

Burgess Hill Town Council

PRESS RELEASE

3 December 2020

CHRISTMAS CHEER DELIVERED

Many people on low incomes are struggling with the rising cost of living and Christmas can be a particularly difficult time with extra expense but no extra money, particularly during the Covid pandemic.

A partnership of local organisations with the support of local businesses, schools, and the Foodbank collected items to make up over 270 Christmas Food Hampers. The hampers were delivered to families and individuals in the Burgess Hill area in time for Christmas.

The groups organising the initiative include Burgess Hill District Lions Club, The King's Church Mid-Sussex, Burgess Hill Community Food Bank, Burgess Hill Town Council and Burgess Hill Youth. Sussex Clubs for Young People also provided support with their Purple Bus and assisted with the transportation of food. Financial support for the project was contributed by Burgess Hill District Lions, Clarion Futures and The Kings Church. We also received a donation of boxed food hampers from Rapid Relief Team UK.



The project had to adapt to Covid this year so there were reduced collection points available however the

community stepped up to support those in need. There was an opportunity to make a financial contribution to the Foodbank promoted locally which is still open for donations

<https://www.goldengiving.com/secure/donation/burgess-hill-community-food-bank>.

Burgess Hill Academy, Downlands School, LVS Hassocks, St Paul's Catholic College and Burgess Hill Girls School all contributed a significant amount of food. 1st Burgess Hill Scout Group also did a sterling effort in collating donations from the various sections and these were added into the hampers. Rapid Relief Team UK approached the project team and donated 19 completed boxes for distribution too.

Local businesses rose to the challenge and collected items from employees. This was particularly challenging when so many are home based at the moment. We accepted donations from Steve Willis Training; Michelmersh Bricks, CAE, Paperplus, PVL, and the Mid Sussex Child Development Centre. Thanks to Bio Productions for providing empty cardboard boxes in advance for the schools to collect their items.

We would also like to thank the community team at Tesco who sorted and allocated food for us at short notice to fill the hampers with missing items. These items were purchased by Burgess Hill District Lions and Clarion Futures.

The Project Team were very grateful for all support for those in need in our community. In total over 490 adults and teens and 273 children benefitted from the generous donations of people's food, time and effort to support those in need. The project will operate in 2021 and information will be available on the Town Council website.



Volunteers support the Project Team to assemble the boxes. Thanks to Cambridge Audio and Oliver Wyman.

ENDS

For more information please contact Jennifer O'Grady 01444 247726

Press Office
Burgess Hill Town Council
01444 247726