

## Waste and Recycling Guidance Followed our AGM

*And news from the meeting itself on 23rd February 2019*

With over 70 members present, despite the lure of one of the warmest and sunniest February days on record, the Society's AGM began with our Chairman, Andrew Marston, recapping the many highlights of the year.

These included our contribution, alongside others, to the battle for extended free parking, refurbishment of the War Memorial and support for the Neighbourhood Plan as well as the 50th Anniversary Celebration for the Conservation Area.

He also thanked the Trustee Directors, committee members and all of our volunteers for their contributions to another successful year.

He closed by thanking Bill Bohanna, who was stepping down as a Trustee Director, for his many achievements since taking up the role in 2009 and especially during his three years as Chairman.

After our Treasurer, David Watson, presented the last year's accounts, the four officers of the Society and a number of Trustee Directors were re-elected and our Independent Examiner was re-appointed.

A refreshment break followed the formal business, with a variety of delicious cakes washed down with tea and coffee. Following this, the audience regathered for a most interesting presentation about waste and recycling in the borough from our guest speaker, Solihull's Head of Waste and Recycling, Kalen Wood.

After outlining the scope of the service, including the collection of almost 100,000 tonnes of waste a year from around 94,000 properties, she talked about recycling, which currently represents 41% of the waste collected. This figure is split into 20% for composting and 21% sent for re-use.

A most helpful summary of what should and should not be put in the green and brown bins and black recycling boxes proved extremely informative and occasionally surprising. Some things many thought could not be recycled can and vice versa.

Glass of all colours and bottles with non-removable tops can be put in the black boxes. However, broken glass should be safely wrapped and put in regular waste because of the danger to collection crews.



Kalen Wood

Tetrapaks, foil (clean), metal biscuit tins and greeting cards without glitter are fine in the brown bin but it is “no, thanks” to plastic toys, wallpaper and shredded paper. Apparently, the latter can easily tangle itself up in the sorting machines!

Kalen then talked through what happens to the materials in their recycling journey, starting with their sorting and separation at the MRF (Materials Recycling Facility) in Birmingham. After that, glass, for instance, moves on to a specialist plant in West Yorkshire to be made into new glass products and even road aggregates!

If you missed Kalen's presentation, we encourage you to take a look now and see if you can improve your recycling. You can find a copy now on the Society's website at [\[link here\]](#).