

TOWN AND CINQUE PORT OF HYTHE



Hythe Town Council
Oaklands, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BG

www.hythe-tc.gov.uk

admin@hythe-tc.gov.uk

01303 266152

PLASTIC FREE POLICY

WWW.HYTHE-TC.GOV.UK/POLICIES/GENERAL

This Policy was adopted by the Council at its meeting held on: 04/03/2021

Minute 277/20

This Policy was reviewed by the Standing Orders Committee at its meeting held on: 24/03/2021

Minute

The reviewed document was ratified by the Council at its meeting held on: 26/04/2021

Minute 318/20

GOVERNING BODY: HYTHE TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, OAKLANDS, 1 STADE STREET, HYTHE,
KENT. CT21 6BG



Journey to Plastic-Free Community Status

Hythe Town Council recognises the harm that the exponential growth of plastics is causing to us and the environment. Clogging up our landfills and littering our beaches, plastic pollution is harming wildlife on land and in the sea, while also working its way up the food chain into our diets, our water supplies, and even into the air we breathe.

Hythe Town Council recognises that it has a responsibility to do what it can to tackle plastic waste in the area.

- The Council pledges to act by example and remove single-use plastic from its premises.
- The Council will do its best to support all effective plastic-free initiatives in and around Hythe.
- The Council agrees to put at least one member on a strategic group using the Surfers Against Sewage framework, which has been successfully implemented in other towns such as Whitstable.

Background

While it can be useful, single-use plastic is often unnecessary and takes hundreds of years to break down, never really going away but fragmenting into smaller, microscopic pieces. Plastic use is increasing all the time; in 2016, a global population of more than 7 billion people produced over 320 million tons, and this is set to double by 2034. Every year British households throw away millions of tons and, as Britain does not have the infrastructure to recycle its own plastic, it is often sent abroad on the basis it will be recycled - however, much of this is being dumped in places such as Malaysia and Turkey. Scientists say around 8 million tonnes of plastic waste finds its way into the world's oceans every year.

BBC (2019) www.bbc.co.uk/news/environment

Parveen, N. (2018) 'UK's plastic waste may be dumped overseas instead of recycled', *The Guardian*, [online] available at <http://www.theguardian.com/environment> (accessed 13th June 2019). Surfers Against Sewage (2019) [online] available at <http://www.sas.org.uk> (accessed 13th June 2019).

