

The Hampshire County Council Award for Contribution to the New Forest Community



Stags in the Community

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AFC Totton Football Club didn't have a community element to their business until recently when Stags in the Community was designed. This platform allows them to be involved with the community and vice versa. They have run numerous projects all with the aim to help with those less fortunate including disabilities, financial restraints and rehabilitation.

One of the projects that Stags in the Community worked on was a toy appeal in order to raise money so that Father Christmas would come and visit the community. The project works with children who are less fortunate, for example they received a grant from the police to help the rehabilitation of young people who are in need of help. They also work with local schools and have approximately 54 projects running at the moment. The project supports pupils as they move from junior/ primary school into secondary school. Part of this process is to train up older students so they can become buddies for the new students to offer support and guidance.

As the face of the club, the footballers also get involved, which helps to advertise the work that Stags in the Community does as well as advertise the club itself. As well as helping children Stags in the Community also gives people with mobility impairments such as arthritis the chance to play football regularly each week.

By the end of the season the project is on track to be self-sufficient.

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