



Homemakers Community Recycling

**Annual Report
2016-17**

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 of the following departments and 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 ensures the maximum reuse and recycling possible. This entails the segregation of waste that is then transferred to the Recycling Department.
- d) A collection service for bulky household furniture as part of a 5 year Service Level Agreement between HCR and Monmouthshire County Council, awarded in April 2015.
- e) An online sales facility through EBay, Facebook and Amazon to ensure maximum reuse and market 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 2016-17

- 2981 bulk collections were carried out, as opposed to 2677 the previous year. An increase of 11% on the previous year.
- 3810 Items were reused by the general public in the year an increase of 1028 from the previous year. An increase of 37%

- HCR diverted a record for the charity of 396 tonnes of waste from landfill within the year through reuse and recycling
- HCR now operates a no landfill policy as all non-recyclable / reusable items go to produce energy.
- Homemakers has re-established its Facebook page and has started selling by local buy and sell sites which has proved highly successful. Homemakers has also started using YouTube to create weekly videos which are followed by Facebook users.

Merthyr Road Site

- The base layer for two purpose built workshops was laid by ALD Civil engineering at a cost of £33,000
- The new site has seen improvements in communications. Phone lines have been installed which saves on expensive use of mobile phone contact between both sites. Having had a new line put in we have now installed internet and wireless to all offices and units. Cameras have also been installed to manage and view stock.

Showroom

- At our main showroom we have spent in the region of £5,000 on improving our security to achieve a very robust building with lighting and cameras which will deter thieves. This was financed by our Ebay sales.
- We have created a remote showroom at our recycling yard where stock is available to be seen via Facebook and via a video link to our main site. This has proved highly successful with a higher level of reuse achieved.
- Saturday opening has become very popular with the general public.

Education and community work

- 24 schools and community groups were visited or visited HCR in the year to help raise awareness of recycling and reuse

- Our educational area has developed to allow children to grow plants etc and a seating area for them to have a break.
- Homemakers has also started a programme of working with young adults carrying out their Duke of Edinburgh Award on Saturdays.

Hardship Fund

- 16 families were supported through the hardship fund – unfortunately we did not receive any funding for this during the year.
- Homemakers continued its work with the homeless by supplying warm bedding to a volunteer group in Cardiff.

Staff and volunteers

- HCR worked with 76 volunteers within the year. We have seen a drop since last year due to Job Centre schemes finishing. We are now recruiting more through social media so hope this figure will increase next year.
- Homemakers has taken its staff total to 7 having employed long standing volunteer Amanda Symonds as a Sales / Database Administrator.

Recycling / Reuse / Landfill Table of Results for 2016/17

Recycling	333.49 tonnes were recycled	66% of Waste collected
Re-Use	68.22 tonnes were reused	13% of Waste collected
Energy	105.41 tonnes were sent to create energy from waste	21% of Waste collected

Compared with the previous year, last year level of our reuse has stayed constant. The new site developing fast we are sure this level will increase in future years. Our recycling level, however, has dropped by 7% but it must be noted we have dealt with a far greater level of waste, with an 11% increase in bulk collections.

Also our landfill percentage has risen, but again our increase in waste dealt with should be considered. We are conscious to push reuse and a 1% increase from last year is excellent with the added level of waste collected. We are confident that our level of recycling will increase, and our landfill percentage decrease, as our facilities at the new Merthyr Road site become operational.

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

Drivers job

We received our final payment (from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Sustainable Development Fund) for John Woodward's job as a driver – this has been a very rewarding grant for Homemakers and has allowed us to build a job for John who has become a vital part of the Homemakers team.

Merthyr Road Recycling Yard Development

We have received funding from the following sources for this development: - The Simon Gibson Charitable Trust, The Roger Vere Foundation, The New Grove Trust, The Matthew Wrightson Charitable Trust, Awards for All, Garfield Weston Foundation and The Woodroffe Benton Foundation.

Hardship Fund.

We received no funding in this area this year as our two major funders have had to cut back on funding. We have instead funded this from our own sales. In the coming year we will look for more funding in this area from new funders.

Volunteer Allowance Funding

The cost of volunteers has been quite high compared to recent years – again we have received help in this area from the Souter Charitable Trust.

Recycling / Volunteer Manager Post

The funding for this post has now finished due to government cut backs. It was supposed to run for another two years. Having finished we are currently reviewing the post.

Chairman's Report

Our main aim since acquiring the new yard in 2013 has been to develop the Merthyr Road recycling yard to allow increased reuse and recycling and provide opportunities for more volunteer participation.

In this financial year we have taken a giant step forward in our plans by installing the base layers for the workshops. This was a very complex job due to the site being a former gas works and having contamination. We are now able to slowly raise funds and develop the workshops. Plans are now in place for a Meyrick and Powell of Crickhowell to erect the steel fabrication.

I am particularly pleased on a personal note that Homemakers has forged a link with the Duke of Edinburgh Award through King Henry VIII Comprehensive and hope this partnership grows and continues.

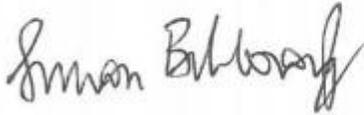
It has been great to see a volunteer gain employment with Homemakers. Amanda Symonds has become a key part of the team.

It is very pleasing to see the amount of items reused increase by a staggering 37%, I can only congratulate staff and volunteers regarding this, along with the increased collections which rose by 11%. These figures show the demand and need for Homemakers work in the area, and the commitment and effort of the staff and volunteers.

The educational work Homemakers carries out has been particularly successful with links made in the community with the local scout groups. Rob has given talks to the groups and we are now providing local scout groups with tents etc that are part of clearances. The community spirit of Homemakers was also shown by up cycling benches for Lynda Vista Gardens.

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.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



Simon Bilborough
Chairman of Trustees and Board of Directors

Date 12 June 2017