

NEWS RELEASE

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BIRD LUCKIN BUILDS LONG-TERM FUND FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

121 New London Road,
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0QT
T. 01245 355947
F. 01245 346391
general@essexcf.org.uk
www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

Essex based Chartered Accountants and business advisers, Bird Luckin, are continuing their commitment to support local charities and take advantage of funding available from the Government's Grassroots Match Challenge.

Bird Luckin Directors, Alan Radford and Gayner Smith, presented a further cheque for £5,000 to Essex Community Foundation (ECF) which is managing the Grassroots Challenge. Alan said "We benefited from the Grassroots offer last year when we established The Bird Luckin Community Fund with ECF and we felt it was too good an offer to miss this year. Gayner praised the Bird Luckin staff for their support. She said "We are delighted with the enthusiasm shown by our staff in supporting the Fund. They have organised various fundraising events such as dress down days, in-house quizzes and cake sales and have raised over £500 so far."

Laura Warren OBE DL, Chief Executive at Essex Community Foundation said: "Bird Luckin understands the importance of corporate social responsibility and we are very pleased to be working with them. By taking advantage of the Grassroots Challenge before it ends in March 2011, they are building their long-term charitable fund more quickly than they may otherwise have been able to." Under the Challenge, all donations – if Gift Aided – can be almost doubled, and corporate donations can be uplifted by 50 per cent.

The Bird Luckin Community Fund was established in June 2009 and is managed by Essex Community Foundation, the local grant-making charitable trust that manages funds on behalf of businesses, individuals and public agencies. The Foundation has distributed over £15 million to charities in Essex since it was established in 1996 and currently manages 64 funds, all supporting local charities helping local people. For more information about ECF, the services it offers to donors and the Grassroots Challenge visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk or call Bob Sherer on 01245 355947.

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For further information contact

Laura Warren/Jo Murphy
Essex Community Foundation
Tel: 01245 355947 Fax: 01245 346391
E-mail: general@essexcf.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen more than 4,000 grants totalling over £15 million awarded to Essex based charities and community groups. 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 57 local Community Foundations in the UK covering 94% of the population
- Collectively they manage endowed funds values at circa £220 million
- In 2007/08 Community Foundations distributed grants totalling £66 million and funded 20,500 voluntary organisations and community groups