

Burgess Hill Town Council

PRESS RELEASE

9 December 2021

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 260 Christmas Food Hampers. The hampers were delivered to families and individuals in the Burgess Hill and surrounding area last weekend.

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 also had 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. Rapid Relief Team UK approached the project team and donated 20 completed boxes for distribution too. This provided boxes for last minute requests so all were accommodated.

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; Paperplus; Bennet Oakley Solicitors; Acora ; First Central Insurance and Handelsbanken. Thanks to Bio Productions for providing empty cardboard boxes in advance for the schools to collect their items.

Volunteers from Cambridge Audio, Oliver Wyman and Canon supported the packing alongside community volunteers and councillors. The team from Downlands School were invaluable on Day 2 and we were very grateful for their energy and enthusiasm at packing.

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 was very grateful for all support for those in need in our community. In total over 445 adults and teens and 265 children benefitted from the generous donations of people's food, time and effort to support those in need. The project will operate in 2022 and information will be available on the Town Council website.





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