



# **Homemakers Community Recycling**

## **Annual Report 2018-19**

### Trustees

Simon Bilsborough (Chairman)

Nick Miller (Vice Chairman)

Martin Hickman (Treasurer)

Graham Harris

Roger Harris

Marilyn Price

Rev Christopher Walters

Nick Tatam

Jenny McConnell

Lynda Adams

Pricilla Llewellyn

### 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 and other household products.
- c) A house clearance service that ensures maximum reuse and recycling possible from homes. This entails the segregation of waste that is then transferred to the “Recycling Department”.
- d) A collection service for bulky household items 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 2018-19

### Recycling / Reuse & Energy Recovery

5,626 items were reused by the general public in the year, an increase of 1,062 items from the previous year. This represents an increase of 23% on last year.

80 tonnes were reused = 13% of waste collected / received.

341 tonnes were recycled = 54 % of waste collected / received.

208 tonnes were used to generate energy from waste = 33% of waste collected / received.

### Merthyr Road Site

We have spent a large part of our time this year trying to move the site forward. Unfortunately, our grant application to the Big Lottery to finish the site was turned down. The lottery felt to complete the site all at once would be too disruptive to the charity and this in turn would affect our income and sustainability. They suggested that we should continue in the same way that has allowed Homemakers to be successful with the development of site so far: by developing over years through the help of smaller funders.

Since this decision, we have continued with the lengthy process for gaining consent for the sewer, for which we have a conditional offer of funding in place. This process is hopefully close to completion with all parties agreeing on the route and mapping. Hopefully we can carry out the works by the end of 2019.

We have also installed PV Panels to our workshops, to reduce our need to draw electricity from the grid, contribute to efforts to reduce climate change, and save us financially. Our aim is to reduce all bills to allow us to invest in our

processes, and having the staffing levels to do so. The PV panels will be particularly useful in terms of heating in the winter months.

We have also invested in an excavator machine to load skips through a forks / bucket action. The machine will also compress recyclable materials and load vehicles with items, such as books for recycling. This machine has speeded up the whole operation, and made the site safer in terms of health and safety. Our volunteers can then enjoy more rewarding tasks. Two of the staff have been trained to use the machine.

As all the local Civic Amenity Sites in Monmouthshire are now shut one day a week, the Merthyr Road site is becoming more popular with the general public.

#### The Workhouse

- We have expanded our showroom at the chapel, having moved our house clearance sorting room to the Merthyr Rd site. This has allowed us to use the one building we rent on the site to become a showroom. This has allowed us to divert a greater number of items, which would otherwise be used to generate energy from waste, to the showroom for the public to purchase.

#### Education and community work

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

#### Hardship Fund

- 17 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. A number of good-willed individuals have also taken blankets and tents etc to hand out to support those living rough in Newport.

## Community Work

Homemakers helped lots of local organisations within the year with materials and items required to run their operation. These included:-

Abergavenny Museum

Abergavenny Pantomime

Caldicot Scouts

Monmouthshire Mind

Usk Young Farmers

Green Shoots

Gilwern Nursery

Aderyn Nursing Home

St Michaels Primary School

Pontypool Rugby Club



Aderyn Mental Health Hospital – receiving a new bench for their garden.



Homemakers donated a bench to Our Lady St Michael School in memory of their caretaker.



**OLSM** @OLSMtweeters · Jun 4

Our Year 6 Eco council members visited Home Makers this afternoon looking for items that can be reused as planters for our Abergavenny In Bloom project. Many thanks to Rob and his team. @MonmouthshireCC @EcoSchoolsWales @RHSSchools



Caldicot Scout group receiving tents etc from Homemakers.

### Green Dragon Award

Homemakers were awarded The Green Dragon Level 3 Award for its Environmental Management System in April 2019

### Staff and volunteers

- HCR worked with 65 volunteers within the year. We have seen a drop since last year due to Prisoners from Prescoed Prison finding more paid employment. We are however looking for other sources of volunteers.
- Homemakers has taken its staff total to 8, from 7 in the previous year.

## Funding

We have seen a dip in funding from the previous year, but are grateful to the following funders:-

Cobbs Foundation  
Edith Maud Ellis Trust  
The Morel Trust  
Matthew Wrightson Charitable  
Trust  
Lloyds Bank Foundation  
Llanfoist School  
Viridor  
Abergavenny Methodist  
Church  
Woodroff Benton Foundation  
Alchemy Foundation  
Hilden Charitable Fund

## Volunteer Awards

Gareth and Greg, our volunteers from “My Day My Life” special needs centre, were awarded jointly The Mrs. Doyle Volunteer of the Year Award. The lads work on a weekly basis creating an online video showing our stock. This has been extremely beneficial for the public and Homemakers. Well done both!

Stewart Davies, who has been a volunteer for 8 years, was awarded the first “Life Time Award” by Homemakers. Stewart came to us due to his learning difficulties, and is ever present and hardly misses a day. To mark this, staff decided to take Stewart to see his beloved Manchester United at The Principality Stadium in Cardiff. It was Stewart’s first live football match and first time he had been to Cardiff. We have also nominated Stewart to GAVO for an award for his work in the community.



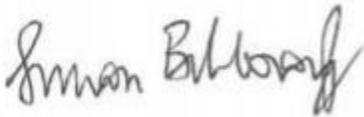
## Chairman's Notes

It has been once again a pleasing year in terms of our development and progress as an organisation. We have seen an increase in the amount of items reused by the general public by 23%. This is one of our primary aims as an organisation. We have improved our facilities by installing PV panels to our buildings, which gives us a higher sustainability rating. We have also managed to purchase a new van and improve our fleet. We have also invested in our systems by purchasing a machine to load skips. I am particularly pleased by the fact new organisations are coming on board and sign-posting volunteers our way. As always, it is great to see the range of help the charity has offered to the community over the year, and this is something the staff and volunteers must be congratulated on.

This year Homemakers has made a conscious effort to bring new Trustees on board to create a greater range of knowledge and diversity of backgrounds. We now have 11 Trustees with a greater level of skills knowledge and backgrounds.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers, staff and fellow trustees for their efforts during the year.

**Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Bilborough". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'S'.

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