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CHAIR'S WEEKLY COLUMN – 16 DECEMBER 2020

This column's rubbish! Sorry, I couldn't resist but this week I want to talk about our rubbish collections, more specifically the recently launched 'Recycle More' project from Somerset Waste Partnership.

Somerset used to be the top county in the UK for recycling but has recently fallen behind the majority of counties. It was awkward being able to recycle much of our household rubbish but not key items such as yogurt pots and the ubiquitous plastic food trays that supermarkets seem obsessed with packing every edible item in.

Since the launch of 'Recycle More' 6 weeks ago, Mendip has recycled 295 extra tons of rubbish, including 41 tons of plastic and 141 tons of food waste. Figures aren't broken down to town level but feedback from the collections teams is that Shepton is definitely playing its fair share. Overtime, we'll almost all get better at this too; we'll learn what can and can't be recycled, what goes in what container and avoid 'wishcycling' – contaminating waste streams by putting the wrong materials in with each other. All details can be found at somersetwaste.gov.uk – where you can also download a collection calendar for your phone.

It goes to show that when lots of us make small changes to our everyday behaviours it can have a dramatic effect, in this case on our environment. Over Christmas, when the amount of household waste increases significantly, it will become more critical than ever to make sure we use the weekly recycling pick-ups to prevent overflowing bins. Remember to check online for your latest collection day and remind your neighbours!

Matt Harrison, Chairperson

Shepton Mallet Town Council

NOTES TO EDITORS

Shepton Mallet Town Council, Town Clerk – Ms Charlotte Starkie
Shepton Mallet Town Council Chairman – Councillor Matthew Harrison