



# ENVIRONMENT PLYMOUTH

**December 2021**

## **Four Years of Plastic Free Plymouth !**

It's difficult to believe that the Plastic Free Plymouth campaign is now over four years old and that we're almost a year in to the 2 year PPP contract too. To celebrate everything that we've achieved we focused on plastics for the December meeting and invited Rachel Yates, from the SAS Plastic Free Communities Project, to be our guest speaker.

The zoom recording can be found at :

[https://us02web.zoom.us/recording/detail?meeting\\_id=6kGw9K%2FBRC6TjEZ7F41%2FoA%3D%3D](https://us02web.zoom.us/recording/detail?meeting_id=6kGw9K%2FBRC6TjEZ7F41%2FoA%3D%3D)

The presentation does contain two short videos and, my apologies, but the sound quality isn't that good....bear with us on that ! Inside this Newsletter you'll find an update on our own campaign with our plans for the next year plus all the usual updates and forthcoming events. **We would encourage all of you to sign, or re-sign, our Plastic Free Plymouth pledge** as we have some PPP targets and a new Charter to share...plus awards for those taking part.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has been involved so far...we've achieved a lot.....and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a green and peaceful New Year. Stay safe and have fun. Jackie and the EP team.

Preventing Plastic Pollution : an  
update and a job opportunity

Job Opportunities

New projects and updates !

## Actions past, present and future....

It's a worrying prediction but it seems that the amount of plastic entering the oceans has gone up from 8 million tonnes p.a. to 11 million tonnes p.a and that it will treble by 2040 even though action is being taken all over the World.

So, How Far has Plymouth progressed in four years ?

Plymouth now holds two SAS Plastic Free Community accreditations – Plastic Free Plymouth Waterfront , gained in June 2018, and Plastic Free Plymouth, gained in June 2019.

A Plastic Free Code of Conduct (copies available) was jointly launched with the Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce in July 2019 and, in terms of supportive plans, it joined the Plymouth Plan for Plastics (available from <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/environmentandpollution/plastics/plymouthsplanplastics> ) and the ongoing work of the Ocean City Task Group which draws together expertise from a number of different sectors. In December 2018 Environment Plymouth's work on plastics secured the national Groundwork Award for sustainable community projects.

Phase 1 of the campaign (Dec 2017 to Feb 2021) recruited 132 Business Pioneers, who identified 82 different types of single use plastic to tackle, 125 Community Ambassadors and 47 citywide School Champions.



A highlight of the campaign was the ban

on plastics in fireworks applied to the national championships in 2019 and supported once again in 2021. This in turn has encouraged other to consider shows like this with support provided to the Council of the Isle of Man for their future celebrations. Phase 1 also saw numerous workshops (involving over 350 people), the young person's conference in March 2019 and a range of public events.

In March 2021 Phase 2 of the campaign began when Environment Plymouth was chosen as the 'External Experts'; working with the Ocean Conservation Trust on targeted elements of the Interreg Preventing Plastic Pollution Project.

## From here ?

Phase 2 calls on us to recruit 50 businesses (either as new recruits or returning partners), 20 sports clubs or plastic free events, 50 schools and 50 community 'stakeholders' – our ambassadors.

This is going to take a little bit of doing as many potential recruits are still coming to terms with the impact



of Covid and the continuing restrictions. Events, for example, will probably not be the same for several years but we are already adding people to the list.

To date we have 15 new business pioneers (including Vispring, ABP and Plymouth Gin), 2 new community ambassadors and 3 schools.

To bring everything up to date we now have a |PPP inspired 'Charter' for campaign participants and this, in turn, will be used to highlight which level of award participants have reached. Working with the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership we are piloting the awards until March 2022 when the (revised) scheme will be rolled out to the rest of the city. We will also be passing on lessons learned to SAS who are also working on how to maintain interest in the national campaign (although I should add that, surprisingly, many of those I've spoken to are keener than ever on going green).

The PPP project has also inspired a 'plastics directory' that is being compiled by PCC (details awaited). Hopefully this is something we will be able to feature on Environment Plymouth's revised website; together with links to the two areas we've been 'twinned' with to share information (the City of Glasgow and Plastic Free Poole).

So....from January 2022 we have a lot to do and your new or renewed pledges will really help. Please email me at [info@environmentplymouth.org](mailto:info@environmentplymouth.org) for a copy to complete.

Lastly, I have a few thanks to record. To Kaja (Curry – who secured the Interreg bid for the city), Liz (Cole – at PCC) and Helen (Gowans – at the OCT) for their continued help, to Chris Suckling (who has left us to join the Met Police as a detective) and to Diane Mansell of the Waterfront Partnership who will be joining the BID at Stratford Upon Avon in the New Year (plastic free Shakespeare ?).and to everyone who has taken part so far !

## The Plastic Sculpture needs your help....

From Judy Harington...

YOUR CHRISTMAS PLASTIC. We have an idea for a project about PLASTIC PACKAGING.

The aim is to increase awareness of the amount of plastic packaging our food and other household items are wrapped in, and how we might reduce this to benefit the environment so how about this....

Method 1. Photograph ALL your family or household purchases in a week in its packaging, ideally 1-5 photographs with or without household members.

2. Estimate (or count) what proportion is wrapped/contained in plastic.

3. Keep ALL the packaging and containers (washed!)

4. Sort the packaging into recyclable (green bin), compostable and landfill/ incinerator (brown bin) piles and photograph. How many items in each pile?

5. Make a sculpture, collage, print or other art work incorporating the packaging and other plastic items.

6. Discuss what we can do to reduce plastic packaging, and share these ideas.

7. Post your work and results on the Plymouth Plastic Waste Sculpture Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/223359349881758> #plasticpackaging #plasticpollution #plasticart

HAVE FUN! Judy and Kate [plasticsculpture@gmail.co](mailto:plasticsculpture@gmail.co)

**Don't forget the bin collections will be two days late after Christmas !**

# Want to join in ?....a job opportunity.

As Chris's role was such a key part of the delivery of the PPP project, the City Council is seeking to recruit his replacement. Although it is relatively short term (until early 2023) it is a combination of admin, research, project delivery and networking/communication.

Don't be put off by the Natural Infrastructure 'title'....that's just the department the role is based in. If you're interested please follow the link below and see if it might suit you :

<https://plymouthcitycouncil.engageats.co.uk/> Natural Infrastructure Officer PLA/1564

## AND.....two more

**Plymouth Energy Community** are also hiring.....this is from Jemma Knowles of the Plymouth Energy Community, who you can find at: [jemma@plymouthenergycommunity.com](mailto:jemma@plymouthenergycommunity.com).

"Wondering how you can help with the current energy crisis? Passionate about achieving carbon neutrality and addressing the climate emergency? Then join PEC's award winning Energy Team. **Currently hiring an Advisor and Assistant Advisor.** Closing date: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022. [Click here for further information](#)".

**Pollenize are still looking for a Head Community Beekeeper** : Please contact Owen for more details (Pollenize CIC [hello@pollenize.org.uk](mailto:hello@pollenize.org.uk) )

**Duration:** 7/8 months (Beekeeping Season) **Day rate:** £100 per day Days per week: 2 days per week. Flexible working to fit around yours / bee needs (i.e weather, other commitments).

**Applications open:** Open now Closing date: February 2022 Interview date: Flexible Start and end date of role: March 1st 2022 – October 31st 2022

## Motions to Full Council

Three significant environmental motions were proposed at the Full Council meeting of the City Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November and I am grateful to Cllr Pam Buchan for the details she sent through.

The first called on the Council to address the current ecological crisis in line with the climate crisis. The second focused on ocean recovery and the third on opposition to the routine discharge of raw sewage in to Plymouth's rivers and marine habitats. A full copy of the wording is available on request.

It was rather pleasing to hear that the first motion was proposed from a cross party perspective (not a very common occurrence) and voted through unanimously. The second, however, created some administrative barriers relating to the inclusion of the pledges called for in the first action and in reports due to be presented on the National Marine Park at future Scrutiny meetings. Put simply, the original motion was passed but, I think, with some amendments. Pam recommends tuning in to the meeting webcast once it is made available.

The motion on sewage releases was also passed unanimously.....so not exactly 100% but a great deal of progress made !

## Air Quality.....



If you're planning on driving in to, or staying in, London please don't get caught out...the Ultra Low Emission Zone has been expanded. It now covers all areas up to the North and South Circular Roads.

The Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) now covers all areas within the North and South Circular Roads to help clear up London's air. Toxic air pollution in London remains the biggest environmental risk to the health of all Londoners, harming our lungs, and worsening chronic illnesses such as asthma, lung and heart disease and putting the health of our children at risk.

Cars, motorcycles, vans and other specialist vehicles (up to and including 3.5 tonnes), and minibuses (up to and including 5 tonnes) will either need to meet the ULEZ emissions standards when they drive in the ULEZ, or pay a daily charge of £12.50. Most vehicles already meet the standards but if you drive a diesel vehicle over 6 years old or a petrol vehicle over 15 years old use our [vehicle checker](#) to see if you are affected.

If you do need to pay the ULEZ charge you'll be able to pay online, or [sign up to Auto Pay](#) for a £10 annual registration fee per vehicle, so you never forget to pay. If you are registered with Auto Pay we will automatically check whether your vehicle needs to pay the Congestion Charge and ULEZ charge and if you drive we will automatically charge you via your Auto Pay service. This means you won't have to remember to pay the charge(s) and won't run the risk of receiving Penalty Charge Notice(s) for your registered vehicles.

The ULEZ operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year except Christmas Day (25 December). You can avoid the charge by walking or cycling wherever possible or using public transport.

## PLYMOUTH WILD CHURCH



**You are invited to the inaugural meeting of Plymouth Wild Church.**

Join us in the Function Room, upstairs in the Oggy Oggy Pasty Company Armada Way on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 2 p.m.. Refreshments provided.

Plymouth Wild Church will be a gathering of people who want deeper connections with God, nature, culture and each other, taking inspiration from the natural world to lead us into worship, community and action. So, on the first Sunday of each month, from 2 until 4 p.m. we will be worshipping God in a natural setting.



We welcome people of all faiths and none to explore and celebrate the seasons, rhythms and cycles of nature in and around Plymouth, finding inspiration in them together with the words of Jesus in order to appreciate what God has revealed through His Creation and to create a closer connection with each other and the environment we inhabit.

If you are unable to attend but are interested in the project please contact us on [plymouthwildchurch@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthwildchurch@gmail.com) to receive further details and a provisional programme of meetings.

## The Greenpeace Guide to Life...

The Greenpeace 'Guide to Life' is now available so, in their words, keep it handy by accessing and downloading your copy here: [greenpeace.org.uk/guide-to-life](http://greenpeace.org.uk/guide-to-life). Hopefully it will inspire you to make ordinary changes in your life that make an extraordinary difference.

Feel free to share this guide with your friends and family by sending them this link:

<https://action.greenpeace.org.uk/e/854853/guide-to-life-ep/26y6bd/466418029?h=zKBdc-gTyJJE9Y76Qs61z8cU59HyFixHyK19lwDemHo>

## Santa's Carbon Footprint ?

I am asked every year and, every year, it seems as though the whole Christmas calculation gets bigger and more complicated. Perhaps this is something to chat about as you relax over the holidays...or ask the kids what they think !

One thing's for sure....don't tell the Government or the City Council as I don't think Santa's anywhere near meeting their targets for carbon zero and, if previous experience is anything to go by, Plymouth's kids could already tell him a thing or two about reducing his emissions !

So what's the problem ? (thanks to Ethical Ocean for this....).

Ethical Ocean, has calculated that Santa's 122 million mile trip around the globe will create 69.7 million metric tonnes of carbon emissions.



The CO<sub>2</sub> is largely from the production, packaging and disposal of toys and account for 68.1 million tonnes of his emissions. His factory-sized workshop also adds 983,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide to his carbon footprint. Even though Santa traditionally uses reindeers to power his sleigh, this still uses 53,667 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> [equivalent to the amount of methane they produce]. Not sure if he's considered the hybrid version I found online !

It's time for Santa to start looking at more sustainable options. After the Paris UN Climate Conference we are counting on everyone's contribution.

Brenna Donoghue from Ethical Ocean said, „While toys were by far the biggest culprit we would never call on Santa to stop delivering toys. A few of the big changes he can make is utilising solar energy to power the factory and be more aware of the footprint of the toys he produces“

...so no plastic and more sustainable options ! I don't think Santa has to comply with the Environmental Reporting regs 2019 either !

The advice for Santa can be applied to anyone concerned about their carbon footprint: Opting for greener packaging, buying local whenever possible and investing in energy efficiency. Everyone can help Santa out to make Christmas more environmentally friendly.

## Last but Definitely Not Least !

# A City Centre Climate Hub for Plymouth



With Antony Jinman currently away in Antarctica, his project partner Martin Holland was delighted to announce that the funding required to secure the proposed Climate Hub has been secured and progress will soon be made on opening it to the public.

The Our Planet Climate Hub will join a network of Climate Hubs and Climate Emergency Centres and will be one of the first to be located on the high street of a city centre. As COP 26 drew to a close and the scientists are telling us the commitments so far will see a warming of at least 2-3 degrees C, we need to bring climate education and engagement in to the public sphere up and down the country.

Martin sent this through.....

Merry Christmas, Plymouth! Phew, what a month!

My name is [Martin Holland](#) and I've been writing the last few updates. I'll introduce myself properly at some point but for now let me just say thank you for supporting this project. I really believe it's going to make a huge difference to Plymouth, and hopefully beyond.

The last couple of weeks have seen Antony preparing to leave as part of the [Antarctic Quest 21 Expedition](#) which will be conducting scientific research into climate change and microplastic pollution on the continent. Antony is the deputy leader and will be on that expedition until the 2nd February. In the meantime I will be the main point of contact for the Hub.

You can follow the expedition via the website, but if you are a teacher or parent you may be interested in joining the educational outreach component of the expedition being delivered - for free - through the safe online platform at [www.liketobe.org](http://www.liketobe.org) . I mention this for three reasons:

1. This is a very cool expedition and the school outreach program is freely available,
2. So that you know where Antony is (in case you were wondering!)
3. The Hub is intended to be - among other things - a link between the places and people on frontlines of the climate crisis, such as Antarctica,

and the people and places at the heart of our own cities and communities.

So one of the things the Hub will be doing is exhibiting the findings of the Antarctic Quest 21 Expedition as way of engaging people with the global issues so that we can then start conversations about practical local actions.

Now, before I wish you a Merry Christmas, I have a small favour to ask:

[Would you please give us some feedback on the Hub idea by filling out this form.](#)

This is a chance for you to tell us how we can make this project as effective as possible. We want the Hub to be rooted in the community so we really want to hear your ideas about:

- what it should be called
- who we should partner with
- who we might approach to join the management committee
- and anything else you can think of

Here is the link to the form once more:

<https://forms.office.com/r/a2tFtbuFPP>

That's it for now!

Stay safe, have a fantastic Christmas, and join us in the New Year to make the Plymouth Climate Hub a fantastic reality!

Merry Christmas!

Martin and the team



# KEEPING IN TOUCH

**Meetings for 2021** Online via zoom unless otherwise stated (hopefully we'll get to meet up at some point !). Always a Tuesday evening 6.30pm to 8.00pm unless otherwise stated.

Still on-line I'm afraid.....

January 11 <sup>th</sup> ,	July 5 <sup>th</sup>
February 8 <sup>th</sup> ,	A field trip in August
March 8 <sup>th</sup> ,	September 6 <sup>th</sup> ,
April 12 <sup>th</sup> ,	October 4 <sup>th</sup>
May 10 <sup>th</sup> ,	November 8 <sup>th</sup> ,
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	December 6 <sup>th</sup> .

If you have any ideas for topics for our 2022 meetings please get in touch...happy to make the arrangements ! We are already making enquiries about a socially distanced visit to the new water treatment works at Roborough.

## Our Steering Group

We have sadly accepted the resignation of Richard Sroka from our Steering Group and would like to extend our thanks to him for all his support over the years. He will, of course, remain as a valuable and welcome Environment Plymouth member.

## Getting in Touch

Don't forget you can always get in touch by email, text, twitter (via Stuart or Ruth – thanks for your continuing help by the way !!!) or phone.

**Email** : [info@environmentplymouth.org](mailto:info@environmentplymouth.org) or **Twitter** : @EnvironmentPlym

**Text to 07970 909912 or phone Jackie on 01752 672537**

**Our Website at** : <https://environmentplymouth.org/>

**With thanks to Rachel at SAS and everyone who took part in December's meeting.**