

Council: Tuesday, 29 October 2019

Administration motion in the name of Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz

Single-Use Plastics in Barnet

Council recognises that:

1. Around 10 million tons of new single-use plastic is made each year. In many cases there are practical alternatives available that are either re-usable or sustainable.
2. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation has estimated that by weight there could be more plastic in the oceans than fish by 2050.
3. Single-use plastics litter Barnet parks and streams – damaging our green spaces and wildlife, while adding to costs for our residents.

Council notes that:

1. Plastics ingested by animals not only kill many animals, but also lead to toxic transfer and contamination of animal and human food chains.
2. The plastic bag charge, brought in by a Conservative government, has led to an 85% reduction in disposable plastic bag usage in England – with 9 billion fewer bags per year entering landfill or waste treatment.
3. Households in Barnet recycle more than those in more than two thirds of London boroughs.
4. The government has completed its consultation to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme. Such schemes have successfully reduced single-use waste in countries such as Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany.
5. Barnet Council has already taken steps to reduce single-use plastic use, with efforts to phase out their provision taking place across Council sites.

Council resolves to:

1. Reduce waste, where feasible and practicable, by:
 - a. Replacing single-use plastics used by the Council and all commissioned services with sustainable or re-usable alternatives.
 - b. Ensuring all future council procurement exercises eliminate the use of single-use plastics
 - c. Encourage and promote community water-refill schemes
2. Work with TfL and encourage the Mayor of London to install free water fountains across Barnet's 30 town centres and other high footfall areas.
3. Support the creation of a wide-ranging Deposit Return Scheme
4. Explore other ways to minimise plastic waste across the borough

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.