

## West Dorset Environment Alliance

### BACKGROUND NOTE: PLASTICS

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## 1 OCEAN CONSERVATION ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

[www.oceanconservationappg.org](http://www.oceanconservationappg.org)

West Dorset includes an important section of the Jurassic Coast which needs to be protected as a UNESCO Heritage Site and is a major tourist attraction contributing to our local economy. With the increased public awareness of the dangers of plastics to our environment – both in the seas and on land - this APPG provides a host of information on plastic pollution and solutions which could be helpful for constituency representation.

The group, formed in 2014, offers information, research, discussion, events and reports on plastics, recycling and pollution threats. The group has 30 members, chaired by Steve Double, MP for St Austell and Newquay. The group is administered by Surfers Against Sewage (SAS).

### MEETING Wednesday, 18 November

#### 'The True Solutions to Plastic Pollution: listening to the next generation'

This is a joint meeting with the Tidy Britain APPG, 'featuring an expert panel quizzed by young activists on solutions to the plastic pollution crisis'.

NOTE: Minutes of this meeting and other reports are available on the [APPG website](#).

**PLASTIC FREE PARLIAMENT** It is this APPG which launched the Plastic Free Parliament initiative in 2017 with 140 supporters, achieving significant reductions in the use of SUP in Westminster. Support for this campaign would illustrate commitment to these important issues.

## 2 PLASTIC FREE COMMUNITIES: a Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) national campaign

*"It's not about removing all plastic from our lives. It's about kicking our addiction to avoidable single-use plastic, and changing the system that produces it."* (SAS)

<https://www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-communities/>

Lyme Regis was the first community in Dorset to receive plastic free status from SAS in 2018 and 26<sup>th</sup> in the country. Since then Dorchester has received the SAS award and Bridport, Charmouth, Weymouth and Portland are among the over 700 communities working through the process which starts with local council support and includes businesses, schools, local groups and residents. Representatives from both Lyme and Bridport would be happy to talk in more detail of the projects undertaken and promoted in their communities – Refill Scheme and app (now being expanded to

include zero waste shops), Boomerang Bags, school assemblies and competitions, film series, helping local businesses achieve the award etc.

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### 3 ENVIRONMENT BILL

A national coalition of 5 organisations, including Friends of the Earth (FoE) and SAS, has prepared briefings on how this bill should be strengthened by specific amendments to tackle plastic pollution and set targets for non-essential plastics.

**TARGETS.** There is an urgent need to reduce consumption and production of plastic products, and to adopt ‘reduce and reuse’ business models. The technology is available and consumer opinion supports change. What is needed is political leadership. Amendments to this bill should include a duty for the Secretary of State to ‘set ambitious legally binding targets for the elimination of plastic pollution’ and ending the sale, use and production of non-essential single-use plastic products.

**DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME (DRS).** We support this initiative but would like to see an introduction in 2022 – not 2023 as proposed. This would bring England in line with the Scottish start date of July 2022.

### 4 PLASTIC POLLUTION BILL

The Bill gives a wider look at the problem of over-production and micro plastics, and how we begin to understand solutions to, for example, tyre wear, plastic in paints and plastics in clothes. It proposes targets as early as 2025 and makes clear that recycling, though useful, cannot rescue us from plastic pollution as the production figures – both current and predicted - dwarf worldwide recycling facilities.

NOTE: [This bill was re-introduced to](#) Parliament this November by Lib Dem Alastair Carmichael. Chris Loder, MP West Dorset, agreed to be a co-sponsor.