



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stour Valley Environment Fund Is Now Open!

A Fund grown from local giving will benefit environmental projects in the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Stour Valley

The Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Stour Valley Project has established the Stour Valley Environment Fund (SVEF) to support charities and voluntary groups working to enhance community life and the environment on both the Essex and Suffolk sides of the River Stour. The new Fund is both donation seeking and grant giving, and is managed on behalf of the AONB by local grantmaking charitable trust, Essex Community Foundation (ECF) (Reg. Charity No. 1052061).

Nigel Chapman, Chairman of Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Joint Advisory Committee says: "The Stour Valley Environment Fund provides a channel for local giving to local causes. Individuals, families, companies or charitable trusts can support the Stour valley landscape and by pooling donations into one charitable Fund will have a much more powerful impact to support environmental activities in the Stour Valley. The fund will grow over the years with donations, legacies and investment".

The Stour Valley is cherished for its relatively undeveloped, tranquil landscape and stunning natural and cultural history, by the people that live in, work in and visit it. Recognised as special by England's greatest landscape painter, John Constable, this protected landscape is a 'living picture' captured for future generations. It is cared for by the AONB Project team working together with a Partnership of local and community groups.

Caroline Taylor, Programmes Director at ECF said “We are delighted that the ANOB has taken this long-term approach to support voluntary and community organisations in the Stour Valley area. We look forward to working with them and the Suffolk Community Foundation to ensure that the grants distributed from the Stour Valley Environment Fund has the maximum impact.”

Grants of up to £2,500 will be awarded twice a year, in January and September, and the next deadline is Monday 9 January 2012.

To apply for a grant and to make a donation please contact Essex Community Foundation on 01245 355947 or visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

For more information please contact Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project on 01473 264263, dedhamvale.project@suffolk.gov.uk or visit www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org