

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Bexley leads the way in fight against Ocean plastic

Bexleyheath is one of the first locations selected by the London Drinking Fountain Fund to have a new public water fountain. The free drinking fountain opened on Wednesday 21 November on the Broadway near the Clock Tower.

The fountain is part of a network of initially 20 fountains, which are being installed across London by the London Drinking Fountain Fund which has been established by the Mayor of London and #OneLess, a campaign led by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). These new public fountains will make it easier for residents to keep hydrated on the go without using single-use plastic water bottles, which could end up in the River Thames or our oceans.

Cabinet Member for Places Cllr Peter Craske said: "It's great that our application has been successful and that Bexley is at the forefront of the #OneLess campaign.

"This new free service will make a real difference to residents and the environment by reducing single-use plastics. Partnerships such as this - along with initiatives like our #doitforbexley litter pledge - help keep Bexley clean and green."

The Mayor of London has worked with ZSL's #OneLess campaign to decide the locations of the fountains. ZSL assessed the site applications on accessibility, visibility and footfall to ensure water refills are available for as many Londoners as possible.

Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues said:

“Water fountains are a simple but effective way to encourage Londoners and visitors to switch from plastic bottles to reusable ones. They’re already proving popular and City Hall is working on plans to install many more to benefit both thirsty Londoners and the environment.”

The opening of the new water fountain in Bexleyheath comes as statistics compiled by ZSL’s #OneLess campaign estimate that the average Londoner buys more than three plastic water bottles a week – 175 bottles a year.

Dr Heather Koldewey, co-Director of the #OneLess campaign and Head of Marine and Freshwater at the Zoological Society of London said:

“We are delighted to be working with the London Borough of Bexley on this exciting initiative to reduce the plastic blight on the ocean and firmly establish London as a city that no longer uses plastic bottled water.”

To find out more about how you get involved in #doitforbexley go to www.localgreenpoints.com/doitforbexley

To learn how you can get involved in the #Oneless campaign visit www.onelessbottle.org