

Media release and photocall

August 2011

Motor along to charity car wash at Balfour Beatty

BALFOUR Beatty staff in Essex will be getting wet and mucky as they invite members of the public to bring their cars along for a super scrub at their charity car wash later this month.

The team are turning their Springfield depot in Chelmsford into a public car wash on the weekends of August 13/14 and August 20/21 to raise as much money as they can for Farleigh Hospice.

Balfour Beatty, which employs 130 people across Essex, providing highway maintenance services on behalf of Essex County Council, covering the boroughs of Chelmsford, Colchester, Tendring, Braintree and Maldon, signed up to support Farleigh Hospice's first ever £50 Challenge.

The team has 12 weeks to turn £50 into as much money as it can for the Chelmsford based hospice, which provides care and support to hundreds of people with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses.

Already various activities have raised hundreds of pounds and more antics are planned.

Nichola Bell, who organised many of the events, said: "The staff have really taken the challenge to their hearts and are contributing in all sorts of ways.

"Staff and the local caterers have been making cakes and selling them for 50p a slice, we've introduced an honesty box for tea and coffee which is usually free, and we've created theme days every other Friday where people wear unusual clothes. Last week's was Dare to Wear Pink, but it's the Worst Cardigan day that I'm really looking forward to!"

Last week more than a dozen staff took part in a golf day sponsored by traffic management specialists Palmer, a supplier to Balfour Beatty in Essex.

Raffle tickets also go on sale this week with prizes including televisions, a microwave, vouchers and a £250 Red Letter Day experience.

But next is the car wash, which will see staff inviting people into the Springfield depot between 9am and 3pm where about 15 volunteers will be handwashing all manner of vehicles, with prices starting at £4 per car.

Essex contract manager Pat Clarke said: "As soon as we told staff about the link up with Farleigh Hospice they responded magnificently. It's really brought a focus to our charitable activities. I hope as many people as possible will bring their car along for a wash to support such a well-deserving cause."

Farleigh Hospice has recruited 50 businesses across the county to the £50 Challenge and is hoping to raise thousands during the 12-week campaign.

Corporate Coordinator Julie Sawyer, who is heading up the £50 Challenge for Farleigh Hospice, said: "Balfour Beatty is really doing us proud with all the fundraising activities they are taking part in. I thought the car wash idea was brilliant because not many firms have the space or equipment for it. I'll certainly take my car only for a wash – although they may want to charge me more because it's so dirty!"

To purchase raffle tickets or donate prizes, contact Nichola Bell on 01245 397403 or email Nichola.Bell@bblivingplaces.com

Notes to editors

Photographers are invited to attend the car wash on August 13/14 and August 20/21 between 9am and 3pm.

For more information, pictures or to organise interviews contact Nichola Bell on 01245 397403 or Nichola.Bell@bblivingplaces.com.

Ends