



Winter 2010/11

NEWSLETTER

More help for charities?

With government spending cuts and many people worried about their jobs and making ends meet, it is not surprising that donations to charities have fallen in recent months. This is national problem and even the 'big boys' in the charitable world are having to work even harder to raise their funds.

For a small grant-giving charity such as ourselves, we are finding that it has become more and more difficult to get donations. In addition, interest on the monies we have invested is now a shadow of what we were receiving even a couple of years ago and both Colchester Borough and Tendring District Councils are having to look at their expenditure and the grants they give.

At a recent trustees meeting we felt that in the 'Big Society' that is being talked about then something should be done so that we are able to continue to give the help and support to local groups in the Colchester and Tendring areas.

Therefore a letter was written to all our local Members of Parliament highlighting the difficulties a small grant-giving charity, such as Grassroots, was experiencing and giving some suggestions as to how the problems could be reduced.

In the letter we explained that we get our funds from legacies, donations and interest from monies we have invested over the years. With people now being less able to give we are, therefore, relying more and more on our invested funds for which interest rates are now incredibly low.

We suggested that as a local Member of Parliament and members of the coalition government there needed to

be some way that organisations such as ourselves could continue to give financial help and support to the small groups that are the grassroots of our society.

We suggested that National Savings or another financial institution should be able to offer a 'Charity Account' which would pay 5 or 6% interest rather than the 1 or 2% 'business rate' interest we currently receive. This would then permit us to obtain sufficient interest from our invested monies to continue to give the support that is vitally needed in our local communities.

The response was very positive and both Bob Russell (MP for Colchester) and Priti Patell (MP for Witham) said they would raise the matter with the appropriate government ministers and departments. Priti also asked for a list of organisations in her constituency which had benefited from Grassroots support to add weight to the idea.

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The most recent grant beneficiaries

Organisation	Beneficiaries	Amount awarded
Fordham Friendship Club	Towards coach trips for older people in the local community	£250
A List Support Group	Replace damaged toys for a group which supports families with special needs	£100
The Lynch Mob	Purchase games for a social club with some members who have disabilities	£200
The Evergreens	Support for hall hire for a social group of older people in Highwoods and Greenstead	£250
Open Doors Lunch Club	To assist with transport and running costs	£200
Little Clacton Village Hall	Purchase of new tables to maintain facilities in the community	£250
Colchester Carers Centre	Christmas activities for young carers to encourage self-esteem and provide peer group support	£100
April Centre, Colchester	Sleeping bags for emergency survival packs for those who cannot be resettled	£450
Colchester Gateway Clubs	Towards a public performance of the music group who have various disabilities.	£350

TRUST OBJECTS

The funds available to the Colchester and Tendring Community Trust for grant making will be used to support voluntary organisations and community groups that are addressing outstanding social needs in the areas of Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council

TRUST POLICY

Support will be provided to voluntary organisations/ groups, but not individuals, for disbursement within the areas specified above. Applications will be considered for both new and ongoing projects and assistance is available for both capital expenditure and essential running costs. Priority will be given to the smaller voluntary organisations/ groups based and operating within the area of benefit, as opposed to regional and national groups.

Applications for furtherance of religious or political causes will not be accepted, however applications from religious organisations for projects benefiting the wider community will be considered. Where financial help is sought the Trust will require details of the organisations own commitment to the particular project. Should a grant be approved evidence of expenditure may be required in due course.

Proposed Charities Investment Bond

In our submission to our local Members of Parliament, we detailed our thoughts for this scheme by suggesting that if our invested monies provided a realistic rate of interest then we would be able to continue to give the help and support which we know is so greatly appreciated by many small community groups.

- The investment bond would be offered by National Savings or another recognised financial institution.
- The bond would only be offered to a recognised charity with a registered charity number.
- The maximum amount that could be invested in this bond would be £500,000.
- Each charity would be limited to one bond.
- The bond would always give a rate of interest that was equal to or higher than the rate of inflation.
- That the bond would be tax free.
- The bond would be an investment for two to five years with only interest being received by the charity in that time.
- The whole or part of the bond could be surrendered by the charity at any time but they would not be able to reinvest or to obtain another bond.

The idea of providing a limit of £500,000 would be to help the smaller charities which are especially struggling at this time but to prevent the 'big boys' from 'cashing in' with their vast investments.

The time limit on the bond is in the hope that by the end of this present government the current financial crisis will have been largely resolved and our financial institutions will be again be offering realistic interest rates.



Let's keep in touch

We would love to keep you up to date with the work of Grassroots.

Just provide us with your e-mail address and we will send you our Newsletter electronically.

Don't worry if you do not have an e-mail - if you send us your name and address then we'll post you a Newsletter.

Colchester and Tendring Community Trust

The Straight Road Centre, 329 Straight Road

Colchester CO3 9EF

Tel: 01206 542255

Email: info@grassrootscharity.org

www.grassrootscharity.org



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Charity Number 803193

grassroots.

Supporting causes
important to local
people in the
Colchester and
Tendring areas

grassroots.
Supporting causes in Colchester & Tendring

Director

Sue Hawes

Volunteer

George Posner

Trustees

Peter Simpson
(Chair)

Anne Brown
(Vice Chair)

Robin Blackmore

Allan Blundell

Robert Clubb JP

Robin Finch

Christopher Garnett

Bonnie Hill JP

Ray Roberts

Tony Whitmarsh JP

David Wood



Inspiring Voices Award Scheme

The Inspiring Voices Award Scheme is open to disadvantaged and isolated communities who are empowering themselves through the use of digital media.

The Media Trust are looking for ten examples of community digital media activities that could inspire other communities to embrace digital media themselves. The awards will be made to the ten applicants deemed to have made the strongest case for their project.

The winner will receive £500 and communications support through the Media Trust's Inspiring Voices Award Scheme.

Communities can apply and find further information at www.inspiringvoices.org, by calling 020 7217 3751 or email communityvoices@mediatrust.org.



Alexandra Rose Charities

Alexandra Rose works with charities and community organisations across the country helping them to raise funds through their national annual raffle and through 'Rose Day' street collections.

For more information on how Alexandra Rose can help your organisation see www.alexandrarosecharities.org.uk, call 01252 726171 or email enquiries@alexandrarose.org.uk



Alexandra Rose Charities

**Next Grassroots Grants Round
Closing Date 30 April 2011**