



Lincolnshire Community Foundation
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Letter to: The Editor

From: Richard Ferens
Chairman, Lincolnshire Community Foundation
1st June 2009

Dear Sir

MP's expenses donated to the local community

As Chairman of the Lincolnshire Community Foundation, a charity regulated by the Commissioners and the Revenue, we can offer a lifeline to our struggling MPs. We operate something called the "grassroots challenge". It allows us to top up (double or better) charitable gifts. So, for every £1,000 donation, we can spend £2,000 within the community to help children, older people, rural activities and all those small, volunteer-led groups that do so much for the most vulnerable and isolated in society. We assess bids and distribute grants through local panels with local and specialist (sport, environment, health and so on) knowledge. They make £300,000 a year worth of grants to grassroots projects in Lincolnshire.

I suggest that MPs, once they have fulfilled their mortgage interest and tax commitments, may wish to donate to their local Community Foundations an appropriate sum to clear their conscience and be of real and visible benefit to their constituents.

Yours faithfully

President: Mr Tony Worth, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire
Charity Number: 1092328