



# **Homemakers Community Recycling**

**Annual Report  
2015-16**

### Trustees

Simon Bilsborough (Chairman)

Nick Miller (Vice Chairman)

Martin Hickman (Treasurer)

Graham Harris

Roger Harris

Marilyn Price

Rev Christopher Walters

Nick Tatam

### Senior Management Team

Shaun Needle – Project Manager

Rob Davies – Assistant Project Manager / Company Secretary

### Primary Objectives Of Homemakers Community Recycling (HCR)

HCR is a registered educational charity (No 1097505) whose primary objectives are:

- a) To help reduce waste in the county of Monmouthshire through reuse and recycling of household goods.
- b) To raise awareness, educate and promote the need for recycling, reuse and waste reduction within the county of Monmouthshire
- c) To give people of all backgrounds an opportunity to gain valuable work experience through voluntary work

- d) To provide affordable furniture to those people in need
- e) To play a role in a sustainable community.

The main operational activities of HCR are:-

To provide a community furniture and household goods recycling / reuse facility for the county of Monmouthshire. This comprises the following areas of work:-

- a) A working environment for volunteers from disadvantaged backgrounds to gain work experience in areas such as driving, delivery and collection of furniture, logistics, administration, sales, workshop skills, customer care, recycling and online sales.
- b) A showroom facility for residents of Monmouthshire, and surrounding counties, to buy affordable furniture.
- c) A house clearance service that maximizes reuse and recycling rates, entailing the segregation of waste which is then transferred to the Recycling Department.
- d) A collection service for bulky household furniture as part of a 5 year contract awarded to HCR by Monmouthshire County Council in April 2015.
- e) An online sales facility through EBay, Facebook and Amazon to ensure maximum reuse and market-based rates of return for valuable items, to help sustain the charity.
- f) A Recycling Department to ensure maximum recycling and recovery from furniture that is not in a reusable state.
- g) HCR operates as an educational charity and works closely with local schools and community groups to raise awareness of waste reduction.

#### Key Achievements in 2014-15

- Planning permission was granted in April 2015 for the development of HCR's recycling yard in Merthyr Road, to include portable and fixed buildings.
- Several grants have allowed Homemakers to further develop the recycling yard. In this period we have installed an office, storage areas, workshops, a canteen, and toilets, including provision for disabled volunteers.

- Our educational area is now in full use and we have seen over the year a number of schools visit. The visiting groups have been the Eco Committees of the schools. The feedback from teachers has been very positive, and it is hoped that visits from the Eco committees of each of the schools will be occur annually. .
- 2, 677 bulk collections were carried out, compared with 2,668 the previous year.
- A new HCR website has gone live which is compatible with today's technology. The site was launched with publicity in the Abergavenny Chronicle supported by local businesses. The site is far more informative and up to date in terms of the way we work.
- 16 families were supported through the hardship fund – we have now received funding from the Welsh Church Act Fund and the Sobell Foundation to support more people in crisis situations.
- HCR worked with a record 101 volunteers within the year. This can be largely attributed to the grant received from Environment Wales for the position of Recycling / Volunteer Manager.
- HCR diverted 332 tonnes of waste from landfill within the year - a record for the charity.
- 24 Schools and community groups were visited, or visited HCR in the year to help raise awareness of recycling and reuse.
- 2,782 Items were reused by the general public in the year, an increase of 76 from the previous year.
- Homemakers have created a work placement for a volunteer to have a six month trial of employment under a Jobs Growth Wales scheme. Sarah Williams has taken over the Online Sales department under this scheme.
- Homemakers now with the added space have started upcycling furniture for reuse, this has resulted in an increase in tonnage reused increasing 52 tonnes last year to 56 tonnes this year.
- Saturday opening of the showroom facility has now become permanent and very popular. Rhys Humphries has managed this development well along with a group of regular volunteers. Although sales can be low some days, drop offs are rising. Records show that 75 drop offs were taken in March 2016 as opposed to 6 in April 2015. Saturdays have also proved very useful

as people are regularly contacting Homemakers at this time for collections and house clearances.

- Following 3 years funding from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to support a driver, we have now made the role sustainable and the post is now funded from our own income.
- Homemakers has established a scheme called Keep the Homeless Warm where clothing and blankets etc. are stored and distributed to those living on the streets of Cardiff.
- Homemakers were awarded The Green Dragon Level 3 Award for its Environmental Management System in April 2015.

#### Recycling / Reuse / Landfill Table of Results for 2015/16

Recycling	332 tonnes were recycled	71% of Waste collected
Re-Use	56 tonnes were reused	12% of Waste collected
Landfill	81 tonnes sent to landfill	17% of Waste collected

The percentages are exactly the same as the previous year, although we dealt with 31 tonnes more this year – is encouraging.

To help develop our work we have been lucky enough to secure funding from the following trusts and foundations for various purposes:-

#### Recycling Yard Development

We were fortunate to be supported by the Welsh Government, The Waterloo Foundation, Awards For All, The Oakdale Trust, The Morel Trust, Charter Housing, The Alchemey Foundation, Charter Housing, Monmouthshire Housing and The Rank Foundation to support this development. With these funds we have developed our recycling garden which is in full use by visiting school children and installed portable buildings.

### Hardship Fund

We received funding from The Sobell Foundation and The Welsh Church Act Fund to help those in crisis situations or moving out of homelessness. We now hope to develop a relationship with a local church to help support homeless people who are trying to set up home with no means.

### Volunteer Allowance Funding

The Souter Charitable Trusts helped towards this financial cost, which allowed Homemakers to use its own income and reserves towards the educational area and recycling yard.

### Recycling / Volunteer Manager Post

After some uncertain times the funding for this post is continuing through the Wales Council for Voluntary Action, following the closure of Environment Wales. The post has now moved into year 4 of 6 with Homemakers now funding 25% of the salary.

### Keep the Homeless Warm

Persimmon Homes funded the purchasing of a new storage unit to store blankets etc for the homeless. The blankets will be distributed by a group in Cardiff.

### Chairman's Report

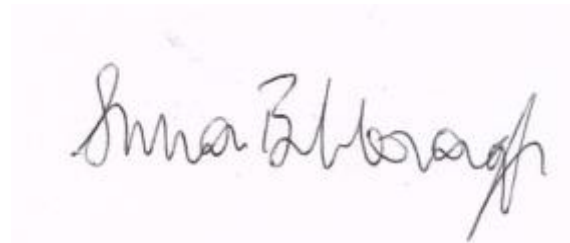
Homemakers main priority since 2013 has been to develop the recycling yard on Merthyr Rd to allow the charity to progress and to cut down on expenditure of rented buildings. The savings in rent will save Homemakers about £500 per month. The planning process has been a lengthy process due to the nature of the site. The site is a former gas works site and although an extensive decontamination process took place prior to Homemakers buying the site, it is still left with a very small amount of contamination. Planning permission has now been granted, and through sterling work by Shaun Needle (HCR Manager) we are meeting all the necessary conditions set out by Monmouthshire County Council and other regulating bodies.

The site is now really taking shape with very modern portable buildings painted in matching forest green.

It has been encouraging to see an increase of waste dealt with over the year. Although our percentages are the same we are recycling and reusing 31 tonnes more. The most encouraging part of this is that we are reusing more items and helping more people in the process by offering more affordable items.

Our plans next year include putting the base down for our new workshop on the Merthyr Road recycling yard, and to start fund raising for the building work, as well as continuing with our existing house clearance, recycling and re-use activity, helping volunteers, and helping those in need.

As chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow trustees for their hard work within the year. On behalf of the trustees, I would sincerely like to thank and congratulate our staff and volunteers in developing Homemakers over the last year. Homemakers would like to sincerely thank all the customers and residents of Monmouthshire for their continued support, which our success would not be possible without. As an organisation we would like to thank all our funders who have invested their finances in Homemakers to allow it to grow and become more successful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Simon Bilborough", written on a light pink rectangular background.

31/7/16

Simon Bilborough  
Chairman