



Welwyn Garden City Launches 'Tap to Donate' Scheme to Tackle Homelessness

On average, one household becomes homeless every two minutes in the UK. For residents and visitors in Welwyn Garden City, it's not always clear how to best support those who are begging or sleeping rough.

In response, the Welwyn Garden City Business Improvement District (BID), with the support of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, has introduced a simple yet effective solution: 'Tap to Donate' stations. These contactless donation points make it easy for anyone to contribute directly to trusted local charities that work tirelessly to support vulnerable individuals in the community.

How It Works

The three Tap to Donate stations are located at local businesses that are committed to the supporting the initiative to help end homelessness in WGC town centre

- Sixth Circle Tattoo and Piercing Lounge on Church Road
- Howden Insurance on Stonehills
- Londis on Howardsgate

With just a tap of your card, you can donate £3, the cost of a small coffee, to make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

Funds raised will be divided equally among three incredible local charities Herts Young Homeless, Mind in Mid Herts and Resolve.

These charities provide a wide range of support, including homelessness prevention, mental health services, and substance misuse treatment, ensuring that every donation has a direct and tangible impact on the community.

Supporting the Local Community

"This scheme allows shoppers and visitors to Welwyn Garden City to safely tap their card at any of the donation points, confident that their generosity will go directly to three local charities working to tackle homelessness within the community," said Mounia Le Gaufey, Chair of the WGC BID.

Councillor Sandreni Bonfante, WHBC Executive Member for Environment added: "When you see someone asking for money, it's often difficult to know how best to help, or if they are genuinely in need. By donating through 'Tap to Donate,' rather than giving directly to individuals, you can have a far greater impact and help those most in need."



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Welwyn Garden City BID's 'Tap to Donate' initiative offers a safe, secure, and impactful way to support some of the most vulnerable members of our community. A small gesture, like tapping to give £3, can make a big difference.

For more information, visit: www.wonderfulwgc.co.uk/wgc-tap-2-donate

Reporting Rough Sleepers

If you're concerned about someone sleeping rough in Welwyn Garden City, there are several ways to help:

Use the StreetLink app or visit thestreetlink.org.uk or call 0300 500 0914

For those at risk of homelessness, contact the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Housing Options Team at 01707 357 000 or email housing@welhat.gov.uk during office hours.

If the person is under 18, contact the local police immediately.

About the Charities

Herts Young Homeless

Herts Young Homeless (HYH) has supported vulnerable young people in Hertfordshire since 1998. In the past five years alone, they have directly helped over 5,400 young people facing homelessness. Their services include prevention, crisis support, and independent living programs, working closely with local councils and agencies to create brighter futures for those at risk.

Mind in Mid Herts

Mind in Mid Herts takes a holistic and positive approach to mental health, helping individuals recover and make informed choices about their lives. By promoting mental wellbeing and offering support for those experiencing emotional distress, they empower people to take steps toward healthier futures.

Resolve

Resolve focuses on supporting individuals affected by substance misuse, homelessness, or poverty. Their services include treatment programs, professional counseling, and group therapy. Resolve's Restart Project offers solutions and support for those who are sleeping



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rough or at immediate risk of homelessness, helping them transition to stable, positive lifestyles.

Make a Difference Today

Notes to Editor:

The three 'Tap to Donate' locations are: Sixth Circle Tattoo and Piercing Lounge, Howden Insurance, and Londis.

Each donation is set at £3.

Proceeds are collected by the WGC BID and distributed equally between Herts Young Homeless, Mind in Mid Herts, and Resolve.