

At the Sustainable Pendeen Puzzled by Plastics event on 14th March
43 people helpfully completed the brief feedback sheet.

Outlined below are the main points people made to questions about:

- what action they will be taking about plastics and,
- what action they would like relevant authorities, like Cornwall Council, St Just Town Council and the Government to take.

Of those who planned to take some form of action, the personal action points were evenly spread around the following:

- Lobbying for better recycling provisions and information
- Being better at recycling, knowing what to recycle and where
- Being more aware about the problems presented by the biodegradable plastics and trying not to contaminate recycling with them
- Joining beach cleans or doing this informally and collecting plastic in other places, like footpaths
- Lobbying businesses about why they should seek plastic alternatives and asking how they will make changes
- Using re-fill facilities
- Avoiding buying plastic wrapped items
- Refusing all single use plastic
- Publicising the problems and educating children
- Putting the Seal/Marine Rescue telephone number in their 'phone.

The main actions people want relevant authorities to take fall roughly into three groups:
(with some crossovers)

Recycling:

- Improve recycling facilities, frequency and lower contamination, have easier to understand recycling symbols and instructions, have bigger bags and have the facility to collect food waste
- Provide a skip 1 x month in localities for large items, to help cut down on fly-tipping
- St Just Town Council to take on the recycling bins in St Just and Pendeen
- Provide better information about how, where and what is recycled and what is produced with the resulting material
- Dispose of rubbish in UK and do not send to 3rd World
- Encourage shops to provide more recycling bins and use recyclable materials
- For less rubbish to be 'released' when contractors collect it, as it then blows everywhere

Information, education, public awareness and enforcement:

- Provide more information/education about bio-plastics
- Encourage towns to embrace plastic free communities and get more businesses to take part
- Fines for dumping plastics
- Increase awareness of microplastics in fertilisers and pesticides and the address silage wrapping etc in farming
- Take more responsibility for educating the public and industry
- Talk about the Circular Economy of waste, all single use materials should be re-evaluated, materials that can be re-used or recycled are important
- More emphasis on refuse, reduce and re-use not just recycle

Challenging and changing the current proliferation of single use plastic:

- Encourage shops that don't use plastic packaging
- Take plastic pollution seriously, reform and enforce businesses/industry to be more responsible
- Work to change the packaging products come in and make unsustainable use of plastics an illegal act
- Have deposit schemes for plastic bottles etc
- Have local refillable glass milk bottle schemes
- Push for incentives for change, make it worthwhile (financially)
- Make the polluter pay for clean-ups and recycling
- Make sure appliances are repairable, have rules and regulations
- Regulation regarding bio-plastics etc to make it clear exactly how they are recyclable/degradable

'Sustainable Pendeen' usually sends the comments from the collected feedback to specific relevant organisations without delay. We are, however, concerned that this information may be 'lost' if we send it out now, due to the overload those organisations will be suffering because of Coronavirus; we will therefore wait until the crisis is receding.