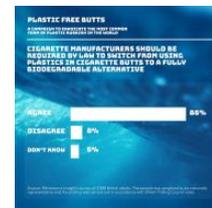
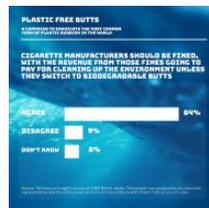
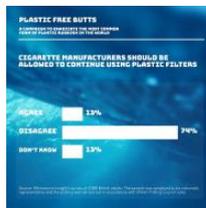


Subject: Please ask your MP to support Amendment NC2 of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill

Will you help to eradicate plastic cigarette butts by asking your local MP to support Amendment NC2 of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill?

News from parliamentnews.co.uk

THE PARLIAMENT
POLITICS
UK NEWS, COMMENT AND ANALYSIS



Dear Councillor,

We need your help. Please ask your local MP to support Amendment NC2 of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill?

In just two weeks the Tobacco and Vapes Bill will be back in the House of Commons for its Report Stage, and we are urging every MP to back a cross-party amendment, NC2, which seeks to ban the use of plastic cigarette butts, replacing them with biodegradable alternatives.

We are urging all MPs, from whatever party, to back this important amendment, because cigarette butts the most common form of plastic rubbish in the world, accounting for around one in five of all littered items.

Even in the UK where smoking rates have been dropping, around 3.9 million cigarette butts are thrown away every single day. Put another way that is 6,000 per constituency, per day.

This awful form of plastic litter damages our environment, harms wildlife, pollutes our rivers and seas and costs local authorities more than £40 million per year trying to clean them up.

But Parliament News, which is backing the Plastic Free Butt campaign is hoping to change this, with your support and the support of your local MP.

We even commissioned exclusive polling on this issue, carried out by British Polling Council member Whitestone Insight, which found overwhelming support for the change. Asked, “Would you agree or disagree with these statements? Cigarette manufacturers should be required by law to switch from using plastics in cigarette butts to a fully biodegradable alternative”, almost nine in 10 UK adults (86 per cent) agreed, while just one in 20, six per cent disagreed.

Interestingly even among current smokers the vast majority (77 per cent) supported the change. Support was high across every age group, social group and region.

In contrast, asked if cigarette manufacturers should be able to continue to use plastic filters, just 13 per cent agreed. Even among smokers, this figure rose to just one in four (25 per cent).

The survey also found nearly eight in 10 (78 per cent), supporting the Government levying additional taxes on cigarette brands that refuse to switch from traditional plastic butts, including half, (51 per cent) of smokers. While more than eight in ten (84 per cent) of UK adults would support cigarette manufacturers being fined for not switching to biodegradable butts with the revenues going to pay for cleaning up the environment.

Tobacco manufacturers could have already made this change as there are a number ISO compliant biodegradable alternatives, but have dragged their feet for years, this is why we need to change the law to force them to make this change.

That is why I am writing to you. As an important community leader will you ask your local MP to support this change that will stop our land and seas being polluted with plastic, save wildlife and save money?

Please let me know if you would like anymore information.

Best wishes,

Alistair

Alistair Thompson

editor@parliamentnews.co.uk

PLASTIC FREE BUTTS

A CAMPAIGN TO ERADICATE THE MOST COMMON FORM OF PLASTIC RUBBISH IN THE WORLD

THE PROBLEM | THE IMPACT



CIGARETTE BUTTS ARE THE MOST COMMON FORM OF PLASTIC RUBBISH IN THE WORLD.

THEY DAMAGE OUR ENVIRONMENT, HARM WILDLIFE AND ARE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE.

GLOBALLY CLEANING UP PLASTIC COSTS UP TO \$19.2 BILLION.

PLASTIC WASTE COSTS THE UK UP TO \$266 MILLION (£214 MILLION) ANNUALLY IN DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS.

HERE IN THE UK, WHERE SMOKING RATES HAVE BEEN FALLING, AN ESTIMATED 3.9 MILLION CIGARETTE BUTTS ARE DISCARDED DAILY.

THIS IS EQUAL TO 6,000 CIGARETTE BUTTS PER CONSTITUENCY PER DAY OR 2.2 MILLION BUTTS PER YEAR.



OVER 6 TRILLION CIGARETTES ARE SMOKED WORLDWIDE.

AND AN ESTIMATED

4.5 TRILLION CIGARETTES ARE LITTERED INTO THE ENVIRONMENT.



CIGARETTE BUTTS ARE CURRENTLY MADE FROM CELLULOSE ACETATE:

A SYNTHETIC POLYMER OR PLASTIC.

EACH CIGARETTE BUTT CONTAINS AROUND TWO STRAWS WORTH OF PLASTIC.

ASTONISHINGLY, JUST OVER 1 IN 4 SMOKERS (28%) OF SMOKERS KNEW CIGARETTE BUTTS WERE MADE OF PLASTIC.

CELLULOSE ACETATE CIGARETTE FILTERS PRODUCE BETWEEN 6.9 AND 8.7 KG CO2 E/KG TO PRODUCE.



STUDIES SHOW CELLULOSE ACETATE CIGARETTE BUTTS TAKE UP TO 10 YEARS TO DECOMPOSE.

DURING THIS TIME THEY DAMAGE OUR ENVIRONMENT AND HARM WILDLIFE AND ALSO ENTER INTO THE FOOD CHAIN.



IT'S NOT WORKING

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CAMPAIGN GROUPS AROUND THE UK HAVE TRIED TO IMPROVE COLLECTION OF CIGARETTE BUTTS AND ARE CURRENTLY SPENDING £40 MILLION ANNUALLY ON THEIR REMOVAL.

MONEY THAT COULD BE SPENT ON OTHER PRIORITIES.

PLASTIC FREE BUTTS

A CAMPAIGN TO ERADICATE THE MOST COMMON FORM OF PLASTIC RUBBISH IN THE WORLD

THE SOLUTION

INTRODUCING BIODEGRADABLE BUTTS

THIS WOULD BE AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO DEALING WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM OF CIGARETTE BUTT LITTER AND HAS YET TO BE TRIED, DESPITE THERE BEING COMPANIES THAT HVE PRODUCED PLASTIC FREE BIODEGRADABLE ALTERNATIVES, BECAUSE THE INDUSTRY DO NOT WANT TO INVEST IN A SOLUTION THEY DON'T THINK BENEFITS THEM AND ARE THEREFORE RESISTING THIS CHANGE. THEY WILL NEED TO BE FORCED TO MAKE THIS CHANGE.

LEGISLATION

USING THE TOBACCO AND VAPES BILL, PARLIAMENTARIANS COULD INTRODUCE A NEW CLAUSE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY TO MOVE TO PLASTIC-FREE BIODEGRADABLE FILTERS WITHIN A SPECIFIED PERIOD, BETWEEN 12 MONTHS AND TWO YEARS.

WE ARE SUPPORTING THE DRAFTING OF AN AMENDMENT WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE SUPPORTED BY MP'S FROM ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM.



BENEFITS:

- ✓ LEGISLATION SENDS A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE INDUSTRY.
- ✓ IT PROVIDES A TIMETABLE FOR COMPANIES TO MAKE THE SWITCH.
- ✓ REDUCES CO2, WITH PLASTIC FREE FILTERS PRODUCING SIGNIFICANTLY LESS (BETWEEN 40-80% LESS).
- ✓ REDUCES LITTER CLEANING COSTS.
- ✓ REDUCES HARM TO WILD LIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT, FROM CHALK STREAMS TO RIVERS AND FIELDS TO TOWN CENTRES, ROADS AND OUR OCEANS.
- ✓ AN INNOVATIVE SOLUTION FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW, WHICH COULD LEAD TO THE ERADICATION OF THE MOST FORM OF PLASTIC.

WHAT THE PUBLIC SAY....

WE COMMISSIONED WHITESTONE INSIGHT TO SURVEY 2,000 BRITISH ADULTS. COUNCIL RULES.

OUR SURVEY FOUND:

ALMOST 9 IN 10 UK ADULTS (86%) BELIEVE CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS SHOULD BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO SWITCH FROM USING PLASTICS IN CIGARETTE BUTTS TO A FULLY BIODEGRADABLE ALTERNATIVE.

THIS INCLUDES THE VAST MAJORITY OF CURRENT SMOKERS (77%) AND VAPERS (80%).

6 IN 10 (60%) AGREE 'STRONGLY' WITH THIS PROPOSAL, AS DO 44% OF CURRENT SMOKERS.

IT ALSO INCLUDES MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS OF ADULTS ACROSS EVERY AGE GROUP, SOCIAL GROUP AND REGION OF THE UK.

We commissioned Whitestone Insight to survey 2,000 British adults. The sample was weighted to be nationally representative and the polling was carried out in accordance with British Polling Council rules.