

BURGESS HILL TOWN COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

24 June 2020

JUNE 2020 COVID FOOD DELIVERY

Burgess Hill Town Council, Burgess Hill Community Food Bank, Burgess Hill and District Lions Club and Burgess Hill Youth have coordinated their efforts in order to deliver food supplies to families and individuals in need in the Burgess Hill area in June 2020. Sussex Clubs for Young People also supported this project through the kind use of their Purple Bus to transport food.

This project was in response to the current circumstances some families are finding themselves in due to Covid-19. The food parcels were delivered to 70 families, nominated by local agencies, and the YMCA Downslink Group, who support 19 young people in Burgess Hill.

Leader of Burgess Hill Town Council, Councillor Robert Eggleston said, “the Town Council’s Covid-19 Food Delivery project has been a big community effort helping us to deliver food to the most vulnerable single people and families in the town. As a Town Council we want to ensure that no cupboard is empty and the Summer Hamper project, which builds on our Christmas scheme, is an important step in fulfilling that ambition. As ever, I am very thankful to the hard work of our officers and the support we receive from everyone in the community.”

Burgess Hill District Lions are pleased to be working as part of the team on the Food Delivery Project. Lion Chris Thomas-Atkin said “At a very early stage of the ongoing crisis the Lions Club recognised that the pandemic called for an unprecedented response. We were keen to donate money to the Town’s Emergency Fund, and to be part of the Emergency Committee in helping support our local communities. Projects such as these, along with the relocation of the Foodbank Service, are helping to make a difference for those in need during these difficult times.”

A representative from the Food Bank said “Burgess Hill Community Food Bank are delighted to support this delivery. At some point we will be moving to a high street location. We are currently open at the Salvation Army, Cyprus Road and will be open under Covid conditions during our usual times from 11.00 - 1.00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We also deliver to people who cannot get to us due to self-isolation or infirmity. Our Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint associates are open as usual.”

Jackie Cooper, Chair of Burgess Hill Youth, said “Burgess Hill Youth were happy to host the Covid 19 project at their newly decorated community building by Fairfield Recreation Ground. The project was very much in keeping with the community ethos of our club and we enjoy working with partnership groups supporting families in need.”

A recipient of the food supplies told organisers: “I am so grateful to receive food and important supplies on a regular basis, it is such a relief to know that when times are hard I have friendly people to fall back on with no judgement. It also means I can

help out local friends and neighbours with small bits and bobs - it's times like this that we all need to come together and do what we can for are community. I'm so thankful to have such amazing support .”

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