



Bin Swap is about community spirit

Vanessa Dixon from Crowhill in Ashton is championing Bin Swap. Her family of 4 adults started on Bin Swap in January this year when the scheme was rolled out to a third of households in Tameside.

Vanessa said: 'Although I've always been a keen recycler Bin Swap really made me think. It's surprised me how much more can be recycled than I had realised. Before the start of Bin Swap it was easy just to put mixed packaging in the big black bin. Now I have to stop and think and make sure I separate cardboard from plastic. And that's fine, as we all need a little nudge in the right direction.'

When it comes to collection time my green bin is never full. And if the supermarkets used less packaging or more packaging that could be recycled I think it would be nearly empty. On the odd occasion the green bin is nearly full I give it a good poke with a stick to crush it down!

There are lots of good reasons why we should recycle every little bit we can. Spending millions of pounds to put rubbish into holes in the ground makes no sense to me. I'd much prefer that money was spent on helping the frail or disabled, or giving children fun things to do in their local community. That's what Bin Swap is about for me, doing the right thing for the community, which we're all part of.

I hear some people are saying that Bin Swap will mean more littering. Well it shouldn't. Everyone has a choice to make about whether to put litter in a bin or not. That's got nothing to do with recycling, that's just about being a responsible citizen.

When Bin Swap started in my neighbourhood a few residents were a bit concerned or weren't sure what they needed to do. The information pack from the Council helped explain it all to them, and there's a good community spirit in my area so we helped each other out. In the nine months it's been running there are no major problems that I can see.

I'm happy to speak up for Bin Swap. I think it's about having the right priorities. I'd much rather my Council Tax was spent on services for the elderly and families rather than putting rubbish that should be recycled into holes in the ground. The money saved can be used to help people now, and we're also saving the environment for the future years.'