

Letter to Sainsbury's Heyford Hill from Local Residents:

Dear Richard Perry,

We are writing to you, as local residents from Sandford-on-Thames and Littlemore, to ask you take steps to reduce plastic waste in our local area. We want Sainsbury's Heyford Hill store to trial plastic-free shopping including but not limited to fruit and veg aisles in a bid to reduce pollution. We read with interest the article stating that there is a plastic free fruit and veg aisle trial this month in Sainsbury's Kidlington Store. We're pleased that Sainsbury's are making a commitment to work with customers to offer new ways to reduce unnecessary plastic. However, as Kidlington is a good distance from Sandford-on-Thames and Littlemore we ask you with urgency to introduce this trial to Sainsbury's Heyford Hill store as soon as possible.

We would also like to recommend you take this trial beyond plastic-free fruit and veg aisles and look to allow customers to bring containers to buy certain products to reduce plastic waste further. A few Sandford-on-Thames residents drove the extra miles to support the Waitrose "unpacked" scheme in Botley and are pleased to see this extend to further stores including Abingdon. However, as residents local to Sainsbury's Heyford Hill, we would prefer to shop at your store and therefore we urge you to review this "Unpacked" scheme which was tested in Waitrose Botley. Customers are able to use their own containers to buy produce such as cereals, pasta, wine and frozen fruit. More than 200 products have been taken out of their packaging at the Botley Road shop since June to cut waste.

As you will know, plastic waste is a global challenge. Recent film and television documentaries such as 'Blue Planet II' and 'Plastic Ocean' have shone a spotlight on this problem, which poisons our oceans and blights our landscapes. In Britain, it is estimated that over 2.5 billion cups are thrown away every year and wider plastics are known to break down into micro-plastics that enter the ecosystem and cause major damage to our food chain.

We care about our local environment and the global environment and we will shop with the supermarkets who take action to reduce waste. We are hoping that you will act fast at Sainsbury's Heyford Hill to offer plastic free fruit and veg aisles and allow us to bring our own packaging when buying products.

With very best wishes,

Sandford-on-Thames and Littlemore Residents

Natasha White, Alex White, Alice Wood, Gemma Cassidy, James Sullivan