



# The plastic problem... and what we can do to help our precious planet.







How it  
all  
began...





And most importantly...

How can we help to solve the problem?

Can we stop people using too many plastics?

What is made from plastic?  
How many plastics are there?

How are the people in Torpoint helping the planet by not using too many plastics?



Why are  
plastics so  
bad for our  
environment?



A disposable nappy takes 450  
years to decompose...



A plastic bottle takes 450  
years to decompose...



A plastic bag takes 10-20  
years to decompose...



A detergent bottle takes  
500-1000 years to  
decompose...





A plastic straw takes 500 years to decompose...

Styrofoam takes 500 years to decompose...



Plastic cutlery takes between 100 and 1000 years to decompose...



# Did you know...

- Scientists found microplastics embedded deep in the Arctic ice.
- Microplastics pollute the ocean from the waste water from washing machines.
- Every day around 8 million pieces of plastic pollution find their way into our oceans.
- Around one in **three marine mammals** have been found caught up in some type of plastic and over 90% of seabirds have pieces of plastic in their stomachs





**DfE** 

@educationgovuk



We all want to do our bit to protect the environment 🌍 So we want schools to stop using plastic bags, straws, bottles and food packaging and go single-use plastic free by 2022 🍃  
[gov.uk/government/new...](https://www.gov.uk/government/new...)

♡ 931 9:17 AM - Dec 27, 2018





# We have always worked to help protect our planet...

## ...but what are we doing to help the planet by reducing the amount of plastics that we use?





# What are we doing about it?









# What have others done about it?

## Britain's first ever plastic free town



Penzance

# What did they do?



The local Surfers Against Sewage team...

- lead events in the community such as beach cleans and fundraisers.
- Inspired thirteen businesses in Penzance to remove three or more single-use-plastic items. Some of these items have been removed completely and others have been swapped out for eco-friendly alternatives.
- A steering group has been set up to continue the work of developing 'Plastic Free Coastlines' and to think of more ways to protect our planet.

We looked into  
what these could  
be...

Could Torpoint become 'plastic free?'







# 1. Do you use plastic bags?

Yes 12

One shop was using up their stock.

One shop used bags made from recycled plastic.

No 2

One shop used paper bags only.

Four of the shops used biodegradable bags .



The larger stores used 'bags for life' and will replace them when they break.



## 2. How much plastic do you use and what types of plastic do you use?

"We use paper bags and the only plastic that we use is our shampoo bottles."

"As little as we can but some of our meat is wrapped in plastic to keep it fresh."

"We use cellophane to wrap our flowers at the moment but we are looking at using fabric instead of plastic as we use a lot of plastic in this job"

"Around 80% of our stock is packed in plastic."

"We use plastic bags and containers to freeze our food but we re-use these."



"Quite a bit because the pots that our fish are delivered in are made from plastic but some of them now are biodegradable."

"Some bottles are plastic and we have plastic bags but we have now swapped to using paper straws and boxes for our food so this is much better for the planet."

"We don't use any plastic."

"A lot!"

"A lot of products already have plastic on them when they come into the shop so we can't do anything about it."

### 3. Do you recycle your plastic if it is not single use?

"We try to, yes!"



"No, we only recycle cardboard. We need to get better at it."

"Yes!"



"At home we do but as a business they won't collect the rubbish from us. There is no facility and we have to pay for it, if it was collected then we would love to recycle plastics."

"We put all of our plastic into a bailer where it is squashed and then we send it to a recycling centre."

"All of our plastic is sent back to the depot to be recycled"

"We do recycle everything we can."

"We recycle if we can but not everything."

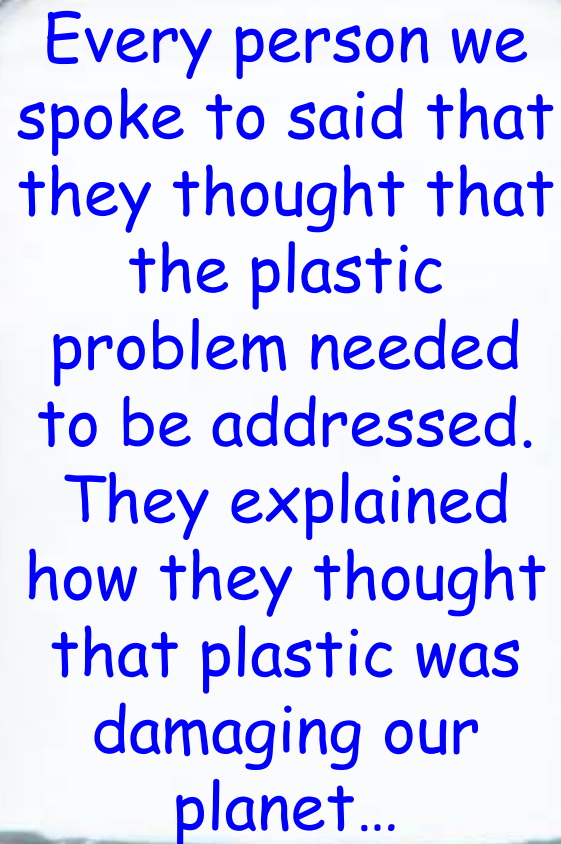


"We try to but some of the plastics we use are non-recyclable."





# 4. What do you think about plastic and the damage it is doing to our planet?



Every person we spoke to said that they thought that the plastic problem needed to be addressed. They explained how they thought that plastic was damaging our planet...

So...



We asked...  
Would you be proud to make Torpoint 'Plastic Free?'

Yes, how wonderful it would be for Torpoint.

I'd be proud to be part of a 'plastic free' town.

Yes, I love the thought of that!

I would be so proud. It would be so much better for our environment.



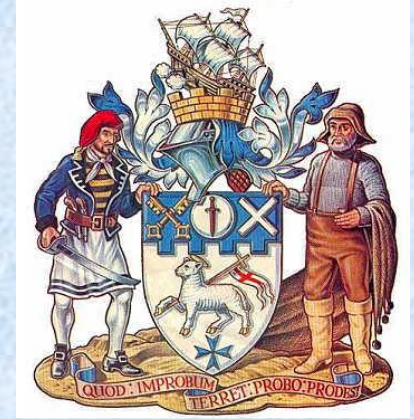
Absolutely! It will need everyone working together.

Absolutely! We would all need to want to do it together to make a difference.

Yes, that would be a good idea. A lot of hard work as there is not always an alternative but it would be great.



# So what have we done since...



**SURFERS  
AGAINST  
SEWAGE**





Year Two  
Torpoint Nursery and Infant School  
Albion Road,  
Torpoint  
Cornwall  
PL11 2LU

Your ref:  
My ref: PB01  
Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Year Two,

Thank you so much for your letter – It is great to hear that you want to see Torpoint become a plastic free town!

According to a piece of law called the Environmental Protection Act 1990, it is up to businesses to organise for someone to pick up their rubbish and recycling. There are lots of waste collection companies that do this, and usually it is no more expensive to recycle than to have rubbish taken away.

However according to Surfers Against Sewage who run the Plastic Free Communities campaign, to become plastic free, it is as much about reducing the plastic which businesses use as well as the recycling.

For example, cafes could use paper instead of plastic straws, sell less bottled water, avoid plastic wrapping and instead of offering plastic bags, using paper bags instead.

As a class, there's lots you could be doing in your communities with your teachers to see a plastic free Torpoint.

- Instead of using bottled drinks, try bringing your own refillable bottle
- Organise a litter pick in your community, you can borrow the equipment (such as the litter grabbers) from [www.cleancornwall.org](http://www.cleancornwall.org) for free!
- Learn more about what happens to your recycling by arranging a visit to the Mixed Recycling Facility in Bodmin, or see what happens to your general waste by organising a visit to the Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre in St Dennis. You can ask your teacher to get in touch with a lovely lady called Emma who would be more than happy to show you around. (Her email is [emma.emmers@suez.com](mailto:emma.emmers@suez.com) / telephone: 01726 824488) These visits are free and they will pay for the travel costs.

I want to wish you the very best of luck in your efforts to make Torpoint a plastic free town and look forward to hearing all the wonderful things that you do there!

Many thanks,

Peter Blenard  
Waste and Recycling Community Support Officer – East Cornwall  
Cornwall Council

Dear Year 2

Thank you for your message about our packaging and for sharing your concerns with us.

We do try our best to keep the packaging that we use to a minimum.

Our packaging is designed to protect, maintain quality and provide choice.

Using our packaging to protect our products during transportation is very important, this helps us to prevent waste and to maintain the quality of our treats.

The packaging that we use also helps us to deliver a product in a pack size that our retailers and customers want – sometimes they want a big bag with lots of sweets for sharing, other times they want a small bag as a treat just for one! This influences the size of the bags that we produce.

Our machines have all been designed to create these different bag sizes. But, we understand how important it is to constantly review our packaging. So, when our packing machines are replaced, we review the product range and market trends and then invest in the best new machines on the market, this means that we have more options and can do more to reduce our impact on the environment.

We are a responsible company and we know that we have a role to play in protecting the environment, please be reassured that this is a priority for us.

We have shared your comments with our teams and promise you that we will continue to monitor our packaging and wherever possible will reduce how much we use.

Kind Regards,

The HARIBO Team

HARIBO Dunhills (Pontefract) PLC



EAT  
LEARN  
LIVE

Chartwells

Torpoint Nursery & Infant School  
Albion Road  
Torpoint  
PL11 2LU

Chartwells  
The Barn  
Penny come Quick  
Zelah  
Truro  
TR4 9JD

30<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Dani and All of Year 2

I think that it is fantastic that you are learning about the damage that plastic is doing to our planet. Plastic pollution is something which Chartwells take very seriously as well and are working to develop a plan to reduce the amount of single use plastics within our business.

I will provide a code to the kitchen team so that your ice cream will come as a scoop rather than in an individual tub.

I am also more than happy to provide a beaker with packed lunches or if pupils would like to bring in their own water bottle we can fill it for you. To reduce the amount of waste with packed lunches we would also like to provide your school with a re-usable hessian bag to put the packed lunches in. We are also looking at alternative packaging for sandwich instead of using cling film. We also from now on wrap our vegetable sticks in paper rather than placing in the tubs.

As a company as a whole we have a plastic reduction plan which is involving the whole company working with suppliers and looking at how they can reduce the amount of packaging materials the produce come in.

I am sure that your Area Manager for Chartwells Sue would be more than happy to come in and speak to you about waste reduction and listen to more of your ideas.

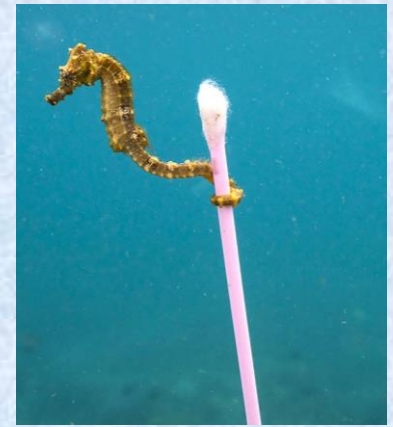
Thank you for taking the time to write to me and I hope that I have answered your questions.

Kind Regards,

PP *Thomas*

Lisa Warne  
Regional Manager  
07917 504248





How are you going to help to make where you live 'plastic free?'

