

UKPAC Recycling Group – Update **Meeting 7th November**

Two years ago clubs in SI Cheshire, North Wales and Wirral were invited to participate in a Recycling Project which involved collecting plastic bottle tops that could be made into garden furniture. Clubs were asked to 'get involved' as it didn't cost any money and all members could participate.

The project resulted in an amazing response from across the region and with the help and support of several members mountains of bottle tops were transported from regional meetings to a central storage unit.

Problems and delays were encountered during the Corona Virus and the search for a company that produced garden furniture out of recycled bottle tops plus other recycled plastics finally ended when we located a company, Plastecowood based in North Wales. The company supply garden/outside furniture planters, fencing and decking etc for a wide range of commercial and private clients. The range of high endurance, long-life products produced is called 'Smartawood' and every ton made saves 700kg of carbon from landfill. The product is:

- an ecological alternative to wood
- rot free and untreated by chemicals
- heavy-duty and sustainable (the company provide a 10 year guarantee)

Clubs within the region have agreed to continue to collect plastic tops and some members are also collecting from local businesses including hairdressers. We will continue to work with the company and to raise awareness of our recycling project focusing on the benefits to the environment via club and regional social media platforms - facebook, youtube, twitter, instagram etc.



Joint Regional PA Officers Sian and Esther with Darren Northcott, Director of Plastecowood



Conveyor belt in the production process