

**BBC: Digital Participation Award Winner
Essex United.**

Richard Hockett (MillRace IT.): Essex UniTe is a partnership of several organisations across the county of Essex. MillRace IT is a social enterprise. Our corps purpose is IT recycling. For a lot of the staff here is more about recycling people than it is just about recycling computers. We very much use recycling computers as a method to help people get their foot back on the ladder.

Vox: I've been out of work for nearly two years. It helps with, you know, to get back out to work and look for other jobs.

Richard: As we're running the Essex UniTe project, it's very easy to take some of the better equipment and actually then put it out into sheltered housing schemes to enable older people to use it.

(Woman speaking: You see here where it says to view click the open button below.)

Jen Golledge (Essex UniTe): They're second hand computers that we've got in from companies that don't have a use for them any longer and we've given them a use. We've installed them in this scheme here for the residents to use free of charge, any time that they like. And we've come in and we've shown them how to use them.

(Woman speaking: Just click at there, on that square.)

Jen: People have made friends, people that they might not have known otherwise and people have got connected.

Vox: I had no idea at first, no idea whatsoever. But the young ladies have taught me and I'm getting on pretty good, well I think so. I don't know whether they do.