



**NEWS RELEASE –24 October 2011**

## **Landfill Communities Fund helps re-open historic building in Westbury**

Money from taxes collected on waste sent to landfill has helped to re-open an historic building in Westbury.

The Laverton Institute, an imposing Grade 2 listed Victorian building built by Abraham Laverton MP in 1873, has been extensively re-furbished thanks to funding from Wiltshire company, The Hills Group Limited.

The money has come in part from the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF), administered by Community First, which allows waste operators to divert some of the Landfill Tax due on waste sent to landfill to community and environmental projects.

Hills has donated £25,354 from the LCF towards the Laverton Project which aims to re-open the building as a community centre for the use of the inhabitants of Westbury.

“We are committed to giving something back for the benefit of all communities in Wiltshire and are delighted to be involved in the Laverton project,” said Mike Hill, chief executive of Hills.

The funding has been used for phase two of the project. This has involved refurbishing a ground floor meeting room and equipping it with multi-media facilities, refurbishing the foyer and stairway, refurbishment of the main hall and health and safety improvements.

Following a VIP launch reception at the Laverton Institute on Friday October 21<sup>st</sup> and an open day for the public on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>, the hall is available for use by local community groups.

“We are delighted to support projects such as the Laverton Project through the Landfill Communities Fund,” said Lynn Gibson, Assistant Chief Executive of Community First. “The Fund supports community, built heritage and environmental projects in the vicinity of landfill areas or depots. The majority of Wiltshire and Swindon is covered by eligible catchment areas, so we would encourage other community groups to find out more about the grant on our website, and to apply.”

**ENDS**



## Notes to editors

**The Laverton Project** is administered by the Laverton Institute Trust, originally dating from 1886, and Westbury Town Council. Since 2003 Westbury Town Council has been the sole trustee of the Trust when the building was taken over from West Wiltshire District Council. Westbury Council offices are housed within the building.

Phases three and four of the project will involve marketing the building to the local community, consulting the public and attracting regular use of the community facilities. The Institute will also include information on the history of Westbury and of the Laverton Institute.

**Contact:** John Parker, Project Officer, Westbury Town Council, on 01373 822232 or email: [enquiries@thelaverton.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thelaverton.co.uk)

**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. [www.hills-group.co.uk](http://www.hills-group.co.uk)

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**Community First** is a charity working to improve the quality of life and the economic well-being of people throughout Wiltshire and Swindon. With the aim of empowering people and strengthening local communities, Community First provides technical advice, practical support and grant aid for a wide range of community-based projects meeting local needs locally.

Working in close partnership with voluntary organisations, statutory agencies and private funders, Community First develops and manages countywide programmes bringing social, economic and environmental benefits to local people. [www.communityfirst.org.uk](http://www.communityfirst.org.uk) **Media**

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