

NEWS RELEASE

Publication: 26 January 2009



GREENFIELDS GIVES A HELPING HAND TO LOCAL CHARITIES

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Twelve voluntary and community groups in the Braintree area were celebrating being the first organisations to receive a share of grants totalling **£54,753** from the Greenfields Community Fund.

Greenfields Community Housing established the Community Fund in 2008, to support voluntary and community groups and projects in the Braintree District. The Fund, which is managed on Greenfields' behalf by Essex Community Foundation, encourages groups to apply for grants of up to £5,000 to support anything from new play equipment, to improving wildlife areas or renovating community halls.

Organisations receiving grants this time included:

2nd Witham Boys' Brigade - £5,300 to run four projects, including wood turning, for disadvantaged and excluded young people to help them develop their skills and knowledge.

Braintree & Bocking Community Association - £5,000 towards annual running costs of a community centre which facilitates various activities for local people.

Braintree & District Crossroads Scheme - £8,749 to further enable the provision of practical support, training and guidance for adults and young people who are caring for relatives.

Braintree District Mencap - £3,500 to provide outings during the Easter and summer holidays for children with special needs.

Braintree District Voluntary Support Agency - £3,400 to organise and hold a Volunteer Award Evening to promote and celebrate volunteering in Braintree District.

Braintree, Halstead & Witham CAB - £9,855 to pay the salaries of two part time trainee advice supervisors.

Feering Community Association - £2,762 to purchase replacement chairs for Feering Community Centre.

Parc (Essex) - £3,225 to provide Saturday activity sessions for disabled children in mid-Essex and respite for their parents and carers.

Parkfields Pre School, Halstead - £1,692 to purchase new outdoor equipment for use by the children at the pre-school.

Stisted Village Hall - £4,100 to the cost of providing a new car park at the Village Hall.

The Tabor Centre - £5,370 to provide professional tutors for drama, IT and history classes for disabled people attending the Centre.

Witham Town Luncheon Club - £1,800 towards the the running costs of the lunch club for senior citizens.

Cont ...

Patron: Lord Petre, The Lord Lieutenant of Essex
Chief Executive: Laura Warren OBE DL

Company limited by guarantee
Registered in England
Company No. 3062567
Registered Charity No. 1052061

Karen O'Connor, Community Investment Manager at Greenfields, said: "We were really pleased with the applications presented to us and the diversity of the groups and projects that we were able to support." She added, "There is so much charitable work going on in Braintree and Greenfields is keen to help as much as we can".

To apply for a grant or to find out more, contact the ECF's Grants Team on 01245 356018 or visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk.

You can also find out more about the Community Fund on Greenfields' website www.GreenfieldsCH.org.uk or contact Karen O'Connor, Community Investment Manager at Greenfields on 01376 567317 or email Karen.o'connor@GreenfieldsCH.org.uk

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For further information contact Laura Warren/Jo Murphy
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Notes to Editors:

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen nearly 3,000 Essex based charities and community groups receive over £11.2 million in grants. Funds are distributed on behalf of a wide range of donors who want their charitable giving to be accessible to local charities. www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

Community Foundations are independent charities committed to supporting projects that engage local people. Since the 1980s, a nationwide network of Community Foundations has developed, endorsed by many major public figures and leading companies.

There are 1000's of charities and voluntary groups working for the community to create a richer society for all. Community Foundations build endowed funds and make grants to these organisations.

- There are 55 local Community Foundations in the UK covering 94% of the population
- Collectively they manage endowed funds of circa £200 million
- In 2006/07 Community Foundations distributed grants totalling £75million.

Greenfields Community Housing

- Greenfields took over Braintree District Council's homes in November 2007, following a tenant and leaseholder vote for transfer in Dec 2006
- Greenfields has approx 8,100 tenanted homes and 435 leasehold properties
- Greenfields Community Fund is an annual grant fund that aims to support charities and not for profit groups throughout the Braintree District.

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