



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ISLE OF WIGHT COMMUNITY FUND LAUNCHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE ISLAND

The Isle of Wight Charitable Trust (IWCT) and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) joined the Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight and over 120 people including the High Sheriff, the local MP, business leaders, Council representatives, charitable groups and donors at a special reception at the Royal Yacht Squadron last night to launch the Isle of Wight Community Fund.

The Isle of Wight Community Fund has been established with endowed funds from the IWCT for the benefit of the people living in communities across the Island. The fund will be managed on the Island by locals supported by HIWCF. Jim Iles, Chairman of both the IWCT and the IWCF, said “This has been a tremendous evening and it is so good to see so many people from different sectors on the Island coming together in support of a great community initiative” Jim explained “The launch of the Isle of Wight Community Fund and the announcement of the Grassroots Endowment Challenge means we have an opportunity to work together to build a significant fund for the long term benefit of all our Island communities”



Addressing the reception, HM Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, Major General Martin White CB CBE JP said “I am delighted that the Isle of Wight Community Fund will continue the great work done by the Isle of Wight Charitable Trust in supporting communities, helping the disadvantaged and encouraging a culture of local charitable giving.”

The Grassroots Endowment Challenge is aimed at encouraging local giving for local needs. For every £1 donated to the fund by an individual or company, the Island will get a further £1 donated from the Grassroots Fund. Therefore, a gift of £5,000 could be substantially increased by the match funding and additional Gift Aid (if applicable) to £11,400. Individuals and companies can build their own Grassroots endowment fund from as little as £5,000 per year over 3 years to an incredible £30,000 plus the addition of Gift Aid (if applicable).

Michael Campbell, Chairman of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation, added: “This was a wonderful opportunity to bring together local people and businesses that are keen to put something back into the community and the enterprise of local charities who continue to make a real difference to the lives of people throughout the Isle of Wight.

Chris Martin, a local businessman who is on the management committee of the Fund added “I urge anyone who wants to get involved in our campaign “local giving for local needs” to get in touch with us as there are many ways that people can help us to build our fund and meet the needs of our local communities and Grass Roots means an endowment now goes at least twice as far”

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Notes to Editor

The Isle of Wight Community Fund has been established by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation and the Isle of Wight Charitable Trust who are leaders in their respective fields, and used to delivering successful grant programmes.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) is an independent charitable trust that manages charitable giving on behalf of individuals, businesses and other trusts; distributes small grants to voluntary and community groups and organisations across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and promotes the benefits of “Investing in our local Community”.