



Information for Community Allies

Introduction

Sustainable Amersham is a not-for-profit community organisation formed in 2020 to address the climate emergency and tackle key issues at a local level. We have selected three key project areas each with a project leader and time plan.

One project is to achieve single-use **plastic free status** for our town by 2025.

We have signed up to the **Surfers Against Sewage (SAS)** guidelines to direct the project and keep it on target. They run a nationwide scheme to ensure as many people as possible are aware of the plastic crisis and how they can take action to change the system that produces it.

It's not about removing all plastic from our lives; it's about replacing avoidable single use plastic and changing people's awareness of waste to reduce the total amount produced.

To achieve our goal, we need the support of a wide range of local organisations to reach all areas of the Amersham community.

The target is to get at least 20 confirmed Community Allies from different areas across the community to pledge their support and work with us to avoid single use plastic and improve awareness of waste.

Who can be a Community Ally?

- **Schools** -Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools
- **Community organisations**- Churches and Faith Centres, Youth groups, Sports Clubs, Playgroups and Family groups, WI, U3A, Charities, Choirs, and many more.
- **Community spaces**- Leisure centres, Village halls, Museums, Libraries, Parks, and Community gardens.
- **Community events**- local fetes, festivals and heritage days.
- **Community communications**- local radio, community newsletters, social media.

What is required to sign the Plastic Free Communities pledge?

A Community Ally must review its avoidable single use plastic items, then-

- **Work on removing at least three from their activities.**
It is worth noting that items that have already been replaced can be included, so these steps are acknowledged. For some allies, there may even be no plastic to replace!
- **Commit to include their stance on single-use plastic in communications.**
This includes articles in newsletters, guidance for trips, events, and hall bookings- the action is specific to each organisation and their activities.
- **Support plastic free initiatives in the community**
This can include recycling collections, litter picks, hosting an event, - again, the actions are appropriate to the organisation.

How to achieve success?

Sustainable Amersham will work with the individual Community Allies, and when they are ready, submit their application for Plastic Free Communities approved status to Surfers Against Sewage for validation.

Community Allies will get a certificate to display to show their effort and commitment.

We hope you will be interested and very much look forward to working with you!