



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018

### **Subject: Local Business Fights the Rising Tide of Plastic**

Almost a year ago to the day Lockheed Martin UK embarked on a beach clean at The Oyster Beds, Hayling Island. On the 18th May this year, the firm returned for another dose of fresh air, community spirit and a sense of accomplishment along with the Friends of Langstone Harbour.

The Friends of Langstone Harbour are a conservation group promoting interest in the harbour and working to improve the area for local people and wildlife. They welcomed the help from Lockheed Martin to keep the shoreline clean and litter free, particularly as plastic in our oceans is currently such a hot topic.

A lot of the plastic from on-the-go food and drink packaging gets broken down in the sea and is often mistaken for food by fish and birds. Regular beach cleans are a great way for groups to get together as a team whilst helping their local community.

Lockheed Martin UK, based at Havant, regularly take part in volunteering activities organised by Community First and over the past few years have helped many local charities and organisations. Mark Ralphson, a director at the company, is pleased to be out working with Community First on local projects. He said, "The beach clean is always a great event, all be it we are surprised at the amount of plastic and general litter we find. It is a gentle reminder to all of us to dispose of our waste responsibly both as individuals and as Lockheed Martin."

John Worley from the Friends of Langstone Harbour said, "We have had a lovely day with Lockheed Martin, Hayling has never been cleaner. It has been a privilege to be out with such a hard working and cheerful group of people."

Without the support of local businesses, many charity and community groups would struggle. For more information about how you can get involved with the employee volunteering scheme contact Rachel Taylor at [Rachel.taylor@cfirst.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.taylor@cfirst.org.uk) or telephone 0300 500 8085 ext.9724.

- End -

**Photo** - Volunteers from Lockheed Martin and John Worley from Friends of Langstone:



### **Notes for Editors**

1. Communities First Wessex (known as Community First) provides support and advice to local voluntary and community groups, charities and social enterprises in order to build their capacity and ensure a thriving and successful voluntary sector across East Hampshire, Fareham, Havant and Winchester. We also provide a one stop shop for all aspects of volunteering; helping recruit and place volunteers throughout our local communities and providing specialist training for voluntary organisations.
2. Communities First Wessex also delivers critical community services including:
  - a. Community Transport and Dial a Ride in East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Winchester and Basingstoke
  - b. Shopmobility in Fareham, Havant and Chichester, and Winchester
  - c. Health and wellbeing services including surgery signposting with GP surgeries in Bordon, Fareham and Waterlooville, a Silver Linings programme for older people at Hewitt's in Emsworth, Walking 4 Health in Fareham, and a Home Help and a Gardening Service for vulnerable people in Fareham.
  - d. Support for Community Buildings and managing agents for Leigh Park Community Centre in Havant
  - e. Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling services

Community First is the trading name of Communities First Wessex

Registered Charity no 1147527 Company Registered in England and Wales 8071971 at  
Langstone Technology Park Langstone Road Havant Hampshire PO9 1SA



- f. Specialist youth work including support for young people's mental health
  - g. Work and skills based training and support for unemployed people
  - h. Supported volunteering for people with a range of needs including mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, and those with a physical or mild learning disability.
3. Communities First Wessex employs 116 staff, has more than 80 regular volunteers and has a turnover of £2.6m. Its main sources of income are local authority and government grants and contracts, Big Lottery Fund and a range of charitable trusts.
4. For further information contact:  
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