



Homemakers Community Recycling

Annual Report 2017-18

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 maximum reuse and recycling possible from a home. 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 Twitter 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. A member of staff is assigned to cover this.

Key Achievements in 2017-18

Recycling / Reuse & Energy Recovery

4564 Items were reused by the general public in the year an increase of 1028 from the previous year. An increase of 29% on last year

76 .257 tonnes were reused = 14% of waste collected / received

295.506 tonnes were recycled = 56% of waste collected / received

151.840 tonnes were used for energy = 28% of waste collected / received

A down turn in volunteering mainly through job centre schemes closing and the local prison offering more prisoners full time employment has meant a fall in recycling levels of approximately 38 tonnes from the previous year. Homemakers dealt with 16 tonnes more of materials than last year. The aim once the site is developed would be to offer more employment opportunities to increase these levels.

Merthyr Road Site

- The workshops are now in use. Volunteers who used our previous facilities are delighted with the facilities. We need to install CCTV to the buildings in the next financial year to fully complete the buildings.
- We are currently applying to the Big Lottery and numerous other larger grant giving organisations to complete the next stage of developments. This will include an office, canteen and toilet block along with a dry storage area. We also hope to gain funds to resurface the site, install PV panels and purchase a new electric van.

Showroom

- Our remote showroom via video link is proving very popular. We operate a YouTube video within our showroom of stock stored at our Merthyr Rd site.

This gives customers more choice and increases our diversion of goods from landfill.

- 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

Hardship Fund

- 15 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.

Community Work

Scouts / Cubs

Homemakers has started providing tents and camping equipment sourced from house clearances to local scout groups who are also passing them on to low income families in the community. This has been very successful in the deprived areas of the valleys. We are also providing Teddy Bears for the local cubs to sell to raise income.

Love Zimbabwe

We are now storing books for the local Love Zimbabwe group. The charity is shipping educational material to improve the standard of education in the country. We are using our containers to store books prior to shipping.

Wyesham Community Woodland Project

Homemakers this year formed a relationship with Wyesham Community Woodland Project to supply gardening equipment to help reclaim a former woodland into a community area.

Staff and volunteers

- HCR worked with 65 volunteers within the year. We have seen a drop since last year due to Prisoners finding more paid employment. We are looking for other sources of volunteers.
- Homemakers has taken its staff total to 7 having employed long standing volunteer Nick McGuigan as a Recycling Supervisor.

Funded Posts

We were successful in our application to the Lloyds Bank Foundation and received £7,500 funding towards management staffing costs in respect of the Recycling Yard development.

Merthyr Road Recycling Yard Development

We have received funding from the following sources for this development: -

Abergavenny Town Council
The Bernard Sundley Charitable Foundation
Monmouthshire Housing
The Morel Trust
The Garfield Weston Foundation
The Oakdale Trust
The Sobell Foundation
The Matthew Wrightson Charitable Trust
Awards For All
29 May 1961 Charitable Trust
The Welsh Church Act Fund
The Austin Bailey Foundation
Tesco
Beatrice Lang Foundation
Roger Vere Foundation
Welsh Water
Western Power
The Cooperative Bank

Hardship Fund.

We received no funding in this area this year as our fundraising resources and time has been concentrated on raising funds for The Recycling Yard. We will look to reestablish funds next year through fund raising.

Garfield Weston Foundation

To celebrate the foundations 60th anniversary Rob Davies (Assistant Manager / Company secretary) and his wife Kathryn visited Buckingham Palace and met Prince Charles.



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 completing the building of two workshops. The workshops are now in full use and have had burglar alarms fitted. Rubber matted flooring has been fitted to help volunteers standing for long periods.

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.

We have employed a former volunteer in Nick McGuigan this year, which myself and my fellow trustees find extremely pleasing.

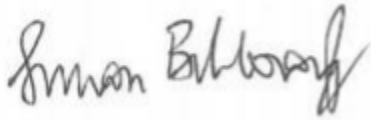
It is very pleasing to see the amount of items reused increase by 29%, I can only congratulate staff and volunteers regarding this. This figure shows the demand and need for Homemakers work in the area, and the commitment and effort of the staff and volunteers.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Billsborough". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

**Simon Billsborough
Chairman of Trustees and Board of Directors**