



## Q&A with Teresa Carberry, Mayor of Mold



*Mayor of Mold, Teresa Carberry*

### **Teresa, why is Mold Town Council so supportive of Mold Plastic Reduction?**

The Town Council has been keen to reduce the amount of single-use plastics used in Mold for ages. For over ten years we've organised a town-wide litter pick with volunteers, so we know first-hand the problem that littered single-use plastic causes in Mold.

Mold is a Cittaslow town and we share best practise with other towns in the worldwide network, including Llangollen in Denbighshire.

Having seen what Llangollen were doing around plastic reduction, we worked with them and some residents to facilitate a public meeting here in Mold to gauge support.

There was an overwhelming YES and masses of ideas from people about what we can all do. Mold Town Councillors represent the people of Mold and we will be as supportive and engaged as possible in Mold Plastic Reduction.

### **In your opinion, what is the significance of Mold achieving Plastic Free Community status?**

Gaining UK accreditation is excellent - people take the Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) scheme seriously and there are definitely benefits to linking up with national campaigns. When you see the amazing impact all the Plastic Free Community towns are having collectively it gives me hope for the future.

### **How is the Town Council reducing its own plastic footprint?**

In a number of ways, including not using single-use plastic glasses at all our events now and promoting alternatives to our suppliers and exhibitors; installing a Refill station in the Town Hall for people to fill their own bottles with free drinking water - this can also be used at events, like Mold Santa Dash; using rubber balloons rather than plastic at our events; and adopting a single-use plastic reduction policy so that going forward our purchases will be more environmentally sound.

**How would you summarise the impact of Mold Plastic Reduction on the town and its people?**

The community of Mold is amazing and people have really got behind Mold Plastic Reduction - residents, businesses, schools and organisations have all got involved to do their bit.

A couple of years ago Mold Town Council considered installing water fountains, but the Refill scheme, which has really taken off in Mold, is a much simpler and more hygienic way of people getting free drinking water.

**What are the key actions that local people can take to help reduce plastic waste?**

Local people and their circumstances are all different, so I'd say that whatever actions, no matter how small they may seem, collectively make a big difference.

**What's your personal top tip for avoiding single use plastic?**

Use tap water rather than single-use plastic bottled water.