# secret repurposing hub at Sutton Coldfield boosts Birmingham recycling amid strike challenges



At the Sutton Coldfield recycling centre in Birmingham, a little-known feature is providing residents with an opportunity to repurpose items intended for disposal. This "secret compartment," distinct from the main waste facilities, serves as a storage unit where items deemed too good for the skip can be placed for resale.

The facility operates in conjunction with the ReUsers charity store, which has gained recognition for rehoming discarded items. Shoppers and donors visiting the recycling centre are encouraged to contribute their unwanted yet usable belongings. A recent visitor, who dropped off tins of chalk paint, was directed by staff to the double-fronted unit, leading to the discovery of an eclectic assortment of potential treasures.

Inside this reusing shed were various items, including a golf bag complete with clubs, lamps, a toaster, household fans, furniture, plant pots, and bicycle wheels. With Birmingham aiming to improve its previously low recycling rates, such initiatives play a crucial role amid ongoing challenges.

The city's recycling efforts have faced setbacks, particularly due to the impacts of a substantial workers' strike that halted bin collections across the area. This industrial action arises from disagreements over job roles and pay within the waste collection service. Despite the severe disruption, many residents continue to separate their recyclables diligently and bring them to one of Birmingham's five tips.

During this period, the local government has been grappling with budgetary constraints, leading to significant tax increases. Talks between the council and the Unite union, which represents the striking workers, were scheduled for this week. However, expectations for a swift resolution seemed dim following reports of potential pay cuts for bin wagon drivers, adding to the complexities of the ongoing negotiations.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/inside-hidden-shop-next-tip-22815400> - This article provides an in-depth look at the ReUsers store in Sutton Coldfield, highlighting its role in rescuing items from landfill and offering them for resale, aligning with the description of the 'secret compartment' for repurposing items intended for disposal.
2. <https://www.thereusers.uk/> - The official website of The ReUsers charity store, detailing its operations, including the collection and resale of items deemed too good for disposal, supporting the claim about the facility's collaboration with the ReUsers charity store.
3. <https://www.birmingham.veolia.co.uk/reuse-shop> - This page discusses the Reuse Shop at Veolia's Tyseley site, emphasizing the partnership with Community Reuse to provide a space for residents to donate items for reuse, similar to the 'secret compartment' concept.
4. <https://www.birmingham.veolia.co.uk/about/news/re-use-shop-now-open-sutton-coldfield> - An announcement about the opening of the ReUsers shop in Sutton Coldfield, managed by the Jericho Foundation, which accepts and resells items that would otherwise be disposed of, corroborating the article's mention of the facility's collaboration with the ReUsers charity store.
5. <https://www.birminghamnewsroom.com/reusers-have-a-whale-of-a-time-in-sutton-coldfield/> - This article highlights the success of the ReUsers project in diverting items from landfill and providing affordable goods to the community, supporting the claim about the facility's role in rehoming discarded items.
6. <https://www.spitfireservices.org.uk/upcycle/> - Upcycle Birmingham's initiative to collect and refurbish unwanted furniture and household items for resale, similar to the ReUsers' mission of repurposing items intended for disposal.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMiowFBVV95cUxQV21vOHpvbHBocXJJRnpqZHVrcDF4X1MweGlOeXlNOHlZX1MwZ0NLb1kyek5DS1VmQVVlM3prZnVvM0xEVzU3QUJ5eExJYXhZVS1ld3ktcENZM0lNYW1SdFNwRjdQc0U3UlBLbExmSHB6SDZBbXFZY1drUE11aTRETEphb3IwSFVkOW1jZURMakJHUUZJRVhtNGx2bHRfZ2JmLWZz0gGoAUFVX3lxTE40dTAzZFRVa2NRRzlDM2JOMWw2TFREOEMtRjRJSDhsZXJPV2Y1QUpGZ3dDQktBYU9UZGdtUWFLQ2psVE1rX1k3X1VsOGlEWElCd09aQlB4WkdwMjFrSG5hMnhueGFhWUxpMEd3cG9zNkUwc05KWHB2N2MzdGtadEJzUlRrUU1BSWFablhHNVNTODBOSk5zUU80SllDd24zSEFsVFJhejU4ZA?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data