



NEWS RELEASE – January 2012

Hills Group – mapping its support for communities

TODAY'S Hills Group is a dynamic regional business which, while still centred on Wiltshire, has stretched its boundaries into neighbouring areas.

Established in 1900 the company now employs a workforce of 400 people and remains dedicated to three core activities: recycling and waste management; the quarrying of aggregates and production of ready-mixed concrete; and the building of new homes.

The business is led by chief executive Michael Hill, the great grandson of its founder, with Alan Pardoe in the role of chairman. Under them, the business embraces a family ethos and that is reflected in its relationships with its various stakeholders – and in its approach in particular to those it employs, to local communities where it operates and to the environment.

Over the years Hills has ploughed millions into community causes across Wiltshire and now, for the first time, the company has charted the breadth of its support. A new interactive map on the Hills website (<http://bit.ly/snegpL>) and its Facebook page (<http://on.fb.me/AB4U1s>) shows people the individual projects which have benefited.

Arguably the support which will last the longest is that given to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. This unique partnership has existed for over 20 years resulting in the protection and restoration of vast areas of Wiltshire's natural environment for the benefit of local communities and wildlife. Mike Hill said: "Hills is part of the community and we want to play our part in making it a better place for all."



More than £8 million has been distributed through the Landfill Communities Fund, and one of the organisations which administers it is the Devizes-based charity Community First. Lynn Gibson, assistant chief executive, said: “The fund supports community, built heritage and environmental projects in the vicinity of landfill areas or depots. The majority of Wiltshire and Swindon are covered by eligible catchment areas, so we would encourage community groups to find out more and to apply.”

But the company’s contribution to the community can be seen in many different ways such as diverting recycled washing machine drums to a scout club to be used as safer fire-pits, promoting recycling at the Calnefest music festival, donating compost to numerous school and town garden projects such as Cricklade, who are the current Britain in Bloom Champion of Champions and sponsorship of children’s play schemes and village events.

ENDS



Tony Hill, director and shareholder of Hills UK Ltd (second right) with representatives from TWIST, Community First and local residents at the opening of the Penhill TWIST Project in Swindon where Hills granted £50,000



Helen Cotter of Community First (left) with Benjamin A. Parker, founder and Chairman of River Bourne Community Farm CIC and Jane Wilkinson, Farm Office Manager. Hills granted £15,600 to the project



Bob Jones (centre) and volunteers from Cricklade in Bloom take a well earned rest during preparations for Cricklade's 2011 Britain in Bloom competition entry. Hills has supported the town's Britain in Bloom aspirations for a number of years with donations of large quantities of compost for tree planting and soil improvement. The town won the Champion of Champions title in 2011.

Notes to editors:

The Hills Group Limited

Established in 1900 The Hills Group Limited is a privately owned family company with a broad and successful portfolio of business activities which include recycling and waste management; quarrying of aggregates and production of ready-mixed concrete; and building new homes. It is a dynamic regional business which, while centred on Wiltshire, has stretched its boundaries into neighbouring areas. The Group has a turnover of £67 million and employs almost 400 people over 28 sites.

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