

02 December 2021

Dear Managers of Stamford's retail outlets,

I am writing to you on behalf of Stamford Town Council's Climate Action Working Group regarding the blight of single-use plastic in Stamford and, specifically, to ask you if you would end the practice of selling small plastic water bottles.

You may be aware that Stamford is striving to be a plastic-free town and that Stamford Town Council voted to support plastic-free initiatives in the town.

Today, one of the main blights in our town is plastic bottles. 7.7 billion plastic bottles are purchased across the UK every year, that's about 150 for each person in the UK. Every morning, the Pride of Stamford Litter Pickers discover plastic bottles in nooks and crannies all over our town. They are bought cheaply and disposed of carelessly. A plastic water bottle may cost as little as 50 pence but the environmental cost is so much more.

It takes 3 times the amount of water in a water bottle to make the bottle itself. It takes $\frac{1}{4}$ of the bottle in oil to fill, transport, cool and dispose of each bottle.

A single-use plastic water bottle takes 400 years to break down.

91% of the plastic from water bottles isn't recycled and ends up in our oceans, polluting our waters and disrupting our ecosystems. By 2050 it is estimated the oceans will contain more plastic than fish.

As a result, plastic water bottles have already been banned in several towns and cities across the world including places such as Australia, America and India. Kenya has banned plastic bottles on all their beaches and national parks. In the UK, the University of Leeds became the first university to ban plastic bottles over ten years ago.

As an alternative to selling small plastic water bottles, please could you consider signing up to the 'Refill' project (<https://www.refill.org.uk>) and provide your customers with water to refill their own reusable water bottles.

The shops in Stamford have already substantially reduced the use of plastic shopping bags. So please can we strive to do the same with water bottles? Thank you.

Kind regards



Councillor Amanda Wheeler
Chair of Stamford Climate Action Working Group