



Date: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **HIWCF AWARDS ITS FIRST GRASSROOTS GRANTS ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT**

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) has just awarded £5,000 to a community group on the Isle of Wight at its first Grassroots Grants panel but the good news for other local groups is that there is still over £50,000 to distribute this year.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation declared the Government's groundbreaking Grassroots Grants scheme open for business at the Isle of Wight Community Fund Launch in July and called on small local voluntary and community groups on the Island to come forward and get their hands on £190,000 of essential funding.

“Community groups are at the heart of building stronger communities” explained Toni Shaw, CEO at HIWCF, “and we are delighted to award this first Grassroots grant in support of the Cowes Concert Band for their new uniforms” she added “we would like to encourage other groups across the Island to apply to this innovative new grants scheme which can provides support for hundreds of local small communities groups” 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 explained Toni, she added “Grants are available from between £250 to £5,000 to voluntary and community groups with annual incomes below £20,000.

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

So if you run a small, local community group on the Island including, parent and toddler or after school groups, youth clubs, physical and mental health issue groups,



social, arts, sport and recreation, cultural groups, ethnic and other minority groups and training and learning groups, and have an annual income of less than £20,000 pa – take a look at the Isle of Wight Community Fund website to see if you might qualify for a Grassroots grant [www.hantscf.org.uk/iwcf](http://www.hantscf.org.uk/iwcf) or email HIWCF at [infograssroots@hantscf.org.uk](mailto:infograssroots@hantscf.org.uk).

## **ENDS**

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### **Notes to Editor**

HIWCF is the Local Funder for the Grassroots Grants programme which is funded by the office of the Third Sector and delivered by the Community Development Foundation. The maximum grant available to enable small, local community groups to continue or expand their work for local people is £5,000.

### **IWCF Info**

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.

### **HIWCF Info**

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”.