

Butts are no joke...

New initiatives introduced to rid our streets of unwelcome cigarette butts

Pocket-sized ButtsOut personal ashtrays are a quirkily designed fire-resistant box that will extinguish and hold butts, with no smell, mess or fuss. They can be bought from your local newsagent for only 99p... a lot less than the £50 fine incurred if you are caught dropping cigarette butts red-handed.

The Council is welcoming the introduction of ButtsOut into local shops, as part of its war against litter. Cigarette butts can take 15 years to break down, meanwhile affecting water quality and blocking drains. And their presence only attracts yet more litter.

Bath & North East Somerset Cleansing Enforcement officers can issue an on-the-spot fine of up to £50 to people who drop litter in a public place, including cigarette butts.

"A fine sounds like we're taking a hard line, but this could be just the threat required to make smokers think before dropping their cigarette ends wherever they happen to be standing," says the Council's Environmental Improvement Manager Trevor Cummings.

An estimated 122 tonnes of cigarette butts and other smokers' litter is dropped around the UK every single day. Keep Britain Tidy says that litter levels on our streets have doubled since the smoking ban forced smokers outdoors.

Local resident and Principal of CSR Solutions Charles Hamshaw-Thomas, who first came across the ButtsOut personal ashtray in Australia and has been instrumental in its British launch, says: "I think it's a must-have smokers' accessory. ButtsOut is a simple solution for smokers forced outside by the smoking ban."

The Council recently installed four new Smartbins in litter hotspots in Bath city centre, currently in Avon Street. Weatherproof and fire-resistant, they can be clamped around posts and bollards or attached to flat walls.

Supported last year by a £1.9m budget, the Council's Neighbourhood teams use high-tech equipment including vacuums for cigarette ends and powerful road sweeping machines.



ButtsOut

The ButtsOut is the ideal solution to disposing of cigarette butts without littering the streets

ButtsOut personal ashtrays are available from Bath retailers



Want to quit?



The NHS can support you to stop smoking

through your local pharmacy, GP practice and many other convenient locations in your community.

You are up to four times more likely to succeed through NHS support than going it alone.

NHS Bath & North East Somerset runs a free local stop smoking service that offers help, advice and support to smokers who want to quit.

Contact NHS Bath & North East Somerset on **01225 831852** or email **public.health@banes-pct.nhs.uk**

Visit the 'Support to Stop Smoking' pages on the Council's website. Also visit **smokefree.nhs.uk**



High-tech measures are being put in place to keep our streets clean

NHS Smoking Helpline 01225 831852