

'Staff know selling cigarettes to children means the sack'



Butt in

General manager Nigel Dorey says cleaning up the extra cigarette butts discarded in the street since the ban on smoking in enclosed public spaces is putting a strain on States Works resources. Smokers are urged to carry a personal ashtray. (Picture by Steve Sarre, 0846092)

RETAILERS are helping the States tackle cigarette butt litter.

It follows a dramatic increase in the problem following the introduction in July 2006 of the ban on smoking in enclosed public spaces.

Shops are now selling personal ashtrays for less than £1 to enable smokers to safely and cleanly dispose of their cigarette butts.

The Public Services Department is supporting their introduction and wants islanders to remember that cigarette butts are litter.

States Works general manager Nigel Dorey said the amount of it had quadrupled since July 2006.

'The additional littering unavoidably puts pressure on our resources and detracts from our cleansing work in other areas.'

'Rural zones suffer particularly as we have to spend more time clean-

ing the streets in built-up areas.

'Islanders must understand that discarding a cigarette butt is just the same as throwing away a wrapper, a piece of chewing gum or any other rubbish.'

'These personal ashtrays are a perfect solution because they are compact and enable the safe and clean disposal of butts.'

■ The ButtsOut ashtrays are available at Contree Mansell Stores, Candie Cache, the Candy Shop on the Bridge, the Chris Douglas Pro Shop at L'Anresse golf course, the Corkscrew in The Arcade, Creasey's, Doyle Motors, Forest Road Garage, Forest Stores, La Baguette, Thompson Motors, Tozers, Venture Garage and Trinity News.

Other shops should also be stocking the product soon.

Retailers stricter than ever, claims campaigner against display ban

by Anna Brehaut

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A LOCAL retailer has defended his trade after the results of a recent youth smoking survey were released.

The Guernsey Adolescent Smokefree Project's survey showed the percentage of children buying cigarettes from shops had almost trebled in the past two years - from 12% in 2007 to 35% this year.

But proprietor of two Town shops Phillip Morgan said local retailers continue to work hard to prevent under-age smoking and were being blamed unfairly.

'All retailers are aware of the law and are more strict than ever in refusing to sell tobacco to under-18s, which makes me question the accuracy of this survey,' he said.

'To say that under-age tobacco sales from local shops are up by almost one third in the last two years just doesn't ring true at all.'

The detailed results of the survey are yet to be made public.

Mr Morgan, who runs the Paper Box and the Candy Shop, said he looked forward to reading them.

'From our point of view, it's proxy purchasing that is the

real problem,' he said.

'Perhaps Gasp has included young people who have received cigarettes bought legally and then passed on to them by an older person while they've waited outside the shop.'

'That would make more sense.'

He said his staff were regularly reminded of the law on tobacco sales. 'They know that anyone selling to an under-age customer would be instantly dismissed,' said Mr Morgan.

'This is a very serious issue for us and we support the efforts of Gasp and the Health and Social Services Department in the fight against under-age smoking.'

Health ran a consultation in April-May on proposals that would ban the display of tobacco products at the point of sale. It would ban cigarette vending machines or limit their use to establishments that could be accessed by over-18s only.

The outcome of that consultation has yet to be released.

Mr Morgan said now was the wrong time to have completed

the survey because the consultation process was not yet complete.

'I didn't know about this survey and I wouldn't be surprised if these results have been timed so as to prepare us for the outcome of the consultation,' he said.

Mr Morgan said a display ban would be an additional burden. 'Don't forget that tobacco retailers are already facing a raft of restrictions as part of Guernsey's new tobacco strategy.'

In March 2008, the States voted on the Guernsey Tobacco Strategy 2009, which ruled out a ban on the display of tobacco.

In June, Mr Morgan presented a petition against a possible ban on the display of tobacco in Bailiwick shops to Health minister Hunter Adam. More than 1,200 islanders signed it.

'There's growing evidence that display bans are not effective in reducing under-age smoking.'

'However, they do impose considerable costs on retailers, which is the last thing we need at the moment.'

'That can't be the right way to tackle youth smoking.'

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Recycling site hours reduced

THE temporary waste-recycling site at Longue Hougue will stay open seven days a week through the winter but with reduced hours at weekends.

The site will remain open from 7.30am-4pm Monday to Friday but weekend availability from Saturday until the end of March will be 8am until noon.

Almost 80,000 vehicles have visited the site since it opened in January and deputy Public Services minister Scott Ogier said it had been a great success. 'Numbers of vehicles entering the site

to drop off recyclable items continue to rise and figures indicate that almost half of the people visiting Longue Hougue are looking for things to take away,' he said.

'People can pick up different items ranging from bicycles to flower pots and reusing is the best way to recycle.' He said items not scavenged, such as damaged tools and computers, were stripped down and as much as possible recycled as possible. Many of the items taken to the site would have previously ended up in landfill.