

Statement from Councillor O'Brien to the CES Panel – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019

Madam Chairman. I'm aware that it is not normal practice for a panel member to make a statement but.....

I am personally delighted that this panel has been formed and that the Administration has made it clear it will encourage panel members to become actively involved and pro-active in proposing initiatives to alleviate issues connected with our Climate Emergency and Sustainability standpoint.

In passing the motion declaring our avowal to tackle Climate Emergency, Council gave a clear message to all – we should do everything that we can and quickly!

Therefore, rather than waiting until the next full Council meeting in early autumn to make these proposals I am raising them today in the hope that they can be forwarded to the Cabinet members responsible within the minutes of this Panel.

The first is an initiative which is being trialled through a number of a major supermarket's stores in the Bristol Area, of which Keynsham has one.

A local company has found a way of creating a useful byproduct out of those 'difficult plastics' which currently B&NES waste disposal services cannot recycle. These are a few samples that currently clutter up our black bag waste – crisp and chocolate wrappers, pet food pouches, cling film, plastic bread bags and the like. As one local resident put it – 'my black bag waste is now so small, it's amazing'. I believe this is a **major** 'missing link' regarding recycling plastic.

The Company is Swindon based – [recyclingtechnologies.co.uk](http://recyclingtechnologies.co.uk) - and I suggest contact is made at the earliest opportunity to enable this trial to be spread out across our area. The cost to the Council should be minimal while the cost benefit could be considerable.

The other initiative, again taking place in Bristol - this time with active collaboration of the City Council – is one by Bristol Water who are installing ten new water fountains across the city in order to provide free, clean water to refill bottles and reduce single use plastic containers. This will offer a clear benefit for visitors and residents alike and a reduction in plastic waste. Bath and the surrounds should have some!

I hope these two initiatives are of interest and will be progressed. Thank you.