



Dear [Supermarket Buyer / Manager]

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. I am writing to draw your attention to the subject of disposable, single-use barbecues. They have been identified as a problem for the Advisory Panel, which is made up of local business owners and individuals here in Bude. The Panel is looking to work in partnership with local retailers to remove disposable BBQs from sale in Bude because of their environmental impact and the danger to people that they cause.

As you may have seen in the press recently, Bude is one of the most vulnerable places to sea level rise in the UK. This presents us with an existential crisis: what do we do as a town? We believe we need to urgently identify issues and mitigate and educate to make positive, lasting change. We'd like you to be a part of that.

In addition to the fact that disposable BBQs are single use items, and are therefore wasteful of valuable resources such as paper, wood, plastic, aluminium and steel, they present the following issues:

- Disposable BBQs kill people every year. They emit large quantities of extremely dangerous carbon monoxide, even when they are cooling. If they are taken into tents they can kill in minutes. Considering we are a holiday town with large numbers of camp sites, this is too great a risk for us to bear as a town.
- Disposable BBQs burn people. If a BBQ is placed on sand, the sand will stay hot enough to cause serious burns long after the BBQ has been removed. Since many people who buy them use them on our town beaches, we do not want this to happen in Bude. Disposable BBQs also cause bin fires every year in Bude.
- Where disposable BBQs are used on grass or in sensitive environments, they cause damage which takes years to recover. In the most extreme case, they cause wild fires. With drier summers expected, this will continue to be a problem everywhere.
- Disposable BBQs have sharp edges and, if left on the beach, or buried in the sand (it does happen) can cause cuts to feet.
- Disposable BBQs are often imported from countries that do not have great human rights records or use wood that is sustainably sourced. Therefore their impact, from transport and environmental destruction, is greater than that posed locally.

We understand that your store may have a good income from these items, but we think there are better ways of doing things, namely using locally sourced charcoal and reusable BBQs. We ask that you consider including these items in your offering for people who want to barbecue this summer.



The Advisory Panel is planning a Bude-wide education campaign that will target campsites, accommodation providers and hotels this summer to inform them of the risks and environmental impacts of disposable BBQs. We hope that this will increase demand for sustainable charcoal and reusable BBQs and that all the town's retailers will be able to benefit from this shift to a kinder, safer, more sustainable way of barbecuing.

Please get in touch if you have any questions.

With kind Regards,

Martin Dorey (on behalf of 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.