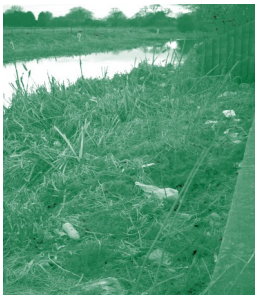


And finally...

- Plastic bag litter kills at least 100,000 marine animals every year
[\[ecorightbags.com\]](http://ecorightbags.com)
- Once an animal dies, from entanglement or plastic ingestion, the body decomposes and the plastic is released back into the environment to kill again.
- **If we managed to make Deeping Plastic Bag Free, our community alone would stop/eliminate the use of around 4 Million bags per year!**



Plastic waste next to the river

MAKEDEEPINGGREEN

www.makedeepinggreen.co.uk

Retailer Information and FAQs

We are asking all of the retailers & residents in the Deepings to join us in trying to make the Deepings a plastic bag free area by using re-usable alternatives.



Going Plastic Bag Free - What's Involved?

WHY GO PLASTIC BAG FREE?

- The world uses up to 1.2 trillion bags per year \approx 1 million bags per minute [reusablebags.com]
- Each plastic bag is used for 12-20 minutes before we dispose of it [guardian.co.uk]



Plastic bag litter on Godsey Lane

- Each bag takes around 400 years to degrade [packagingknowledge.com]
- Plastic bags don't biodegrade, they photodegrade—breaking down into microscopic toxic pieces, contaminating soil and waterways and entering the food chain [ecorightbags.com]
- About 1 in every 200 bags is recycled [packagingknowledge.com]

- In the UK, we use about 300 bags per person per year [biggreenswitch.co.uk]
- The CO₂ used in the production of Deeping's bags is equivalent to the CO₂ produced in powering 417 households for a year
- In the March 08 budget, the government announced that retailers may be forced to charge for bags from early 2009 unless 'sufficient progress' is made. If a charge is enforced of 5p per bag, you only need to use 20-25 bags before it would be as cheap to buy a reusable bag which can last for years.

AIMS OF THE SCHEME

- Communicate and educate to inform the public and the retailers on the effects of plastic and the alternatives available
- Give every household in Deeping a community reusable bag
- Encourage all retailers to cease giving out free plastic bags

FAQS

Q: How do we know that we won't lose business by doing this?

A: Evidence from other towns that have done this suggests a neutral or positive impact on business from the scheme. We also plan to work closely with the retailers and the community to get ideas and feedback before trying to implement anything.

Q: Are you saying you're going to ban plastic bags?

A: No, not at all. We'd like to encourage all retailers to stop giving out plastic bags free of charge, but ultimately it is your choice. Customers could also reuse plastic bags they already have.

Q: What will the reusable bag be made from?

A: Most likely, a natural fibre like cotton but we'd like your input.

Q: Cotton bags won't work for everything, what about bags that are needed for hygiene reasons?

A: There are alternatives to plastic like cornstarch (which looks and feels like plastic) but is compostable. We suggest that customers are charged a nominal fee (e.g. 5p) per bag to encourage people to bring reusable bags where possible.

Q: Do we have to charge for cornstarch bags?

A: It is recommended as it will encourage customers to bring a bag with them. We also suggest setting a price across all retailers because if one shop doesn't charge, it causes confusion and customers may just go to that shop to get a bag every time.



Bag in a tree next to the river

Q: How is the scheme going to be funded?

A: We hope to fund the initial outlay through sponsorship

Q: What if we have more questions or concerns?

A: We'd love to get your feedback—please contact us using one of the methods below and we'll try to answer your questions as quickly as possible.

Q: How do we find out what's happening?

A: We'll update the website with the latest news and ensure we let you know of any big developments.

MAKEDEEPINGGREEN

www.makedeepinggreen.co.uk