Dear Retailer

I am currently acting as a member of the Advisory Panel for Bude Climate Partnership's Sustainable Tourism Project, *The Bude Way*, delivered by Bude Area Tourist Board.

You may remember that I wrote to you in 2021 about cheap polystyrene bodyboards and the damage they can cause to marine life and our beautiful beaches in Bude when broken and abandoned.

Now that a couple of years have passed I wanted to catch up with you about it. From what I can see, there appears to have been a drop in the number of cheaper boards for sale in Bude, which is great. The quality has risen, on the whole, but there are still some of the cheaper boards available for sale.

As we know, these boards are not fit for purpose and can break easily, so releasing polystyrene into the ocean environment. This is a big environmental issue.

The Advisory Panel are keen to see a change in the type of boards and beach equipment sold in Bude, especially now that we know we live in one of the most vulnerable places to sea level rise in the UK. Plastic, polystyrene and the health of our beaches and ocean is all a part of this problem.

Happily, a few outlets in Bude have removed the cheaper boards for sale while others, like Bude Sea Pool, Wooda and Zuma Jay, are offering rental wooden bellyboards and bodyboards at extremely cheap prices. This has helped to reduce the number of boards found on Bude's beaches. In 2023 The 2 Minute Foundation collected 60 abandoned boards at Crooklets, with 75% of them being of the cheaper quality. While still unacceptable, this is a great improvement on previous years.

However, if we are to continue to be a responsible holiday destination we think there is more to do. That's where you come in. It would be very helpful if you could share your experience and knowledge with us.

- Did you notice any trends in people's buying habits when it comes to bodyboards?
- What were the most popular type of bodyboards?
- What were the influencing factors when it came to selling beach goods and bodyboards?
- What can we do, as a community, about 'disposable' beach goods and their potential for environmental damage?

It would be really great to hear from you. Please email us at sustainable@visitbude.info and let us know your thoughts. We already made good headway in tackling this environmental issue and it would be fantastic if we could keep up the momentum.

I am proud of the environmental work that is happening in Bude and would like to congratulate those of you who have helped. Thank you.

With best Wishes

Martin Dorey (on behalf of the Bude Climate Partnership's Sustainable Tourism Advisory Panel)

For more information on the Sustainable Tourism Project, *The Bude Way*, contact us at:

sustainable@visitbude.info or 01288 255665.