



Devizes Town Council

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Special Meeting of the Environment Committee

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee at the following, place and date.

Date: 4 June 2024

Time: Immediately after the Finance & Governance Meeting

Venue: The Council Chambers, Town Hall, St John's Street, Devizes

Enquiries: Town Hall - Tel: 01380 723333

Chair: Councillor Tanner

Councillors: East
Hoult

Giraud-Saunders
Ormerod

Greenwood
Wooldridge

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2021, which have been circulated alongside the agenda.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURE(S) OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At the Chair's discretion, members of the public attending the meeting will be allowed to ask questions, make a statement or address the Council upon a

matter of concern to that person which is relevant to the Council. A time limit of 5 minutes per person will be permitted, but this may be extended at the Chair's discretion and a maximum period of 20 minutes has been allocated by the Council for this item of business

5. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – OPERATIONAL SCHEME FOR REUSABLE PLASTIC FESTIVAL CUPS.

Councillor Tanner has requested that this item is placed on the agenda in order that the project can be moved forward in time for summer events.

Recommendation

That the committee consider options for the ongoing operational mechanism needed for the use of reusable plastic festival cups.

In addition, that in partnership with DOCA the committee support a pilot scheme at *Picnic in the Park and the Full tone event*. Using 1000 reusable cups with the clear objective of achieving 80% returns/reuse.

Purpose of the Report

For the committee to agree an operational strategy for the use of reusable plastic festival cups in Devizes, a project the Council has in principle agreed in part to fund.

Background

At its meeting on the 21st May the committee agreed that an in-principal funding allocation of up to £1300 be committed from the sustainability budget for the purchase of reusable festival cups subject to an agreement of how the scheme is managed.

Using reusable glasses instead of single use glasses at community events can significantly reduce plastic production, waste, and the impact on the environment. PET plastic the material most used to make single use cups is widely recycled in the UK. However, research suggests that only 32% of materials are recycled at UK festivals. As most of the environmental impact (90%) occurs because of the manufacturing process each time a hard plastic cup is reused the benefit increases. It is estimated that for a reusable cup to provide a net benefit it must be reused 3 times.

For outdoor community event organisers, there are several important matters when deciding how to fund, supply, collect and clean reusable glasses. Three of the most important considerations are when multiple drinks are ordered and the cups have already been used, how to control cups when there is no boundary for the event to contain the cups and who has control & management of the drink's outlets? If the event is being organised and managed on behalf of a local Council then there may be a contractual requirement to source reusable glasses.

a. Options Considered

Free for the User

If the site is secure, reusable cups can be provided free to participants, The key to success is provide collection points at all exits from the site. This will ensure a high rate of return of the cups which can then be washed and reused. This model is much more dependent on sponsorship and branding. In this instance the funding for the cups is also likely to have been sourced by the beverage vendor at the event.

Glass Deposit Scheme.

This requires the providers of drinks to charge a returnable deposit. This requires greater management input at the point of sale, but does ensure a good rate of return. To some extent it is also dependent on cash being readily available so the deposit can be paid back quickly to the attendee. In this instance the funding for the cups is also likely to have been sourced by the drink vendor at the event.

Nonrefundable Levy.

This covers the cost of production but increases the risk that the participant will keep the cups as a souvenir, especially if it is branded with the event details. At large events over a longer period this model of provision would ensure that the cup is reused enough to achieve the full environment and financial benefits. This model allows for the event organiser to fund and pass on the costs of using recyclable cups to the drink's vendors in one transaction. The drinks vendor can offer a small discount for people who continue to use their refundable cup.

Each model has some merit and much depends on the type of event and level of finance available to finance the production.

Collection and cleaning of reusable cups is essential to achieving the levels of reuse to ensure full economic and environmental benefit. With limited funding and effective end of event collection management, nonrefundable cup levy has the edge on the other models of supply and collection. However, for a pilot scheme in an enclosed venue, event such as the *Full tone concert*, the "free for user" would be the most effective model of supply and collection. The key to success would also be dependent on providing clear information about the environmental benefits of the glass levy and adequate collection points at the end of the events. The Council is not in the position to store, collect and clean between 1000 and 3000 reusable cups.

b. Working in conjunction with community partners they would need to agree a management strategy to ensure the highest rate of return is achieved and this should include the following actions:

Provide and supervise cup return points.

Provide clearer signage/information at the vendors stalls regarding cup return.

Explain scheme to waste partners so discarded cups can be rescued from mainstream waste.

Have used collection system in place

Have a washup / sanitising system in place.

Appointed beverage vendors who agree to participate should take on the collection cleaning of their cup allocation.

A central delivery point should be identified for delivery, cup collection and future storage if required. .

Continue to report on and monitor rates of return.

Options to Consider

The committee needs decide if it can agree an ongoing operational mechanism for the use of reusable plastic festival cups that limits the Council's ongoing financial and resource commitment, but will ensure that the scheme is operationally viable, encourages high participation and achieve longevity for the council's plastic reduction ambitions and what that scheme will be.

Implications and Risks

Financial and Resource implications

The cost and impact of supplying reusable festival glasses will be fully evaluated. How many were used /returned or disposed of inappropriately.

Legal Implications and Legislative powers

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence.

Environmental Implications

Success will be measured by reduced waste and level of festival glass reuse. A target of 80% for reuse should be considered

Risk Assessment

Low risk project

Crime and Disorder

The use of this product should reduce the risk of glass related injuries.

8. QUESTION TIME

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
4th June 2024

A short time is allowed at the discretion of the Chair for Councillors to ask questions on matters which are not on the current agenda but which are related to matters which have been previously discussed on an agenda relevant to the committee.

At least 24 hours' notice must be given to officers of the intended question. All other matters should be raised on an agenda and the request should be submitted through the Town Clerk



TOWN CLERK