheme where local businesses who are willing to fill up water bottles will be promoted. Reducing the need to purchase plastic water bottles.



### Plastic glasses etc for Events

We recognise that crowded events such as fetes, parties etc real glasses can provide a safety hazard. In these circumstances the Town Council encourages the use of sturdy plastic cups that can be cleaned and reused and ultimately can be recycled.

### What single use alternatives are acceptable?

Where single-use items are unavoidable, we encourage the public to provide genuinely compostable alternatives, and take responsibility for their proper disposal (e.g. separating them from other waste and disposing of them in appropriate waste bins to ensure proper break down). It should be noted that even compostable single use items have implications for the environment and therefore should be limited wherever possible.

### What is Sevenoaks Town Council doing to address the matter locally?

The Town Council is

- Working with the Sevenoaks Town Partnership to launch the Refill Campaign to reduce the need for plastic water bottles.
- Across its facilities it will commit to reducing the use of single use plastic.
- Raising awareness of the issue to users of its facilities.
- Launching an anti-litter campaign to encourage more recycling and less litter.

## Sign up

On behalf of

(business/organisation), I agree that we will take the following steps to reduce our use of single-use plastic. By doing this, we will play our part in eliminating unsustainable plastic use from Sevenoaks while ensuring a healthier environment.

We,

(business/organisation), pledge to do the following:

- Separate waste into recyclables and non-recyclables by  (date)
- Ban / phase out single-use plastic bags by  (date)
- Ban / phase out single-use plastic straws by  (date)
- Ban / phase out single-use plastic cups and lids by  (date)
- Ban / phase out single-use plates and cutlery by  (date)
- Ban / phase out single-use plastic bottles by  (date)

\*Please tick the pledge(s) you'd like to undertake and choose a realistic target date. Whether you commit to all or one, every action is a step in the right direction. If your business has already completed an action in the past, please tick the box and provide the date of completion.

Upon achieving your pledges, we will promote your logo on our social media platforms and send you a Plastic Free Sevenoaks sticker to display proudly in your shop/office. Please send this completed form and any updates to [council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk](mailto:council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk)