Dear Retailers, April 2026

Help Protect Dorset's Heathlands - Please Stop Selling Single-Use BBQs

We are asking you to remove single-use barbecues from sale to help protect Dorset's internationally important heathlands and reduce avoidable wildfires.

Single-use BBQs are a known and preventable cause of heathland fires. In 2025, Dorset Fire and Rescue Service attended 83 heath fires, burning 159 hectares - a 48% increase on 2024. The largest incident destroyed 71 hectares at Holt Heath, near Wimborne Minster. So far in 2026, 14 heath fires have already been recorded, most of which could have been avoided.

By choosing not to sell single-use BBQs, you can:

- Remove one of the key avoidable causes of wildfire
- Demonstrate clear environmental responsibility
- Join a growing number of Dorset retailers already taking this step

Your decision would make a real and measurable difference in protecting Dorset's landscapes for future generations.

What we are asking you to do

Please let us know:

- whether you currently sell single-use BBQs, and if you do
- whether you will commit to removing them from sale

If you have already stopped selling them, thank you - please tell us so we can update our records.

Supporting you

We understand customers may ask why these products are no longer available. We can provide clear in-store posters explaining the reasons behind your decision and the benefits for Dorset's environment.

Why this matters?

Dorset's heaths are internationally significant habitats, supporting rare birds, reptiles, plants and invertebrates. Wildfires destroy wildlife and habitats, put public safety at risk and require substantial emergency service resources.

Despite safety warnings, single-use BBQs are frequently used in sensitive areas and can reignite even after disposal, causing catastrophic fires. They are also:

- almost impossible to recycle
- often use charcoal from unsustainable sources
- dangerous as they pose a burn risk if discarded on beaches or buried in sand

Thank you for helping to protect Dorset's heathlands. Please get in touch to confirm your position and to request in-store posters if helpful.

Kind Regards,

Emma Teasdale
Litter Free Dorset Co-ordinator
Tel: +44 (0)1305 224738
Email: litterfreedorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Web: www.litterfreedorset.co.uk

Nick Ireland
Leader, Dorset Council