

Harborough Town FC



During the current lockdown we are going to highlight some positive community news and projects that our club is involved in, to remind us all of how important our communities are.

A few months ago the club applied for funding to develop a community cohesion project that will run alongside our regular football activities, and at this point we must wholeheartedly thank those at the Coronavirus Community Support Fund (distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund), for accepting our application and providing funds for us to create the Harborough Town FC Community Cohesion Project. The primary aim of this project is to enable those in our local community to stay connected during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Initially, the club set out to provide devices for local school pupils who do not have access to a device, so that they will be able to complete homework, research school work and prepare assignments.

As with most ideas it started with a few phone calls and some loosely drawn notes – Marion Hayton (Harborough Town FC Club Development & Commercial Executive) sought some local advice from Hayley Brown (Deputy Head at Little Bowden Primary School) and Steve Holbrough (Director of Symcirrus IT Solutions Ltd), and after a few further meetings involving local school head teachers, the idea was given a very positive thumbs-up!

Marion, Hayley, and Steve then drew up plans to implement their idea with the quantity of devices available, and it was agreed that 1 device per 100 school pupils could be achieved with the lottery funding received. We are pleased to announce that the Harborough Town FC Community Cohesion project will be distributing android tablets as follows:

- ☼ 4 each for Little Bowden PS, Meadowdale PS
- ☼ 3 for Market Harborough CE Academy
- ☼ 2 each for Ridgeway PA, St. Joseph's CVA, Great Bowden PS, Farndon Fields PS, Church Langton PS
- ☼ 1 each for Lubenham All Saints CE PS, Foxton PS

Certainly not to rest on their laurels, Marion and Steve then set their sights on local nursing homes, and The Willows Residential Care & Nursing Home of Market Harborough will receive 2 android tablets. Steve and his team at Symcirrus will connect these devices to two TV monitors so the residents can keep in contact with their loved ones in full HD! Pre-Covid19, the residents of The Willows welcomed local school children into their nursing home and whilst this has had to stop for reasons we all appreciate, the home and local schools involved now have the opportunity to re-connect via their newly acquired devices – truly a rewarding experience for all concerned.

Two further developments of the project will involve the project engaging with another two or three local nursing homes, as well as Steve and his Symcirrus team refurbishing more android devices. Being able to provide connectivity for those school children in our community at any time of the year is rewarding, and connecting those in the local nursing homes as Christmas approaches really does reaffirm that charity and initiatives within our community is so very important, and must make us all feel especially appreciative to all concerned in this wonderful initiative.

A very special well done to Maz, Hayley, and Steve; and thank you to the Coronavirus Community Support Fund (distributed by The National Lottery).

And it won't stop there – if you have any android tablets you no longer use, and would like to donate them to this very worthy cause, please contact Steve and Maz for further details: Steve.holbrough@symcirrusltd.co.uk and Maz.Hayton@harboroughtownfc.org



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