

## **Plastic Pollution – Youth Speak’s Speech by Elana Pavey – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**Chair: Izzy Abrey, Speaker: Elana Pavey, Vote of Thanks: Lilian King**

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Elana Pavey and I will be our speaker for Offwell Primary School today. Thank you to Izzy Abrey for that wonderful introduction.

Plastic pollution is a subject that needs to be spoken about more. In 2050 there will be five times as much plastic in the ocean as there is now. More plastic than fish!

We, everyone in the world, have only just over a decade to stop plastic pollution for good. Otherwise the scale of the problem will be out of control. Many people are starting to find different ways to stop the problem through re-using and re-cycling but also with inventions like: edible wrappers, cups, tea bags and sachets made from seaweed.

Do you know what micro-plastics are? They are tiny bits of plastic like glitter and also found in beauty products and washing detergent.

When I was researching I came across something unacceptable.....that some big branded companies are selling micro-plastics straight to the public.

It is shocking, this is the same, only a 21<sup>st</sup> century version of the food tampering practice from war time and history.

What are the government advisors doing? Farmers are fined if they contaminate rivers, companies should be fined for doing the same to our oceans.

Ladies and gentleman of the audience, we all have a responsibility to save our planet from the mass of plastic killing our oceans.

If one person helps you make a little difference but if all of you here today stopped accepting the wrapping, that would make a bigger impact on the world today.

Supermarkets aren’t doing enough, using 59 billion pieces of plastic packaging every year. They need to stop using plastic wrapping completely and if necessary replace with a natural, biodegradable material.

Shops charge 5p for a plastic bag but we still use them. It should be paper bags, reusable bags or no bags at all! For instance, have you seen a plastic bag float in the wind? I have...too many times.

How about a plastic bottle being kicked in the street? But now, plastic is a danger to wildlife (sea birds, fish and ocean mammals).....

**IT IS OUT OF CONTROL!**

Do you know where your recycling ends up? This country only recycles a small amount with the rest being shipped abroad with some ending-up being dumped in the ocean!

We can start by only buying products in glass bottles and jars. Plastic is not frequently or efficiently recycled into new products like glass and metal are. These are easier and cheaper to melt and remake.

The government needs to tell companies to stop filling plastic bottles and containers and we need to stop buying them. For example, milk and fizzy drinks all need to be in glass bottles. Doughnuts in a paper bag and not a plastic container.

We need to remember, we only have one planet – so use it wisely; instead of abusing it.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen here today, for listening to my speech.