

I attended a Community Recycling meeting on Monday 4 December at Tinkers Lane Depot, in Windsor. They updated us on progress of the various projects they are working on (such as the relaunched textile collections) and gave an overview of the waste management service and the issues they have. One of the key aims for 2017/18 is to reduce the amount of rubbish we throw away as a borough so as always they are looking for our feedback and ideas on current and future projects. Any problems, contact me on [Clerk@HortonParishCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@HortonParishCouncil.gov.uk)

**School food waste** - there are problems but RBWM are trying to overcome the problems to enable them to collect school lunch waste

**Food waste** - you can wrap the food in **any** plastic bag before putting it in the outdoor food caddy. Green food waste bags are available from libraries - these are much stronger than the previous ones and should not leak or collapse



**Mistakes:** just over 50% of our black bin waste could have been recycled (12.3% could have gone into the blue bin, 30% is food waste and 8% belongs in a green bin) AND 14% of items put into the blue bins shouldn't be there! Please NO nappies. Polystyrene, textiles or plastic bags or film (most supermarkets will take plastic bags, even from loo rolls, magazines in the post and bags of apples etc)

oops!

**Some interesting facts and statistics:**

RBWM ...

- empty 8 million bins every year
- collect 76000 tonnes of waste including 17000 tonnes of dry (blue bin) recycling
- collect 2000 tonnes of food each month (it should be more but some people seem to be 'too posh to slop' - I hope that's not us

Most of us saw on BBC news (or Facebook) the clip of the bin crew throwing a wheelie bin onto the truck - he, and his colleagues, were all interviewed by Veolia, and all chose to resign.

**Ideas** - they will be trialling stickers on our bins next year to remind us what should go in what bin.

**How do we do?** RBWM is in the bottom quarter of the nation's boroughs for producing general rubbish and recycling.



We do recycle 280kg per house per year but we put 491.2 kg per house per year) 'ordinary' waste in our black bins (nearly double that of South Oxford!)

**Textile recycling** started With a van driving around collecting people's bag, but now the waste lorries have a 'cage' under where they can put the textile bags. They should always replace with pink bag for you to use - if they don't, let me know and I'll get one sorted.



**Paint** - Second hand paint is really expensive to dispose of - An alternative is to check it for type (water based or 'solvent' based etc) and it can then be given away to charities / people / groups who can use it. Stafferton way are looking to buy a paint tester to allow them to do this.



**Alternatives** - Lush will accept all plastic screw lids and they turn them into black pots for their products - and the black pots can then be recycled again in their stores!

**Contaminants** - "No Thanks" for a reason - ie glitter and silvered card or paper - the reason why these items cant be recycled is because the likes of Amazon don't want glitter in the recycled card they use for their boxes



**Van permits and proof of residency** are now required for RBWM waste sites- this is to stop commercial contractors dumping for free - there are different sites for them which they should pay to use.



**More information:** Contact [kathryn.best@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:kathryn.best@rbwm.gov.uk) if you want more information or to attend the next community recycling meeting. She is organising a show round at Agrivert (in Benson in Wallingford) to see how food and green waste is recycled (26<sup>th</sup> Jan) - contact her for a place