Drastic Plastic Meeting  
Wednesday 19th September  

ITEM: Discussions  
Action

Present: Penny, Konia, Kathryn, Birgit, Sarah, Lesley, Julie, Anna

Welcome: 
Additions to AOB: 
Waste Event: Update (Vanessa)
Rowan: Assets, Aims & Objectives for Drastic Plastic: (Anna)
The World's Most Beautiful Beaches: (Konia)

Apologies: Julie Gibson, Jane, Penny Edwards, Alaine, Peter, Trish, Bob, Martin, Ewen Jimmie, Pam, Vanessa (coming later)

Recap: Open Meeting Why people came & What they wanted out of the meeting to learn about plastic & their issues, to get involved, to share anxieties, to take action, to learn of other alternatives, to get to the truth, to campaign
What's Drastic About Plastic? Health issues, lack of information & true info, single use plastic, micro plastic contamination in sea, rivers, food chain, water, soil. Recycling issues: unclear, non renewable energy production, Environmental issues, Wildlife issues, litter, toxins its made from
What Can We Do On A Personal Level?: Do a household audit, grow own food, use good footprint companies, use recycled or alternative containers for shopping, shop local where we know their practices, individual campaigning/petitions online. Social media to spread word & info
Constraints: Low income makes local shopping difficult
What Can We Do On A TBI Level?: Collective Action, Campaigning, Publicity Events, Education for all: Children/Teacher led projects, use art & creativity to highlight issues, Have an Action Day, name & shame, praise those businesses making efforts, Question relevant authorities, Campaign for access to refill water bottles in schools, businesses etc., raise awareness, TBI website: info, tips, action, links, social media
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Planning
Publicity & Events
It was agreed that as we are a new group we would try and ‘Piggy Back’ onto another event in 2019
Suggestions of which events were:
Inverness Science Fair
UHI: renewable, Sustainable event
Centre for Health Science
Eden Court: a stand at one of their events
Film Night: at the Hub, Muir of Ord

Suggestions of what we could do at an event were:
Plastic Waste Sculptures, provide information, appropriate activities, involve children

Other suggestions:
TBI produces our own bamboo mugs & bio degradable dog waste bags for sale

NB: It was agreed that we want to inspire and encourage people to start looking at ways they can reduce & recycle their plastic waste, as a lot of the media coverage is very disheartening

Education
Suggestions put forward were:
Holding a TBI workshop on making waxed food storage bags and food container tops

Those present felt that they needed to know more about the subject themselves before going out to educate others. Therefore it was suggested to contact Highland Council Recycling Department, in Dingwall in order to ask a representative to come along to the next Drastic Plastic Group meeting and hold a 20 minute question & answer session.
We would also ask them if they could provide us with leaflets, which we would be able to give out at events & markets etc
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Minutes

Waste Event: in the process of being organised by Vanessa:  
see Any Other Business

Campaigning

Suggestions for this were:  
Signing On Line Petitions - as individuals  
Collecting signatures for Petitions at Markets & outside supermarkets  
Joining in with National organisations on their campaigns eg Greenpeace  
Letter writing - as both individuals and collectively to local Supermarket  
Managers asking if they would consider allowing people to bring their own containers for purchasing certain foods.  
Letter writing to targeted local businesses, asking if they would consider other packaging options to plastic. We would also aim to be able to provide information & suggestions on alternatives eg Vegeware & Biodore, plus details of costs & savings to their business  
NB: It was agreed that we must acquire accurate information before targeting any businesses  
It was agreed that we should all start to check out local businesses to see what packaging they are using, whether they allow people to use their own containers & which businesses are already taking steps to change & what those changes are.

Website

We have a new Drastic Plastic Webpage on the TBI Website which Peter has set up for us  
Julie Shortreed kindly offered to run this Webpage for the time being

Articles & information for inclusion on the page, to be emailed to Julie Shortreed

It was agreed that a Dropbox will be set up for the group to collect information regarding local businesses & their use of plastic or alternative packaging  
The Dropbox Folder Titles will be: Shop Name, Date Visited, Location, Comments

Birgit to set this up

Penny to provide Birgit with email addresses for those present at the meeting
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#### Minutes

**Any Other Business**

- **Waste Event:** This event is being organised by Vanessa Halliday for sometime late October. No other details are known at present.
  - Penny to contact Vanessa for further details

- **Rowan:** Anna updated us regarding Rowan (Waste Awareness Organisation) which is currently in the process of 'winding' up. There is possible funding available plus a container of potentially useful items & use of their website.
  - Anna to check out contents of container
  - Penny compiled a short Aims & Objectives profile of the Drastic Plastic Group & what they hope to achieve. This was submitted to Rowan for consideration in view of the above
  - Penny to send out this profile to members of the group
  - It is hoped that we will hear back from Rowan in Mid October

- **The World’s Most Beautiful Beaches@beaches of the planet:** set up by Konia.
  - People are encouraged to collect litter from the beaches & post pictures of it onto the Facebook page for others to 'like', share & get more people to join in.
  - Penny to liaise with Konia & Julie to get the link on our webpage

**Date of Next Meeting**

- Date to be set in November
  - Penny to set up a Doodle Poll