

**TURN LYME GREEN  
PRESS RELEASE**

18<sup>th</sup> March 2018



**LYME'S GOING GREENER!**

Turn Lyme Green hosted a meeting of 50 people on 13th March at the Baptist Church's Driftwood Café for an informal discussion on the practicalities and benefits of 'going green'. The meeting was packed with owners of local businesses, organisations and residents who wanted to encourage and support Lyme's bid to become 'Plastic Free'. The message was clear: going green is good for business.

Chris Boothroyd of Turn Lyme Green said, "It's fantastic to see so many people who are keen to support the idea of Lyme Regis becoming 'Plastic Free', not only will this benefit residents and businesses, but will mark us out as a town that's looking to the future. We want Lyme to be prosperous and environmentally friendly for us, our visitors and our children." Chris invited business owners to give practical examples of how they contribute towards a greener environment and the benefits to their business.

A number of the independent cafés are strong supporters of using green resources. Kieran McNamara, owner of the Galley Café said, "I don't want to use plastic in my business, all of our takeaway cups, containers and bags are fully compostable. As a surfer I don't want to see plastic cluttering up the sea, which should be clean for everyone to enjoy."

Red Panda's Natalie McCarthy also supported the use of compostable containers and cutlery and gave a unique insight into the problems of rubbish in the environment in other countries that she had lived in before moving to Lyme Regis.

Lesley Stone, owner of The Royal Lion, said the hotel had achieved a green tourism silver award. Lesley said, "We're continuing to improve our green credentials; the small steps such as changing from plastic to paper straws, are just as important as the big investments in things like automated LED lighting and sensor taps."

The Alexandra Hotel's manager, Sean Smith, talked about a range of initiatives, including using naturally sourced water from the site, which had resulted in the hotel achieving a green tourism gold award.

Councillor Richard Doney reported that the Town Council had been extremely supportive in discussions about Lyme Regis aiming to achieve the 'Plastic Free' award, and he was confident that this would be formally confirmed at the next full council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

To be awarded 'plastic-free coastlines approved' status we need to reduce the amount of single-use plastic items and work together to clean up our coastal environment. Richard talked about the five steps necessary to achieve 'Plastic Free' status which includes: support from the local council, businesses working to reduce the amount of plastic that they use, the community supporting plastic free living and initiatives such as beach cleans to reduce waste in the environment. Good progress has already been made with the Town Council and local businesses and the next step is for Turn Lyme Green to set up a Steering Group to progress action. A number of attendees expressed an interest in joining the Steering Group or contributing in other ways to achieve success in gaining the 'Plastic Free' award for Lyme Regis.

The next Turn Lyme Green meeting is the Annual General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April at the Royal Lion Hotel. After a short AGM, the meeting will look forward to activities in the coming year with a round-up of progress on the plastic free front. Everyone is welcome.

Anyone interested in helping Lyme Regis become 'Plastic Free' should contact Jo Smith Oliver, email: [info@josmitholiver.com](mailto:info@josmitholiver.com) or look at the Turn Lyme Green web site: [www.turnlymegreen.co.uk](http://www.turnlymegreen.co.uk).

**END**

**Photograph:** Keian McNamara, owner of The Galley Café, with his recyclables and compostables.

Turn Lyme Green promotes sustainable living in Lyme Regis. Set up in 2007, we engage the community in environmental issues. We meet regularly, plan campaigns and events, and have fun. Collaboration with other environmental groups in Dorset and beyond is an important part of keeping everyone informed and up to date. TLG acts local, thinks global. Contact Jo Smith Oliver on 07525 005430.

Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) is a national marine conservation and campaigning charity that inspires, unites and empowers communities to take action to protect oceans, beaches, waves and wildlife. <https://www.sas.org.uk/>