

MEETING POSTING

TOWN OF NANTUCKET

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, § 18-25

All meeting **notices and agenda** must be filed and time stamped with the Town Clerk's Office and posted at least 48 hours prior to the meeting (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays)

RECEIVED

2021 FEB 24 AM 11:24
NANTUCKET TOWN CLERK
Posting Number: T 178

Committee/Board/s | Finance Committee

Day, Date, and Time | Monday, March 1, 2021 4:00PM

Location / Address | "REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Regarding Open Meeting Law (Attached); the meeting will be aired at a later time on the Town's Government TV YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-sgxAlfdoxteLNzRAUHIxA>"

Signature of Chair or Authorized Person | Brian E. Turbitt

WARNING: IF THERE IS NO QUORUM OF MEMBERS PRESENT, OR IF MEETING POSTING IS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OML STATUTE, NO MEETING MAY BE HELD!

AGENDA

Please list below the topics the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98078533741?pwd=SVN3MFdZNS9GakRxc2NEQk00SkF3UT09>

Meeting ID: 980 7853 3741
Passcode: 223486

1. Call to Order
2. Audio/Video Announcement
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Public Comment
5. Potential Adoption of Meeting Minutes
6. Committee Reports

7. Public Hearing on June 5, 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles, Pursuant to Article II, Section 2.5(b) of the Town Charter. Town Meeting Warrant can be found online at: <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/38602/2021-Annual-Town-Meeting-and-Election-Warrant-PDF>

8. Review and Discussion of Articles carried over from 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

Article #	Sponsor	Name of Article
34	Cliff Williams	Appropriation for Incineration of Solid Waste
35	Cliff Williams	Legal Opinion for Beach Access
36	Andy Lowell	Appropriation for Hazardous Waste
37	Maria Zodda	Re-establish Parks and Recreation Dept.
52	S. Ottison	Zoning Map Change: R-10 to CN - 3 Cobble Court
53	R. Von Kampen	Zoning Map Change: VR to VN - Polpis Road and Chatham Road
63	V. Oliver	Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Commercial Mid-Island - Height Restriction
64	R. Atherton	Zoning Bylaw Amendment/Home Rule Petition: Coastal Erosion Liability
65	Andrew D. Lowell	Affordable Housing Requirements
66	Andrew D. Lowell	Public Property Damage
67	John F. McGrady	Prohibiting Roundabouts Near School
69	Theresa Williams	Complaint Committee
75	Bruce Mandel	Bylaw Amendment: Single-Use Plastics
76	Ian Golding	Bylaw Amendment: Bicycles: Right of Way
77	Ian Golding	Bylaw Amendment: Bicycles: Buffer Zone
78	Ian Golding	Bylaw Amendment: Bicycle Accident Data Base
79	Linda Williams for Nan Sperry	Bylaw Amendment: Outdoor Lighting
80	Julia Lindner	Noise Bylaw Amendment: Gas powered Leaf Blowers
85	Bryan Swain	Bylaw Amendment: Board of Sewer Commissioners/Sewer District Map Change: 154R Cliff Road
86	Bryan Swain	Bylaw Amendment: Board of Sewer Commissioners/Sewer District Map Change: 18 Kimball Avenue
99	Select Board	Real Estate Acquisition: 114 Orange Street
100	Select Board	Real Estate Conveyance: 114 Orange Street
101	Select Board	Real Estate Acquisition: 64 North Liberty Street

9. Review and Discussion of the following 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles;
Potential Adoption of Motions:

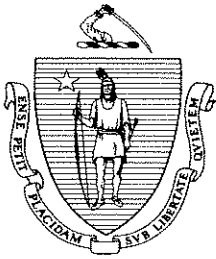
Article #	Sponsor	Name of Article
28	Ken Beaugrand	Appropriation: Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Community Preservation Committee
33	Ken Beaugrand	Community Preservation Committee: Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Transfers
81	Ken Beaugrand	Bylaw Amendment: Community Preservation Committee (elected for 3 year terms)

10. Review and Discussion of other Articles in the 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant;
Potential Adoption of Motions

11. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 2, 2021

12. Other Business

13. Adjournment



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS
OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW, G. L. c. 30A, § 20**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, many important functions of State and Local Government are executed by "public bodies," as that term is defined in G. L. c. 30A, § 18, in meetings that are open to the public, consistent with the requirements of law and sound public policy and in order to ensure active public engagement with, contribution to, and oversight of the functions of government; and

WHEREAS, both the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health ("DPH") have advised residents to take extra measures to put distance between themselves and other people to further reduce the risk of being exposed to COVID-19. Additionally, the CDC and DPH have advised high-risk individuals, including people over the age of 60, anyone with underlying health conditions or a weakened immune system, and pregnant women, to avoid large gatherings.

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise authority over public assemblages as necessary to protect the health and safety of persons; and

WHEREAS, low-cost telephone, social media, and other internet-based technologies are currently available that will permit the convening of a public body through virtual means and allow real-time public access to the activities of the public body; and

WHEREAS section 20 of chapter 30A and implementing regulations issued by the Attorney General currently authorize remote participation by members of a public body, subject to certain limitations;

NOW THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:

(1) A public body, as defined in section 18 of chapter 30A of the General Laws, is hereby relieved from the requirement of section 20 of chapter 30A that it conduct its meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body for interested members of the public through adequate, alternative means.

Adequate, alternative means of public access shall mean measures that provide transparency and permit timely and effective public access to the deliberations of the public body. Such means may include, without limitation, providing public access through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body while those activities are occurring. Where allowance for active, real-time participation by members of the public is a specific requirement of a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, pursuant to which the proceeding is conducted, any alternative means of public access must provide for such participation.

A municipal public body that for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts is unable to provide alternative means of public access that will enable the public to follow the proceedings of the municipal public body as those activities are occurring in real time may instead post on its municipal website a full and complete transcript, recording, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as practicable upon conclusion of the proceedings. This paragraph shall not apply to proceedings that are conducted pursuant to a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, that requires allowance for active participation by members of the public.

A public body must offer its selected alternative means of access to its proceedings without subscription, toll, or similar charge to the public.

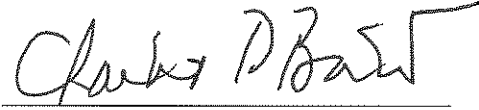
(2) Public bodies are hereby authorized to allow remote participation by all members in any meeting of the public body. The requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at a specified meeting location, as provided in G. L. c. 30A, § 20(d) and in 940 CMR 29.10(4)(b), is hereby suspended.

(3) A public body that elects to conduct its proceedings under the relief provided in sections (1) or (2) above shall ensure that any party entitled or required to appear before it shall be able to do so through remote means, as if the party were a member of the public body and participating remotely as provided in section (2).

(4) All other provisions of sections 18 to 25 of chapter 30A and the Attorney General's implementing regulations shall otherwise remain unchanged and fully applicable to the activities of public bodies.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the State of Emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Given in Boston at 6:40 PM this 12th day of
March, two thousand and twenty.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles D. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Charles" is written with a large, prominent "C". The last name "Baker" is written with a large, prominent "B". The signature is written above a horizontal line.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Richard Sears

Subject: FW: Article A73 - proposed Amend w Questionnaire Form
Attachments: AmendA73Questionnaire.pdf; Article 73 as proposed to be Amended.docx; Article 73 - Amended - Fin Comm - Regarding Question 3.docx

From: Bruce Mandel <bruce.mandel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 2:48 PM
To: Denice Kronau
Cc: Brian Turbitt; Libby Gibson; Erika Mooney
Subject: Article A73 - proposed Amend w Questionnaire Form

Hi, Denice – In preparation for the Fin Comm’s Zoom meeting this coming Monday regarding the proposed Amended Article A73 I have attached a Citizen Warrant Article Questionnaire. The questionnaire file is two pages.

A second file contains the response to questionnaire item 3 – five pages showing research on the topic.

Also attached is a copy of the two-paged proposed Amended Article A73. My intent is to substitute this version at the ATM. This is the Amended Article A73 for which I am seeking a favorable recommendation from Fin Comm.

The prior version of Article 73 is no longer necessary. TON submitted a similar Article at last ATM, which was approved by the voters and TON no longer wants to merge the Biodegradable Packaging issues into the Single-Use Plastics chapter of the Code.

Thank you,

Bruce Mandel

This email was scanned by Bitdefender



Citizen Warrant Article Questionnaire

The Finance Committee (FinCom) encourages article sponsors to provide complete and comprehensive answers to the below questions. Your materials will be distributed to members well in advance of the Public Hearing at which you will have the opportunity to speak on your proposal. The more specific and relevant information provided on the action you seek from the Town Meeting, the more prepared FinCom will be for the actual hearing with you. The questionnaire is not required but is intended to provide a full set of materials for the FinCom to evaluate. Additional sheets may be attached to this form.

Date Form Completed: February 24, 2021	Date Rec'd by Town Admin: February 24, 2021
Article Title: Article A73 Amended – Single-Use Plastics	
Sponsor Name: Bruce Mandel	Email: bruce.mandel@gmail.com

1	<i>At a summary level, what is the proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article?</i>
The original Bylaw (STM 2018-16) is now Chapter 125A of the Code of the Town of Nantucket (It was Chapter 124A but is being revised). The original list of banned items was pared down at the recommendation of Town officials & Town Counsel with the intent of adding them soon. Subsequently clarifications & additions were identified by our Town's plastic bylaw implementation workgroup. This Amended Article makes some of those workgroup clarifications & additions by adding 4 definitions & previously delayed items.	
2	<i>Does the community-at-large gain value through the article? If so, how?</i>
The community-at-large gains value through the passage of this Amended Article for the same reasons it benefited by the passage of STM 2018 Article 16, which is to protect the health and safety of Nantucket's present and future generations, protect the Town's single source aquifer, reduce litter, reduce the threat to our island's environment caused by rapid filling of the landfill space, by reducing the toxic by-products flowing into the groundwater and general environment, protect marine animals and food sources, and save the citizens of the Town money. We currently spend money to ship plastics off-island. This will help reduce the volume of shipments.	
3	<i>Have you done any research on the topic that can be shared? If yes, please feel free to attach any supplemental information.</i>
Response	Supplemental information is attached

4	<i>What is your understanding of the cost implications (operating and capital), both immediate and long-term to the town? (example: personnel costs, maintenance, equipment, supplies, etc); and, what would be the proposed funding source?</i>
There should be no cost implications. The original Bylaw (STM 2018-16) is now Chapter 125A of the Code of the Town of Nantucket. It has been successfully implemented during the normal course of business. There should be no additional operating or capital cost implications to the Town of Nantucket for this Amended Article. There is already an informational Town website section for Single-Use Plastic Chapter of the Code. Updated info would be added.	
5	<i>Who do you envision executing the outcome of the article (will it require a new position; how would it fit in with a particular department; who would enforce it; who would be in charge of implementing it)? Have efforts have been made to involve the necessary participants as to the impacts of executing the article?</i>
There is an existing TON Single-Use Plastic workgroup. No new positions would be required. Enforcement protocol is in place – it is a passive, reactive effort rather than an aggressive or intrusive manner. TON has already actively involved and informed the public and stakeholders. There have been public information sessions and meetings with all stakeholders. These efforts would continue.	
6	<i>Is the topic of the article contained within any Town Plan (ie, Master Plan, Transportation Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, Strategic Plan)?</i>
The topic of the Amended Article is established as Chapter 125A of the Code of the Town of Nantucket. The Amended Article seeks only to refine and clarify certain language by providing definitions and to include some items.	

September 2019

AMENDED
ARTICLE A73
(Bylaw Amendment: Single-Use Plastics)
Carried Over-Item from 2020 Annual Town Meeting

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 125A (Single Use Plastics) as follows
(NOTE: new language is shown as highlighted text *shown in blue font*; this method to denote changes are not meant to become part of the final text; non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw shall be permitted that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Code of the Town of Nantucket):

*Amend the Definitions section and By-Law section's list of banned items as follows:
(shown in blue font below):*

§ 125A-1 Definitions and purpose.

A. Definitions:

COMMERCIAL USE

Use by a business, directly/indirectly for financial gain or convenience.

PETROLEUM-BASED PLASTIC

Plastic material manufactured using petroleum-derived polymers. Compostable plastics as defined by ASTM International are exempted from this bylaw.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

Petroleum-based plastic products that are intended to be used only once before they are thrown away. They are "disposable" products. The items covered by this bylaw are listed herein.

DRINKING WATER

Potable, unflavored, non-carbonated water that is safe to drink or to use for food preparation.

FLAVORED WATER

A category of beverage marketed as water which contains an array of additional ingredients, including, but not limited to, natural and artificial flavors, sugars, sweeteners, vitamins, minerals, and other "enhancements". (source: Medical Dictionary)

CARBONATED WATER

Water that contains dissolved carbon dioxide gas, either artificially injected under pressure or occurring due to natural geological processes. Carbonation causes

small bubbles to form, giving the water an effervescent quality. Also known as "sparkling water", "tonics", "soda water", "club soda", "tonic water", "seltzer" "pop" and the like. (source: Wikipedia and The Free Dictionary)

ENERGY DRINK

A type of drink containing sugar and/or other stimulant compounds when packaged in a petroleum based plastic container or packaged in a paper or similar fiber package.

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BY-LAW:

§ 125A-2 Sale, distribution, and commercial use of petroleum-based single-use plastic products.

It shall be unlawful to sell, distribute or otherwise commercially use the following single-use petroleum-based plastic products in the Town and County of Nantucket on or after June 1, 2020. [Effective date for items G. through L. on or after June 1, 2022:](#)

- A. Straws and drink stirrers;
- B. Flexible can and bottle yokes;
- C. Drinking cups and lids;
- D. Plates, bowls and eating utensils;
- E. Drinking water plastic or non-recyclable containers of one liter (34 ounces) or less;
- F. Single use, non-recyclable beverage pods;
- G. [Flushable wipes containing plastic fibers, cloth fibers and/or anti-bacterial chemicals;](#)
- H. [Plastic stick ear swabs;](#)
- I. [Cellulose acetate and or any other type of plastic fiber cigarette filters;](#)
- J. [Clam-shell containers and similar takeout food containers;](#)
- K. [Plastic and glass nip bottles with capacities up to 200ml.](#)
- L. [Any type of non-deposit, plastic, paper, or similar fiber package of 63 ounces or less, containing carbonated or non-carbonated beverages including, but not limited to water, flavored water, carbonated water, energy drinks;](#)

.....

Amended Article A73
Citizen Warrant Article Questionnaire
Item 3 – topic research – supplemental information

Regarding Question 3, examples of information or research are as follows:

Flushable wipes containing plastic fibers, cloth fibers and anti-bacterial chemicals –
There are non-plastic fiber, chemical-free versions.

The Director of our Sewer Department has been consulted regarding banning this item and has expressed to me a willingness to make a statement of support at ATM if necessary. These products foul the sewer treatment plant equipment and must be physically removed from the equipment on a constant basis – a costly and time-consuming problem. The flushable wipes contain tiny plastic fibers that do not biodegrade and can make their way into the ocean, get ingested by sea creatures, and even wash up on beaches. The antibacterial chemicals in the wipes have also been linked to human endocrine disruption and the creation of superbugs. There are alternatives to this product such as organic cotton cloths or napkins for runny noses and sticky hands. Huggies and other manufacturers have these items in distribution.

Plastic stick cotton ear buds – *There are readily available sustainable alternatives.*

There is a growing effort to remove these plastic sticks from the trash handling process. The sticks are like drink stirrers in that they are not recyclable, not compostable and they foul processing equipment and our sewer treatment equipment.

Here is some recent info:

<https://www.ecowatch.com/scotland-bans-plastic-cotton-buds-2640964820.html>

As published in EcoWatch on October 19, 2019 by Jordan Davidson

Scotland Bans Plastic Cotton Buds

It may seem innocuous to flush a Q-tip down the toilet, but those bits of plastic have been washing up on beaches and pose a threat to the birds, turtles and marine life that call those beaches home. The scourge of plastic "nurdles," as they are called, has pushed Scotland to implement a complete ban on the sale and manufacture of plastic-stemmed cotton swabs, as the BBC reported.

The Marine Conservation Society praised the move as a "fantastic win" for the sea and wildlife, as Sky News reported. Over the last 25 years, the group says its volunteers have collected more than 150,000 plastic cotton bud sticks from Scottish beaches.

"I am proud that the Scottish Government has become the first UK administration to ban plastic-stemmed cotton buds," said Scotland's Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham, as Packaging News reported. "Single-use plastic products are not only wasteful but generate unnecessary litter that blights our beautiful beaches and green spaces while threatening our wildlife on land and at sea."

The Marine Conservation Society, which has consistently ranked cotton buds in its top 10 of beach litter, believes there is more to be done. Catherine Gemmell, conservation officer at the organization, said "We look forward to more ambitious action from the Scottish government and

Amended Article A73
Citizen Warrant Article Questionnaire
Item 3 – topic research – supplemental information

to working with them on future actions needed to stop the plastic tide," as The Independent reported.

The move to eliminate plastic cotton swabs follows a ban on the sale and manufacture of plastic micro beads, which was passed in June 2018, as the Scottish Sun reported. Manufacturers like Unilever and Johnson and Johnson have responded to the ban by changing what the stems are made of, according to the BBC. All major manufacturers and supermarket brands have either followed suit by switching to biodegradable paper or promising to do so.

"Cotton buds are some of the most pervasive forms of marine pollution, so a ban is very welcome step and one that we hope other countries will follow," said Lang Banks, director of World Wide Fund for Nature in Scotland, as the BBC reported. "We know plastic is suffocating our seas and devastating our wildlife with millions of birds, fish and mammals dying each year because of the plastic in our oceans. Plastics are also finding their way into the food we eat and the water we drink, so saving our oceans will require further ambitious action from governments, industry and consumers."

Scotland is ahead of the curve on its commitment to meet the standards set out in the European Union's single-use Plastics Directive, which will ban items plastic cotton buds along with plates, food and drink containers, and balloon sticks by July 2021.

"This ban builds on work already underway to address Scotland's throw-away culture, and we will continue to take action on other problematic items in the coming years as part of our efforts to reduce harmful plastics and single-use items, protect our environment and develop a thriving circular economy," said Cunningham, as Packaging News reported.

"We are facing a global climate emergency and must all work together to reduce, reuse and recycle to ensure a sustainable future for the current and next generation."

Plastic acetate and/or other types of plastic fiber cigarette filters – *There are sustainable alternatives available.*

These are the number one most prevalent litter pollution problem on our island. Here is some info:

Policies are moving forward on cigarette butt pollution in CA. Our TrashBlitz data showed cigarettes as the most polluting item found consistently!

https://www.mercurynews.com/2019/10/12/smoking-banned-on-all-california-state-beaches-and-state-parks/?fbclid=IwAR1GICZDmMt3oA3QusgzwsHfk8_t9peuz2Bfpi2TggIzlrkA76qHp210mas

Since 1989, when detailed records first began, 7.5 million cigarette butts have been collected during the annual cleanup in California, making up 37 percent of all the trash.

Food wrappers, **plastic clam-shell and similar containers**, at 11 percent, are second,

Amended Article A73
Citizen Warrant Article Questionnaire
Item 3 – topic research – supplemental information

followed by caps and lids at 9 percent, plastic and paper bags at 7 percent, and cutlery, cups and plates at 5 percent.

A 2010 study by scientists at San Diego State University found that when one cigarette butt was placed in a liter of water containing freshwater minnows and ocean smelt, half the fish died as a result of toxic chemicals, heavy metals, nicotine and other contaminants that leach out of cigarettes. Biologists also say cigarette waste can choke seabirds, turtles, fish and other wildlife when it is ingested.

And

https://earther.gizmodo.com/filtered-cigarettes-are-one-of-the-worst-types-of-pollu-1839327577?utm_medium=socialflow&utm_campaign=socialflow_gizmodo_facebook&utm_source=gizmodo_facebook

Filtered Cigarettes Are One of the Worst Types of Pollution and We Should Ban Them, Experts Argue by Ed Cara

Some scientists have had it up to here with cigarette butts, particularly those from cigarettes with filtered plastic tips. In a new op-ed this week, researchers have called for a global ban of filtered cigarettes, pointing out that the products aren't any safer for us (as was once commonly advertised). In addition, they're one of the most common sources of plastic pollution in the world.

Filtered cigarettes were first invented in the 1950s, and primarily made using a synthetic plastic called cellulose acetate (at one point, asbestos was also used). Initially, as the exploration of tobacco industry documents during that time has revealed, they were devised as a way to reduce people's concerns about exposure to the many harmful chemicals in cigarette smoke that industry and outside scientists were starting to suspect could cause cancer, particularly tar. But it soon became apparent they didn't really move the needle at all and may even increase people's risk of cancer.

While these filters might block some larger particles of tar and other chemicals that makes cigarette smoke feels the way it does, for instance, they do nothing about the smaller particles that penetrate deeper into the lungs. The filters even encourage people to inhale higher quantities of smoke at a time, since the cigarettes feel less irritating and users will still want to get the same buzz they'd get from the non-filtered kind. And although cellulose acetate can quickly degrade in a matter of months under the right conditions, cigarette butts thrown out in the open are more likely to take up to a decade to go away.

That makes them more than a health hazard. In a world increasingly overwhelmed by plastic pollution, discarded filters only add to a growing problem. A Chinese ban on accepting recyclable plastic could create 111 million tons of orphaned plastic by 2030. Microplastics are being found all over the place from the air to beer. Discarded cigarette butts are just adding to the growing problem.

Amended Article A73
Citizen Warrant Article Questionnaire
Item 3 – topic research – supplemental information

Despite mounting evidence of their inefficacy and their environmental toll, the tobacco industry, unsurprisingly, kept pretending their filtered cigarettes were healthier. They went so far as to change the filter's formula so it would become discolored when the cigarette was smoked and trick the user into thinking it was doing something. They also added other dubious innovations that would supposedly reduce the amount of smoke inhaled by users, such as tiny holes in the filter. For decades, they marketed these products as "light," "low-tar," or "mild," and it's only recently that countries like the U.S. and elsewhere have banned that sort of branding.

In their editorial published Wednesday in the BMJ, researchers from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the UK argue that governments should go one step further and just ban filters entirely. They point out that not only do these filters do nothing for users, but they've also become the single most ubiquitous piece of trash in the world, according to some estimates. And these butts aren't just unpleasant to look at, they might be hurting the surrounding plant and wildlife.

"Even though the cellulose acetate filter is the single most commonly collected item of litter globally, the industry has largely succeeded in avoiding the public outrage expressed towards plastic waste produced by, for example, McDonald's and Starbucks," they wrote. Even as the European Union has a plan to phase many single-use plastic products by 2021 (including straws), for example, filtered cigarettes aren't included in the ban.

The logistics of outright getting rid of cigarette filters might seem daunting, given that many cigarettes are now made with them. But it wouldn't be the first time that governments have stepped in to dramatically curtail the industry, the authors noted. And over the past few decades, these interventions have worked to steadily reduce the smoking rate in many developed countries. A filtered cigarette ban, they argue, should just be part of the global push needed to wean the world off tobacco altogether.

"The idea that a pack of cigarettes would be restricted to plain packaging with graphic warnings seemed unthinkable," they wrote. "It may be time for a similar radical approach that strengthens ties between the environment and health communities for the common planetary good. If we fail to reduce the trillions of butts added to the world's waste burden annually, we undermine our efforts to curb global plastic waste and miss an opportunity to help end the global tobacco epidemic."

<https://inews.co.uk/news/environment/cigarette-filters-plastic-pollution-revealed-increase-cancer-risk-818966>

Cigarette filters are a major source of plastic pollution, and they don't even work

Leading academics argue that filters are not only bad for the environment, they are bad for smokers' health too

By Tom Bawden

Wednesday, 23rd October 2019, 11:30 pm - Updated Thursday, 24th October 2019, 12:15 pm

Cigarette butts are a major source of plastic pollution

Cigarette filters should be banned because they are a major source of plastic pollution - while they don't actually work and could even increase the risk of cancer, a group of academics has said.

An estimated 6 trillion butts made largely out of plastic and weighing around a million tons are produced every year. They are the biggest contributor, by number of items, to the plastic discarded into the environment.

To make matters worse, the filters are largely ineffective and could actually be bad for smokers' health, according to researchers from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and San Diego State University.

Call for ban across Europe

They have used the British Medical Journal to call for an EU-wide ban.

"Filters first appeared in the 1950s when the tobacco industry portrayed them as a way to make cigarettes safe by absorbing some of the tar that was implicated in the lung cancer epidemic," said Thomas Novotny, of San Diego State University.

"But we now know that this safety argument was a myth, one of the many created by the tobacco industry to sell cigarettes," he added.

Past scientific studies suggest that the harmful components of smoke are the smaller particles which aren't captured by the filters. Meanwhile, the website of the Jerome Adams, the US Surgeon General, says: "Evidence suggests that ventilated filters may have contributed to higher risks of lung cancer by enabling smokers to inhale more vigorously, thereby drawing carcinogens contained in cigarette smoke more deeply into lung tissue."

Martin McKee and May Schalkwyk, both from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, co-wrote the British Medical Journal article with Professor Novotny.

Government response

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment, said: "We are committed to cutting our reliance on single-use plastic, matching or exceeding EU standards and, via our landmark Environment Bill, ensuring industry pay the costs of managing and recycling packaging waste."

"We've also pledged £20 million to the Plastics Research and Innovation Fund which aims to reduce the environmental price of plastic and litter. Our sights are set on problematic plastics such as cigarette filters and chewing gum, which contain single-plastic polymers, and blight our streets and seas.