



20th April 2010

DOWN WITH DISPOSABLES!

Over 2.5 million disposable nappies used in the New Forest each year are discarded but this massive waste could be reduced thanks to the launch of the New Forest Nappy Network.

The scheme aims to provide advice and support to new parents who are considering the use of real nappies. Choosing the more environmentally-friendly cloth nappies can save approximately £500 over the babyhood of their child, the network says.

With New Forest babies using an average 30 disposable nappies a week, local landfill sites and incinerators presently have to handle this waste, taking up to 4% of total landfill space. These increase methane output from landfill sites, a significant source of greenhouse gases, and the end waste of disposable nappies costs UK taxpayers around £25m annually.

Rose Glendinning, from the New Forest Nappy Network says: "If we laid all the disposable nappies used in the area next to each other, we could completely cover the entire geographical area looked after by the New Forest National Park Authority! It is estimated disposable nappies take up to 500 years to degrade so today's babies will be grandparents 12 times over by the time their nappies disappear."

"It takes up to two large trees to make enough pulp for a year's supply of disposable nappies for just one baby. In an environmentally conscious area such as the New Forest, we need to consider how to best reduce our waste, and the Nappy Network gives us a great opportunity to make a difference to the planet and our babies' future lives."

The New Forest Nappy Network will help parents and parents-to-be by providing advice on the best real nappy options and provide information on the health benefits. They will also offer free trial packs for parents to discover how easy real nappies are to use, and provide a forum for parents to discuss the issues.

Nappy Fest for the Forest!

To mark the launch of the scheme and the start of Real Nappy Week (from Monday 26th April – 2nd May 2010) in Dorset and West Hampshire, the New Forest Nappy Network will be holding several events to help raise awareness of the family and environmental benefits of using Real Nappies.

On Friday 30th April, Real Nappy campaigners will be hanging a washing line of nappies across the entrance of Marks and Spencer at Castlepoint Shopping Centre in Bournemouth to highlight the environmental benefits of real nappies.

The New Forest Nappy Network will also be attending the 'The New Forest Greener Living Show' at Brockenhurst College on Sunday 25th April between 9.30am and 4.30pm.

Rose Glendinning added: "If we took all the nappies used by New Forest babies in a year and laid them end to end, we could make a line that goes between Lymington and Yarmouth over 200 times! Our visual display represents the waste from just one baby in a week which goes to landfill or incineration, when there is a cost effective, healthy, accessible and natural alternative on our doorsteps."

For more information about how you can get involved with the New Forest Nappy Network and Real Nappy Week, call Rose Glendinning on 0800 781 3615 or visit www.nappynetwork.net.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

The New Forest Nappy Network is a not-for-profit organisation providing parents with advice and support on the use of real nappies as opposed to disposables.

There are around 1,600 babies born in the New Forest each year. If a baby uses an average of 30 disposable nappies a week that equates to a New Forest figure of 2.5 million disposables used every year.

A disposable nappy is around 1,520 sq cm. That means 2.5 million disposables would completely cover the 55,000 hectares that make up the New Forest area.

The distance between Lymington and Yarmouth is 4.6 miles. Lengthwise, 2.5 million disposables (at 47.5 cm across) would extend to 920 miles.

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