

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 20TH MAY, 2025

REFERENCE FROM COUNCIL: 28TH APRIL, 2025

“ TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICE OF MOTION [SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLORS C. STALLARD AND E.J. GOODJOHN] –

The below Notice of Motion, moved by Councillor Stallard and seconded by Councillor Goodjohn at the meeting, was debated.

“A Voluntary Ban on the Sale and Use of “Flying Rings” Throughout the Vale of Glamorgan

This Council recognises that plastic toy “Flying Rings” sold for recreational use mainly on beaches are causing unnecessary harm to marine mammals, specifically seals, when discarded.

This Council notes that traditional “solid” frisbees do not pose the same threat as they can’t get stuck around the animals’ necks; some shops in the Vale of Glamorgan as well as some chain stores have already decided to stop selling “Flying Rings”.

This Council applauds other Local Authorities for adopting a similar Voluntary Ban.

This Council further notes that plastic pollution is a global issue and any steps to reduce plastic pollution are positive: plastic in our seas does not disappear.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- 1. Promote a Voluntary Ban on the sale of “Flying Rings”, encouraging shops to sell alternatives instead and discouraging the use of “Flying Rings”.*
- 2. Write to both the Welsh and the UK Governments in support of the ban.*
- 3. Promote the campaign through its media channels so that the public and visitors to our coastline also support the action.”*

Councillor Stallard indicated this campaign, to campaign against the sale of flying rings which were deemed disposable and were often lost at sea, was shared with the Vale Coastal Forum. They reflected that this could lead to injuries and lead to increased rehabilitative costs and sought to encourage visitors to refrain from buying disposable products and choose traditional frisbees instead. They shared that they had already spoken to businesses in Barry and Ogmore, and that had stopped already, others were looking into, alongside using promotional materials in their

shops, and that other Councils had taken similar steps and would like the Vale of Glamorgan to do so.

Councillor William agreed that this was an important proposal, but the Council had no powers to enforce the ban, and that a voluntary ban may not achieve much. They welcomed the engagement with businesses, as there had been lost goodwill following proposals to amend car parking charges and that there needed to be meaningful dialogue. They also reflected that whilst this was a positive starting point in tackling waste on beaches, there was a need to consider glass and other discarded materials, and investigate the feasibility of waste collection bags. They finally suggested that there were byelaws in place to further support this work, and that this could be a piece of Task and Finish work for a Scrutiny Committee to consider.

Councillor Morgan stated these devices were a terrible threat to wildlife, and that they did not float in the sea, and whilst the Council was unable to enforce action, it could draw public attention to the matter.

Councillor Marshallsea expressed supported as there was a biodiversity crisis and a need to support wildlife. They also reflected upon a similar approach they had seen in Cardigan, where the impact was visible.

Councillor Perry expressed surprised these rings were not banned, and that there were many products which were impacting littering, fly-tipping and biodiversity, and that the Council needed to get the message across around the biodiversity crisis, whilst also considering larger planetary impacts such as Active Travel.

Councillor Goodjohn shared that she and Councillor Stallard walked the Heritage Coast last year for charity and recognised the need to protect the coastline and change public consciousness, whilst hoping businesses beyond Barry and Ogmore would follow their example.

Councillor Wilson agreed around the need to reduce the amount of plastic in society in general and that the Council had declared a Nature Emergency, and there was a need to support enhancing biodiversity.

Councillor Dr. Johnson agreed that biodiversity and important to all and was part of what was good about the local area. They proposed an Amendment “That the Council establishes a Task and Finish Group to look into powers we have as a Council to influence the use of plastics around beaches”.

The Leader queried this as Scrutiny Committees should be self-determining, and the Amendment was reconsidered by the Mayor to “Council recommends establishing a Task and Finish Group to look at the powers we have as a Council to promote the byelaws in relation to the issue of “flying rings”.”

Councillor Carroll stated a belief in conservation, and recognised that limiting of waste was important, whilst also sharing concerns around the role of traders, who the Council needed to engage with properly and listen to. They felt that Task and

Finish work could consult and engage with traders, as it was important to bring them on the journey.

Councillor Payne shared that Town and Community Councils were already doing a lot of work to support the reduction in plastic waste and pollution.

Councillor Collins mentioned that it seemed all were happy to support and that it needed promotion and public awareness, as a range of online petitions had received low responses from public, meaning the Council had a role in bringing the matter to the public's attention.

Councillor Thomas recognised that rings were a danger to marine animals, but there were concerns surrounding Task and Finish proposal, and this should not be directed by Council.

Councillor Stallard agreed this was a small first step and that it hopefully encouraged all to think about plastics and encourage people to think differently moving forward.

A Recorded Vote took place on the Amended Motion as follows:

Members	For	Against	Abstain
Anne Asbrey	√		
Julie Aviet	√		
Gareth Ball	√		
Rhiannon Birch	√		
Bronwen Brooks	√		
Ian Buckley	√		
Lis Burnett	√		
Samantha Campbell	√		
George Carroll	√		
Christine Cave	√		
Charles Champion	√		
Janice Charles	√		
Millie Collins	√		
Pamela Drake	√		

Anthony Ernest	√		
Russell Godfrey	√		
Emma Goodjohn	√		
Ewan Goodjohn	√		
Stephen Haines	√		
Howard Hamilton	√		
Sally Hanks	√		
William Hennessy	√		
Nic Hodges	√		
Mark Hooper	√		
Catherine Iannucci-Williams	√		
Gwyn John	√		
Dr. Ian Johnson	√		
Susan Lloyd-Selby	√		
Belinda Loveluck-Edwards	√		
Julie Lynch-Wilson	√		
Kevin Mahoney	√		
Naomi Marshallsea	√		
Michael Morgan	√		
Jayne Norman	√		
Helen Payne	√		
Elliot Penn	√		
Sandra Perkes	√		
Ian Perry	√		
Joanna Protheroe	√		

Ruba Sivagnanam	√		
Carys Stallard	√		
Neil Thomas	√		
Rhys Thomas	√		
Steffan Wiliam	√		
Margaret Wilkinson	√		
Eddie Williams	√		
Mark Wilson	√		
Nicholas Wood	√		
TOTAL	48		

The Vote being carried, it was subsequently

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T Council promote a Voluntary Ban on the sale of “Flying Rings”, encouraging shops to sell alternatives instead and discouraging the use of “Flying Rings”.
- (2) T H A T Council write to both the Welsh and UK Governments in support of the ban
- (3) T H A T Council promote the campaign through its media challenges so that the public and visits to our coastline also support the action
- (4) T H A T Council recommends establishing a Task and Finish Group to look powers we have as a Council to promote the byelaws in relation to the issue of “flying rings”.

Reason for decisions

- (1-4) Having regard to the discussion and debate at the meeting.”