

I'm Andrew Lawson; for those of you who don't recognise my name I'm current President of the Ilminster Lions, longstanding member of the Ilminster forum, and one of the founders and organisers of Party on the Park.

I write to you because each of you has influence or is involved in an event in and around Ilminster. I was recently at a meeting when a question was raised about whether the Lions would be using recyclable cups for mulled wine at this years Victorian Evening, as previously there had been a comment made about the amount of plastic waste there was after the previous years event.

This year the Lions **will** be using paper cups, and **will** be asking everyone to try and recycle their cups...

But, this is the first step, at the end of the day resources are still used to produce the paper cups, and the cups are still likely to go into landfill... so, there has to be a better solution.

I was directed to speak with the recently formed Green Ilminster group, where I spoke with Sarah Hunt. Sarah suggested that maybe an alternative was to utilise reusable tin/steel cups, and pointed me to a company who produce cups that can have a logo etched onto them. (<https://www.enviro-cup.co.uk/enviro-cup/>)

I'll get to the point; If we could all agree to contribute to an initial order of these cups, with a suitable "Ilminster" design, would we be willing to accept these cups as an alternative to using plastic cups at all of the towns events? Can we make Ilminster the first town to eliminate the plastic cup?

The dreamer in me sees a number of possibilities, wouldn't it be great if:

- We could get the clubs & pubs to agree to a small discount if punters turn up with their own cup, more to the point these venues could serve drinks in these cups without worrying about punters smashing them, steel cups have got to be better than plastic ones?
- We could offer small perks, like the Lions to offer a bit more mulled wine to those who turn up with a cup.
- We'd see less litter after events like Victorian Evening, Carnival, IMEX, Party on the Park because people would take their cups home.
- We should sell these cup at all of our events, at bars, even stalls at things like IMEX & Party on the Park... there should be no single outlet for them, they should be everywhere!
- We may even be able to make a small profit from the sale of the cups? In the long term perhaps we offer an exclusive design to commemorate a special event.

The cups come in 1 pint and 1/2 pint sizes, and have a selection of accessories that make them easier to carry.

ENVIRO-CUP HOLDER RANGE



Holder with Carabiner



Adjustable over the Shoulder or Around the Neck



Holder with Belt/Bag Attachment

At the moment all of this is pie in the sky. I've approached the company for a price list, and await a response.

I'm happy to accept that projects like this may have been attempted in the past and as such recognise that this may not be everyone's cup of tea, that's fine, I won't hold it against you. I also appreciate that this isn't a fully formed idea, but everything starts somewhere. Perhaps this becomes a community project; but this is more likely to float if we get everyone to sign up. We would need to promote the idea, yes, between us we should have that covered, I think it's unfair for any single group to own the product, although that may need to be the case.

Let me know your thoughts, does your organisation buy into this notion?

My contact list is limited so please feel free to share this mail with any other community group that you feel may be interested in this idea (sports clubs, community group leaders, etc)

Many thanks,

Andrew Lawson