

Double-decker bus for the homeless unveiled in Portsmouth ¹

Joanne Vines and Sammy Ellen at the wheel of the bus. Picture: Keith Woodland

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IT HAS been eight months of hard work, volunteering and community effort and yesterday, a double-decker bus was unveiled as a homeless shelter.



¹ Portsmouth News

<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/double-decker-bus-for-the-homeless-unveiled-in-portsmouth-1-8263636>

The Bus Project, which saw the donated Stagecoach vehicle turned into a place for rough sleepers to stay overnight, is now finished and the keys handed over to the Robert Dolling Project.



So many businesses, groups and individuals stepped forward to help deliver this.



Some of the many volunteers and sponsors alongside the bus. Picture: Keith Woodland

The News also backed the scheme, and held the Running for the Bus fundraiser in the spring.

I had a vision of what it would be like at the start and that vision has materialised into something real.
Joanne Vines

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Wilf Pickles, from Gosport Men's Shed, was at the launch. He said: 'It is great to see the final product ready to go.'

'We just wanted to help where we could and do our bit.'

Gordon Frost, operations director for Stagecoach, was shocked at how different the bus looked.

He said: 'We made a very small gesture in donating the bus. It is amazing what Joanne and Sammy, along with everyone else, have been able to achieve.'

'When they asked us for a bus, we had this one which otherwise would have been scrapped.'

'Seeing it now and knowing what it's going to be used for makes me so happy that we donated it.'