

## CO-OP LAUNCHES SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING SCHEME

**One** of the most frustrating aspects of our blue bin recycling is that it does not enable recycling of all that thin, soft stuff that gets wrapped round fresh food, or things like crisp packets, lids from ready meals and bread bags. Now you can avoid putting all that into landfill or incineration, thanks to a new scheme operating from Lincolnshire Co-op stores, including those in Welton and Dunholme, under the slogan of **‘Clean it. Scrunch it. Coop it.’**

It doesn't matter what brand or retailer the plastic comes from, the only criterion for acceptable items is that the film is clean and ‘scrunchy’. It is very important that the plastic is clean, as otherwise it will contaminate the whole bin. Bins will be clearly visible at the stores.

While local councils offer recycling for hard plastics such as yoghurt pots or milk bottles, soft plastics are not collected, so this scheme gives shoppers an easy way to play their part.

Matthew Wilkinson, Store Development Manager at Lincolnshire Co-op, said:

*“Looking after our environment and supporting the local community is at the heart of Lincolnshire Co-op, so we’re proud to offer this scheme.*”

*“The items people are putting in our bins might have previously gone to landfill, but instead they’re being recycled. Because of the scheme’s popularity, we’re in the process of expanding it even further.”*

The scheme is one of a number now available from various retailers to recycle materials you can't put in the blue bin. Most of us probably know we can recycle batteries in a number of grocery stores, including Tesco and Aldi. There is also a national scheme to recycle pharmaceutical blister packs through Superdrug stores but I have not been able to find any local outlets. Locally, the Co-op says that space constraints in the pharmacy currently prevent them offering the scheme, although they do offer bins for unused medication.



**Graham Nicholls**