

Plastic plea to shoppers

by **TOM WEATHERILL**

SHOPPERS are being urged to take their plastic containers back to the supermarket to campaign for more recycling.

Colchester Friends of the Earth has been campaigning at the Hythe Tesco store in Colchester, calling for recycling facilities for plastic containers and juice cartons – the remaining waste left over in the black sacks after Colchester kerbside recycling.

The group is calling on Shoppers to take bags full of washed plastic containers and cartons to the supermarket, give them back to the Manager for recycling and ask for recycling containers to be provided.

It also wants Tesco and other supermarkets to lobby the Government for a proposed plastic bag tax to cut the use of throwaway plastic bags and promote bags for life and cloth bags.

Paula Whitney, co-ordinator for Colchester Friends of the Earth, said: "Huge profits are made from packaging – a lot of which is unnecessary – wasting energy and valuable oil-



● **Making their point – Paula Whitney and Adam Smith with Bek Dale and her children Nik, Ben and Katy.** Picture: ROB SAMBROOK (50414-1)

based plastics; contributing to climate change, waste disposal costs and pollution."

The group's action follows the launch of a campaign by the National Federation of Women's Institutes, which is demanding a reduction of unnecessary

and excessive food packaging.

NFWI chairman Fay Mansell said: "WI members want supermarkets to reduce unnecessary packaging and put the environment first."

"I urge the public to join our campaign and return

unnecessary and excessive packaging to supermarkets. Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing our world today.

"Supermarkets must take action now to reduce the packaging which, as landfill waste, releases greenhouse gases."