

**Agenda item number: 7**

**Date of meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Recreation and Amenities Committee**

**Report by: Naomi Mildenhall**

**Job Title: Services Manager**

**Subject: WATER REFILL SCHEME**

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### **1 Purpose of Report**

For Committee to receive a report by the Services Manager as requested by Councillor Crumly outlining the Refill Campaign encouraging people to refill water bottles and cut down on single use plastics.

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### **2 Background**

A million plastic bottles are bought around the world every minute and it's predicted that figure will rise by another 20% by 2021.

In the UK, less than 30% of people refill their reusable water bottles, even though we have some of the best quality tap water in the world.

Refill not only makes refilling a reusable water bottle easy, but it saves money too. Through the campaign the aim is to stop millions of single-use plastic bottles at source each year, preventing plastic pollution from entering rivers and sea.

Refill is a City to Sea campaign. City to Sea is a multi-award-winning organisation running campaigns to stop marine plastic pollution at source.

Through fun, solutions-focused initiatives they are empowering individuals to make a difference in their communities, working with corporates and retailers to help them tackle plastic pollution and reaching millions of people with digital content and campaigns.

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### **3 Details of Project**

Ways in which Thatcham Town Council can get involved

#### **Become a refill station**

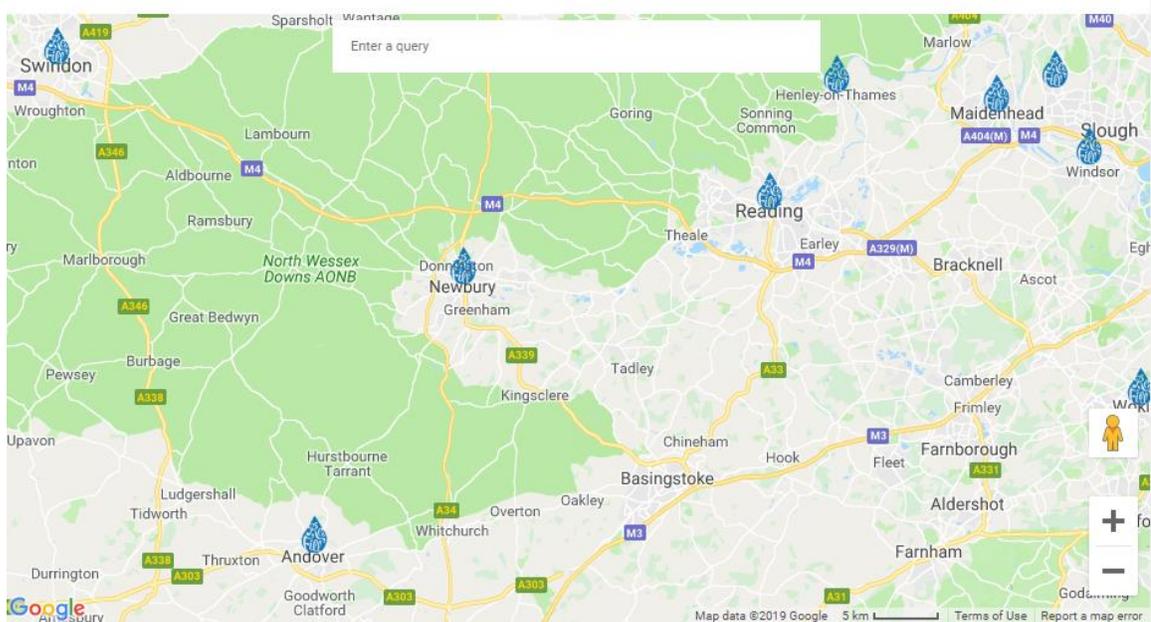
Register the Town Council offices as a refill station where people can ask for their refillable bottles to be filled with fresh drinking water. There is a Refill App that shows all available stations.

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## Start a Refill Scheme

Thatcham Town Council could take the lead and start a campaign, as you will see in the below map there are campaigns in Newbury, Hungerford, Reading and Andover to name but a few.



There are four locations in Thatcham where you can refill, as they have registered as refill stations. They are Costa in the Broadway, Nature Discovery Centre, Pineapple Palace and Thatcham Refillable.

There are digital resources available from the campaign and brand information and guidance.

This would need to be led by Councillors and residents, Councillor Crumly would be willing to co-ordinate people to talk to shops and other venues that could possibly participate. And if the Council is minded then officers will run an online awareness campaign.

To become a Refill.org scheme you must register and sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding or Licence agreement. They expect you to have:

- A dedicated group of people
  - Action days and events
  - Social media profiles
  - Local promotional activity
  - Engage with local partners
  - Local Refill Scheme branding
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National refill day is June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and if committee are minded then The Town Council could support this on social media.



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#### **4 Financial Implications**

An amount of funding should be set aside for Facebook advertising fees, printing, materials and events to launch. Further funding requests can be made separately.

There is £17,000 available in the Community Project Fund for 2019/20 or General Reserves

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#### **5 Legislation**

N/A

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#### **6 Reference to Council Plan**

Objective Three: To enhance the sense of community within Thatcham

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#### **7 Consultation**

**None**

Contact has been made with Refillable Thatcham who would be keen to work with us on this project.

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#### **8 Recommendation**

That a Working Party be established of Councillors and co-opted members.

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