

£130m Grassroots Grants scheme opens its doors to small voluntary & community groups in Lincolnshire

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News Release

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The Government's groundbreaking Grassroots Grants scheme declared itself open for business today and called on small local voluntary and community groups in Lincolnshire to come forward and get their hands on £912,462.38 of essential funding.

Whether it's helping local clubs get hold of new kit, coaching new volunteers or simply giving the village hall a fresh lick of paint, Grassroots Grants aim to make a real and immediate difference to the work of Lincolnshire's small and local community groups.

Lincolnshire Community Foundation has been awarded £912,462.38 to make grants from between £250 to £5,000 in a straightforward and easy way, to voluntary and community groups with annual incomes below £20,000.

Businesses across Lincolnshire were also invited to get involved through investing in the scheme's innovative endowment match challenge – the first of its kind in England.

Within the £130 million national programme, the Government has set aside a £50million pot from which it will match endowment investments from interested local businesses – offering them the chance to contribute directly to supporting and sustaining the communities in which they operate.

Lincolnshire has a match fund target of £675,882. which it must reach in order to release an endowment allocation of £1,351,763 from the Government.

The endowment element – which is also open to individual investors – aims to ensure that that grassroots grants remain available for many years to come. It is estimated that with match funding and sound investment this £50million will be worth £150million when

it starts paying out in 2011. In addition, as Gift Aid can be claimed on donations to a charitable cause, a £1,000 match-funded contribution from a business would be worth £2,560 to the fund.

Phil Hope, Minister for the Third Sector, said:

“Lincolnshire is full of small groups and individuals who work tirelessly to tackle local problems and this £130 million fund is dedicated to supporting their efforts. Grassroots Grants will put essential cash in the hands of small local voluntary groups without all the paper work required for larger grants.

“I urge local leaders and businesses to make an investment in the future of their community by contributing to the new endowment funds. Every penny that goes in will return a much greater value, particularly as donations will also be eligible for Gift Aid.”

Alison Seabrooke, CDF Chief Executive said:

“Grassroots Grants is exciting as it provides funding for community groups now and into the future. Grassroots Grants reaches out to grassroots groups which may have never even considered applying for grant funding before. The endowment match challenge enables local funders to continue this funding over the long-term, giving small community groups a real future.

“Grassroots Grants is all about building a strong, independent third sector, and the Community Development Foundation is delighted to be administering such an innovative programme.”

The programme is funded by the Office of The Third Sector in the Cabinet Office and administered by the Community Development Foundation. Lincolnshire is one of 68 local funders who will distribute grants directly over the upcoming years, selected because they are familiar with the needs and causes in the area.

For more information, please contact Sue Fortune on 01529 305825.

Notes to editors:

1. Any enquiries about the Grassroots Grants programme, please go to Lincolnshire Community Foundation on 01529 305825
2. As part of the Cabinet Office, the Office of the Third Sector leads work across government to support the environment for a thriving third sector (voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, charities, cooperatives and mutuals), enabling the sector to campaign for change, deliver public services, promote social enterprise and strengthen communities. For more information please go to: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/
3. Community Development Foundation is the leading source of intelligence, guidance and delivery on

community development in England and across the UK. Our mission is to lead community development analysis and strategy to empower people to influence decisions that affect their lives. For more information, go to www.cdf.org.uk