



Here is a brief summary of the content of the first Sustainable Swanage Open meeting on Tuesday for those that could not attend:

After a brief introduction to the group we outlined our main project areas that we are currently working on.

1) COMMUNICATION - to promote the various environmental initiatives in the town and enable us to work together effectively. We would like to make it easier for people to access information on what's going on and how they can get involved. Also to share tips and ideas for people to make positive changes that cause less harm to our environment, for example to reduce single use plastic and waste. An example of this is the water bottle Refill scheme which is active through many businesses in Swanage but is not widely known. We will do this through a website which is coming soon, meetings and events.

2) PLASTIC FREE TOWN - Swanage is working towards becoming an accredited Plastic Free Town with Surfers Against Sewage. This initiative focusses on reducing single use plastic in our community. As a town we are already doing well but we would like to aim higher. A more detailed update of the progress and what is involved will come in a separate post early next week. If you are a business who would like to sign up to this or find out more please get in touch.

3) TREE PLANTING - A tree planted for every child in Swanage, that is our target. We are currently investigating various grants that are available for tree planting schemes and are looking to work with schools and other organisations on this exciting project but also individuals who might like to plant in their own gardens too.

4) COMMERCIAL RECYCLING - working with businesses to make it easier to recycle waste in the town. We will be holding a 'Going Green is good for Business meeting' in early October (date TBC) that will cover several topics.

Other ideas for projects brought up at the meeting include:

Maintaining a winter market to include fruit and veg and possibly other 'plastic free' shopping.

Recycling bins in the town.

Eco-bricks

Ways to communicate messages to a wider audience

Organic Gardening and Biodiversity

Attendees have expressed interest in getting involved in particular projects. If you would like to get involved in any of these projects or find out more then please message this page.