

21<sup>st</sup> May 2014

Dear friend and supporter

The last year, 2013/2014, has been one of many changes in the life of Routes to Roots, not least the fact that the original Routes to Roots charity, No 1093689, is now holding its final AGM. As agreed by the membership at our AGM in 2010, the trustees have now set up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation called Routes to Roots (Poole) CIO, Charity No 1155945. CIO status gives us greater stability and a legal identity. As a CIO, Routes to Roots will be able to own property, employ staff and enter into other contracts in its own name rather than in the names of the Trustees. The assets and employees have been transferred to the new CIO and trustees appointed to continue the good work promoted by R2R.

Our purpose as a charity based on Christian principles which seeks to serve the needs of rough sleepers, newly homed and vulnerably housed in the Borough of Poole will continue, as will holding AGMs for members, election of trustees and submission of financial reports at AGMs. Also our logo and informal names of Routes to Roots and R2R will remain.

We should like to take this opportunity to remind you that membership is renewable annually and we have taken this time in the life of R2R to make a fixed date for our membership year from 1 April to 31 March. People joining part way through the year will pay a pro rata amount to the year end. Membership remains at £10 per individual and £25 for a church or organisation. A membership form and standing order details are enclosed and will also be available at the R2R AGM. Membership forms are available to download from our website [www.routestoroots.org](http://www.routestoroots.org).

If you give regularly by standing order or would like to do so, please could you set up a standing order to Routes to Roots (Poole) CIO with our new bank details. Also, if you are a tax payer and are able to gift aid please could you fill out a new Gift Aid declaration form.

It is a great encouragement to us all at Routes to Roots to know the membership are supporting us, and the number of members we have makes a difference when negotiating with government agencies and potential funding partners. So please know that we value your membership, as being a partner in the work we seek to do amongst those who are so vulnerable here in Poole.

Routes to Roots has been in existence for 12 years and in that time we have become widely recognised in our town for helping those who are homeless or vulnerably housed. Our contract with the Borough of Poole and the partnership with BCHA for the outreach services to rough sleepers were completed at the ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March this year. Whilst we shall still address the basics needs for food, clothing and general assistance of those who are rough sleeping, R2R is now able to put more emphasis on projects and programmes to prevent the recycling of homelessness. We shall be appointing a Projects Co-ordinator to deliver motivational activities and well-being projects to individuals, particularly those who are newly housed or who are vulnerably housed. If your church or organisation would like to find out more about our new programmes and what we do at Routes to Roots, please get in touch with Caroline Foy, our administrator, (details at the top of this page).

Thank you for your support, whether monetary, in time and in kind – we are reliant on you to maintain our work and would ask you to keep in your prayers all our contributors, workers, volunteers and especially the homeless and vulnerably housed who we seek to help.

With many thanks,

Yours sincerely

Lynn Foster

Lynn Foster, Honorary Secretary