

HAZELWOOD - COMMUNITY WORK STATEMENT

The #PoweringTheNHS campaign - an initiative that saw 50,000+ meals delivered to 17 NHS Hospitals and Care Homes during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic. These meals were prepared and delivered by a wonderful team of volunteers based at the London Irish Training Centre at Hazelwood, Sunbury. True cognisance of this benevolent contribution to the frontline NHS and Care Home Staff was manifested by the privileged visit to Hazelwood on 11 June of HRH Prince Edward and Sophie, Countess of Wessex who donned their PPE equipment and joined the volunteer team for circa three hours in preparing, packing and delivering that day's 1,000+ meals to the frontline NHS and Care Home Staff.

'The London Irish Volunteer Group in the Spelthorne Community' - a further initiative during the pandemic lockdown was developed in the form of working in collaboration with Voluntary Support North Surrey (VSNS) who assist Spelthorne Borough Council with referrals for the most vulnerable members of the community. The Volunteer group consisting of players and staff of London Irish undertook 54% of all VSNS referrals on behalf of these elderly and vulnerable local residents, the collection of medical prescriptions, shopping for food, dealing with domestic chores, driving to urgent appointments and offering companionship for the lonely. Circa 400 requests for help have been facilitated to date and a real sense of community togetherness has been forged. The volunteer group plans to continue supporting this campaign further in the future.

Fit & Fed – a free holiday activity day for young people from a less advantaged background who are given the opportunity to have a number of days' worth of physical activity sessions led by coaches as well as being provided with a healthy breakfast and lunch. This initiative is run in partnership with Surrey County Council via their Active Surrey and youth network teams.

Park Run – a free weekly 5k run where people within the local community can join in at their own pace on the timed run. Since the inaugural run in 2018, there have been 100 events with an average of 120 attendees per week. This is an opportunity for local residents to keep active for free and in an environment where they are looking to improve themselves.

Foundation - the London Irish Foundation runs cutting-edge award-winning programmes for homelessness, disability, inclusivity and special needs in Spelthorne and wider areas.

Other - other charities use the premises and Spelthorne Borough Council publicly acknowledge Hazelwood's work in partnership with community groups and other key partners

Hawkedale school build – we have a very close relationship with Hawkedale school. It was agreed by Hazelwood that when building work began the school's contractors, in large lorry's, could access the school via Hazelwood drive (relieving traffic from Stratton road) and they could also use Hazelwood's carpark for vehicles and a cabin. Hawkedale also use our facilities for sports day and PE lessons

Fireworks night – an event for the whole community to attend

London Irish Ace programme in conjunction with Bishop Wand school – a sporting pathway programme for the 16-18 age group

London Irish amateur club - providing a safe facility for over a 1,000 members to play and enjoy sport from ages 5 years old to 55

PDA football academy – A football academy for children from 5 years old to 18

Gael Londain Gaelic Football Club – A club set up for local children to play sport throughout the summer and to encourage rugby players to keep fit in the rugby off season

Spelthorne Football club – Usage of Hazelwood 3g every Thursday before lockdown

Halliford School - yearly use of the facility for their annual tournament