



## Thatcham Town Council Charter

Thatcham Town Council has committed to work in partnership with Eco Friends (West Berkshire) to obtain Plastic Free Community Approved status by Surfers Against Sewage, in recognition of our work to reduce the impact of single-use plastic on the environment.

As a community we can bring people together on a journey to tackle throwaway plastic. It's not about removing all plastic from our lives. It's about kicking our addiction to throwaway single-use plastic and changing the system that produces it.

This means we ask everyone who lives in and visits our town to do their bit to help reduce disposable plastics. Thatcham Town Council has a significant role to play in that through the services we provide – and this charter sets out our expectations.

As delivery partner or service user, we ask you to reduce your single user plastic (including biodegradable, compostable and recycled options), focusing on the ten main 'offenders' and not using, providing or selling any of the following:

- Plastic carrier bags
- Disposable coffee cups and lids
- Single-use plastic cups
- Plastic food or product packaging
- Balloons & balloon sticks
- Plastic straws (banned by law)
- Plastic cutlery (banned by law)
- Sachets
- Bathroom plastics
- Plastic drinking bottles

We also ask you to work towards eliminating other single-use plastic wherever possible, for example; novelty plastic toys, unnecessary plastic packaging, laminated documents and single-use marketing products etc.

### **Where to Get Help**

You can get tips and advice on how to reduce plastic, including a copy of the Plastic Free Communities Business Toolkit, from Plastic Free Thatcham. Just email them at: [plasticfree@eco-friends.org.uk](mailto:plasticfree@eco-friends.org.uk).

By signing up and taking at least three steps to reduce plastic you can also be awarded the Surfers Against Sewage 'Plastic Free Champion' plaque and certificate to display, joining a nationally recognised network of organisations and businesses taking the lead on this increasingly pertinent issue.

## Taking Things a Step Further

In future you may be asked to take further action on throwaway plastic in line with the aims of Plastic Free Thatcham and our town. We do not expect everyone to get rid of unnecessary plastics overnight, but we do want to see progress, sending a strong message about the kind of town we are and the kind of environment we want to live in. Join us to free where we live from single-use ... one plastic bottle at a time!

## Single Use Plastics Ban

As a reminder **the following single use plastics are banned in England:**

| Single Use Item             | Better Alternative  | Best                 |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Plates, bowls & trays       | Paper / Bagasse   | Reuse                |
| Cutlery                     | Wood  |                      |
| Stirrers                    | Wood  |                      |
| Straws                      | Paper   |                      |
| Cotton Buds                 | Paper / Card  | Reuse – Silicon sets |
| Balloon sticks              | Paper / Card / String                                       | Refuse               |
| Polystyrene Cups            | Paper – PE lined or PLA in line with local waste management | Refill               |
| Polystyrene Food Containers | Bagasse / Card  |                      |
| Polystyrene Container Lids  | Bagasse / Card  |                      |

## More Information

Eco Friends (West Berkshire) [www.eco-friends.org.uk](http://www.eco-friends.org.uk)

Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Communities [www.plasticfree.org.uk](http://www.plasticfree.org.uk)

Government <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bans-and-restrictions-on-polluting-single-use-plastics-come-into-force>

Thank you for your support.



# Thatcham Town Council

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