

CSR consultancy aims to stub out cigarette litter

One of the UK's biggest litter problems comes from discarded cigarettes, but a new product from a Bath-based social responsibility consultancy is set to offer an effective solution.

ButtsOut (pictured right) – a, quirkily designed, fire-resistant little box that it's hoped will become a must-have for all smokers – has been launched in the UK by CSR Solutions.

CSR principal Charles Hamshaw-Thomas explained: "We want to change what smokers do with their litter. We believe responsibility is key and the ButtsOut is integral to our approach."

Cigarette litter is an increasing problem in the UK and across the world, with Keep Britain Tidy



estimating that 120 tonnes of smoking-related litter are dropped on Britain's streets every day – a figure that has increased dramatically since the smoking ban came into force last year.

Mr Hamshaw-Thomas believes the problem can be solved with an integrated approach – raising awareness of the problem and offering positive easy-to-use alternatives.



The ButtsOut experience – over 500 campaigns in 16 different countries with governments, environmental groups and other organisations – has shown that smokers will respond and take responsibility for their litter.

He said: "They need to be made aware and have the means of disposal. Enforcement of littering fines can then legitimately follow."

Employees urged to get money wise

The Chartered Institute is calling on members to take action to get money wise by signing up to a personal finance course. "We will have Money" the slogan of the first year to be supported by a free year campaign aimed at encouraging the public to be more financially capable.

The year-long course is endorsed by the Association of Chartered Accountants (ACA) and covers a range of topics including budgeting, borrowing, saving and investments, buying property, and insurance.

Created in collaboration with the government, the course benefits the individual, but the level of financial knowledge and practical skills learnt will be useful from an employment point of view too.

For more information call 0800 200 0000 or visit www.charteredinstitute.org.uk

"Double crunch" warning

A call of new "green" regulations mean the property sector should brace itself for a year of "double crunch", according to a leading expert.

Dr Roger Hirst, head of research at international property consultants, King's Cross, warned an outbreak of office developers and occupiers to brace for the effects of the global "credit crunch" would be compounded by the introduction of stringent new government environmental standards.

In addition to developers using the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method, which measures a building's environmental impact, Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), which gives buildings an energy efficiency rating, come into force in April for large buildings, and for all buildings by October.

Dr Hirst was speaking at a "green office" seminar held at Bristol City Centre Centre, organised by the Bristol office of King's Cross. "For the property



Dr Roger Hirst

sector this is the year of the double crunch, with the 'credit crunch' set to be followed by a 'green crunch', said Dr Hirst.

"We, in the property industry, need to separate the profit from the hype when it comes to green issues, and clearly we are not thinking about how we can merge environmental sustainability with economic sustainability."

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