



Photo courtesy of East Dunbartonshire Council

Lennoxtown:
the future looks bright

Action stations!

MORE than 90 people turned up to take part in a public meeting in October looking at future developments for Lennoxtown.

The public meeting was part of a major community consultation exercise aimed at establishing what people want to see in their local community. Four key areas emerged which need to be considered in a more focused way, perhaps through project groups.

The Main Street and village gateways group can look at revamping Main Street and at road

One future development could see a competition for architecture students to come up with ideas for the Main Street~

Colin Roxburgh,
Community development specialist

and traffic issues. This will apply not only to the conditions of roads around the village and access to local shops, but will also include safe routes to schools and walking paths.

The village heart and civic centre group can focus on trying to establish more of a 'village square' which would include a range of other services and amenities, progressing ideas that have been discussed in the village before.

The High Church and Campsie Glen group has more of an environmental remit and its main task would be to secure community ownership of the church which dates back to the early nineteenth century, and to look at establishing walks for use by ramblers, tourists and local people.

The leisure and recreation group can work to improve the leisure facilities on offer in the village.

The public meeting was the

culmination of consultation work that began in the summer. A survey of village residents and workshops for locals to put forward ideas has also taken place to ensure Lennoxtown Initiative knows what local people want.

Community development specialist Colin Roxburgh, who helped organise the consultation exercise, said: "We were delighted to see so many people turn up at the meeting in October and sign up to join the different project groups. We now need to look at how we progress the detailed actions which will help Lennoxtown develop and move forward, working closely with local planners, organisations and architects.

"One future development could see a design competition for architecture students to come up with ideas for the Main Street and village centre – briefed by the action groups as to what the community wants to see."



HERE COME THE CELTS

COMMUNITY leaders have hailed plans by Celtic to build a multi-million-pound training facility in Lennoxtown.

To find out more, see page 4

COMMENT | IAN YOUNG, CHAIRMAN

THIS is a time of year when it is traditional to look back over the past 12 months and look forward to the new. I think it is safe to say that 2005 has been a year of accelerating changes for Lennoxtown Initiative.

We can look back at a number of successful projects in our social inclusion agenda. The Learning Centre in School Lane has hosted a variety of training courses attracting, on average, 70 people per month. Our links with Learndirect Scotland, Careers Scotland and Jobcentre Plus have never been stronger and are making a positive improvement to skills and employability for Lennoxtown residents.

The physical regeneration of the village has also started with the construction of the new business centre in Station Road which will create much needed office accommodation and workshop space for local businesses. Our major local employer, Campsie Spring, is now part of the Greencore Group of companies and the new management team is actively pursuing business developments which will bring increased employment opportunities to the village.

Looking forward to 2006, we



will carry forward work with the community on the Village Design Brief, with the planned regeneration of the Main Street as a key element of this work. The drivers of change will be local focus groups formed to lead on projects such as the Village Action Plan, the Heritage and Preservation Trust and leisure and sporting strategies.

All in all, we look forward to next year continuing this process of change for the better. May I wish everyone in our community a peaceful and happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Help restore the High Church

WOULD you like to be involved in helping to restore the High Church in Campsie?

A community heritage and preservation trust to help repair the church, which was built in the early 1800s, has recently received charitable status. Its job will be to source funding for the repair costs. The first task will be to restore the church tower, putting a new clock face and chimes in place.

A trust board has been established, but willing and enthusiastic volunteers are still



needed. If you would like to get involved in the work of the trust, contact company secretary Simon McGillivray through the Lennoxtown Initiative office on 01360 312978.

BOARD UPDATE...



Alex Wingate and Derek Miller are two members of the Lennoxtown Initiative board. Here they explain what motivated them to take on this community role.

Alex Wingate

Local man Alex Wingate has joined the Lennoxtown Initiative board bringing with him a wealth of knowledge of the area.

Alex, 44, runs a communications company in Lennoxtown village and lives there with his family.

Alex said: "I was approached by the Initiative and asked to join the board, partly because of my involvement with the local boys football club, Campsie Boys Club, of which I'm treasurer.

"I was keen to become part of the board as I was born and bred in the village and now have two young children living here. I've always been very much a part of the community – when I was 15 I was on the anti-vandalism committee."

Alex is on the small business finance committee of the board and has been working to improve facilities in Lennoxtown, for example, for football clubs.



Derek Miller

Derek Miller has been finance director of the Lennoxtown Initiative for the past 12 months and has served on the board for about two years.

Derek, who has lived in Lennoxtown since the mid 1980s, is a regional manager with one of Scotland's major clearing banks, covering the south and west of the country.

Derek said: "The board felt it could do with some assistance the financial side and thought I could help given my background. I joined the board over two years ago, but became finance director about 12 months ago.

"I look after the purse strings for the initiative. There are a number of projects under consideration at any one time and I help decide which ones represent best value for money."

One such project currently underway is restoring the High Church in Lennoxtown. This includes fitting a working clock in the historic clock tower.

Another big project is the building of new changing facilities for the Campsie Black Watch football team.

Time for a challenge

“But there’s nothing for us to do...” when you’re young, it often feels as if this is the case, no matter where you live, but recent developments in Lennoxtown have done their utmost to establish plenty of new and exciting things for young people to do.

The Project

Song writing, snow boarding, learning how to be a DJ – it’s a world away from the old image of youth groups whose only form of entertainment was a pool table and a few badminton racquets!

The Project opens its doors every Wednesday evening for Lennoxtown’s 12-16-year-olds and it promises that there isn’t a pool table in sight!

Instead, youngsters can try their hand at film and music production, have a go on a Play Station, take up the challenge of the dance mat or do a little bit of acting. For the outdoorsy types – or those just

curious – The Project also organises kayaking, hill walking and rock climbing trips, and other trips and visits.

Four youth development workers and young volunteers run The Project. It runs from 7 to 9.30pm at the Campsie Memorial Hall.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

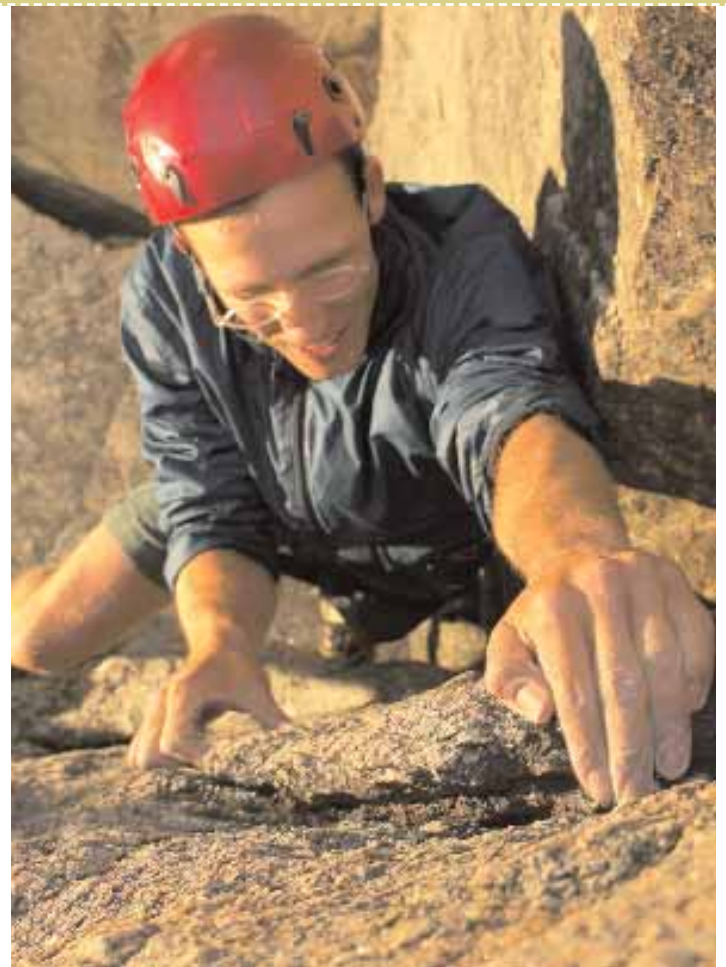
The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme can help young people learn new skills, help others, experience adventure and gain a great sense of achievement.

To help achieve the award, participants can take part in voluntary work experience with Lennoxtown Initiative, the After School Club, the youth magazine, the nursery school... the list is endless and participants can choose an activity that will develop practical and social skills in a range of environments.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award group meets on Wednesday evenings at Campsie Memorial Hall from 7 to 9.30 pm. To find out more, call Ian MacFarlane, senior youth development worker on 0141 761 4803.

Training programme for young people

East Dunbartonshire Council’s youth work team offers courses for



The Project also organises kayaking, hill walking and rock climbing trips~

young people aged between 15 and 18.

Participation and Leadership is an introductory course for young people who want to be listened to and get involved in making real decisions about their community.

For further information, contact the Youth Issues Team on 0141 761 4807.

Adults

Would you like to work with children and young people? ‘First Steps’ is a general course targeted at those who want to find out more.

The course introduces people to both play work and youth work so that they can choose which age group they would like to specialise in. It is aimed at those with little or no previous experience.

If you would like to take part in any of the training courses, contact Ian MacFarlane, senior youth development worker, on 0141 761 4803 or e-mail: ian.macfarlane@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Your community needs you!

If you like the thought of working with young people and you’re still

young at heart, why not join the local Youth Work Team?

East Dunbartonshire Council has opportunities for people with life experience and good people skills to join the team. As a potential youth worker, you will be provided with training and given the chance to develop a career in working with young people.

For more information, contact the team on 0141 761 4807.

Youth involvement

A community-based youth team works with young people in Lennoxtown to help develop their skills, experience, knowledge and participation in community affairs.

The group has elected a Youth Council of six, whose job it is to make local decision-makers aware of young people’s views and decide what activities are on offer at The Project.

Lennoxtown’s teenagers contributed to the development of East Dunbartonshire Council’s antisocial behaviour strategy and are regularly consulted on a range of topics, such as the Council’s Service Plan for Children and Young People.

New kid on the block

THE Lennoxtown Initiative has appointed local boy, Jonathan Carlin, as its youth council spokesperson.

Jonathan, 16, from Lennoxtown was nominated for the board and had his first meeting in July.

He said: “I have attended a few meetings and so far my focus has been on listening to what’s being discussed to understand the issues.”

He is juggling his commitments to the board with studying acting and performing at Langside College in the south

side of Glasgow.

He has previous experience of community work having been a volunteer at Lennoxtown Youth Project.

Before college Jonathan attended school at St Ninians High School.



Here comes the New Year - with new offices

Two storey office development will bring new commercial opportunities to the village

AN exciting new development of quality office and workshop accommodation is under construction at the foot of the Campsie Fells in Lennoxtown.

A two-storey serviced office development will feature meeting and training facilities on the ground floor, while adjacent workshop units will have office space within a mezzanine floor. Both offices and workshops will benefit from flood wiring throughout, Broadband access and CCTV security monitoring.

The development is due for completion in February 2006 and will offer ten carpeted office suites ranging from 235 to 794 square feet and five workshop units ranging from 1,410 up to 3,056 square feet.

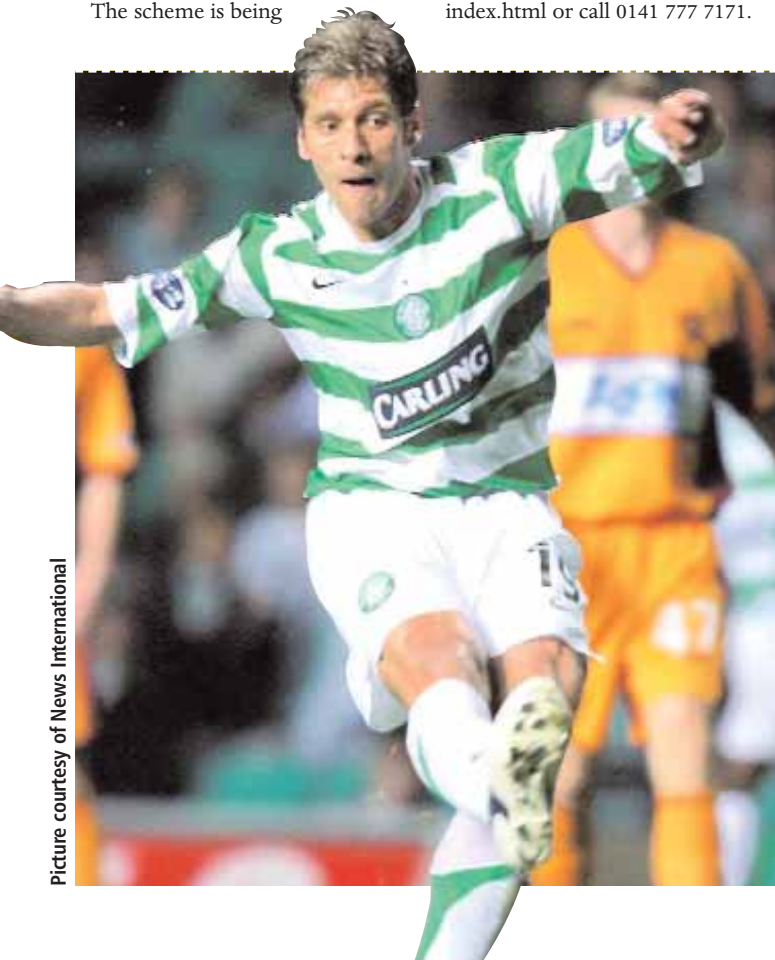
The scheme is being

developed by the Strathkelvin Development Company Ltd (SDC) in partnership with the Lennoxtown Initiative, and funding support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Horizon Residential Development Ltd.

The Lennoxtown project is one of a number of exciting developments by SDC currently underway throughout East Dunbartonshire.

Andrew Thomson, operations director of SDC, said: "SDC is looking forward to the opening of the new development early in the new year and what it will bring to Lennoxtown in terms of new opportunities."

To find out more visit www.edet.org.uk/lennoxtown/index.html or call 0141 777 7171.



Picture courtesy of News International

...and here come the Celts

Ian Young welcomes news that Celtic football club is to build a state-of-the-art training ground in Lennoxtown

COMMUNITY leaders have hailed plans by Celtic to build a multi-million-pound training facility in Lennoxtown.

The Scottish football giants hope the state-of-the-art complex on the site of the old Lennox Castle Hospital will become a world-class training facility.

It will feature three grass pitches, an artificial pitch, indoor training area, gym, physio, sports science facilities and a media centre.

Ian Young, chairman of the

Lennoxtown Initiative, said the facility would help re-generate the area.

"I warmly welcome Celtic to Lennoxtown and their crucial contribution to the regeneration of the village and surrounding area.

"The facility will be a tremendous boost for the area and we look forward to the completion of the complex. The community will be delighted Celtic has decided to build the facility at Lennoxtown."

The club will also shift its day-to-day operations from Parkhead just



Water great future!

THE future looks bright and clear for the Greencore Mineral Water site in Lennoxtown – rather like its product!

The site was founded in 1987 and is the UK's largest provider of 'customer brand' still and sparkling natural mineral water – packing more than 170 million litres a year and supplying water to four of the UK's five biggest grocery retailers. The site employs around 150 people and has invested in the latest blow moulding and packaging technology which means that all of its own plastic bottles can be blown on-site.

A new management team took over at the site some months ago, when it was bought over by Greencore – an Irish company with several UK food factories. The new team, headed by interim managing director David Price, has undertaken new business initiatives and looked at the

culture of the site in a bid to make it a better place to work and a place that people want to work in.

David said: "The primary aim was to reduce staff turnover to provide a stable workforce, supplemented by agency staff brought in to deal with seasonal variations in the market. Production efficiency has improved greatly in the last few months, with the water output almost doubled and big strides have been made to improve housekeeping at the site."

"The future definitely looks good and our capital expenditure programme for next year includes planned growth at the factory.

"We are currently recruiting general workers at the factory. If anyone is interested in these positions, they can get an application form from Human Resources at Greencore on 01360 312121."

12 miles away under the massive scheme for the site.

The academy, which is expected to rival Rangers' £14 million Murray Park in Milngavie, will replace Celtic's Barrowfield training ground.

Councillor John Morrison, leader of East Dunbartonshire Council, also welcomed the project.

"I am very pleased to welcome Celtic to East Dunbartonshire, to a state-of-the-art training facility in Lennoxtown. This is the beginning of what I am sure will be a long and fruitful partnership between the club, council and local community."

Councillor John Dempsey, ward councillor for Lennoxtown, said: "It is great news that Celtic, a truly global brand, are coming to Lennoxtown. This is a huge boost for our community."

Celtic has entered into an agreement with NHS Greater Glasgow to purchase the 50-acre site.

Peter Lawwell, the Parkhead club's chief executive, said: "We've all recognised for some time that the club needs modern training facilities to match its playing achievements at all levels and we are now well on the road to developing an academy everyone associated with Celtic can be proud of."

He added: "We currently invest around £1.5 million per year in our youth development programme, and clearly the Championship-winning success of our reserve and under-19 teams and the introduction of a growing number of home-grown players into the first team is evidence of our success.

"However, it is important that this standard is maintained and improved, and as well as providing world class facilities for our first team, we are sure that the new facility will play an important role in developing an increasing number of Celtic's stars of the future."



Crèching in...

LENNOXTOWN Playgroup hosts a weekly mothers and toddlers group and crèche sessions Monday to Friday.

The playgroup is based at the Horsa Hut in the grounds of Lennoxtown Primary School and the mother and toddlers group is held on Tuesday mornings from 9.15 to 11.15am. It costs £1.50 per session, which includes a snack. This group is for children aged up to three.

The crèche operates on Monday and Friday mornings between 9.15 and 11.15am and on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons between 12.45 and 2.45pm. The cost of these sessions is £3.

Crèche sessions must be booked in advance and the playgroup can accept bookings for children aged between three months and five years of age. All playleaders are qualified or working towards their qualifications.

If you are interested in either the mothers and toddlers group or the crèche facilities and would like further information, please contact the playgroup on 01360 312438.

A life on the tiles

NEW SKILLS

WHEN 27-year-old Stuart Carr was turned down point blank for a prized college place he thought all was lost.

The Glasgow College of Building and Printing had been running an intensive course on wall and floor tiling and Stuart had pinned his hopes on it.

Stuart said: "They turned me down because I didn't live in a certain area and had not been jobless for more than six months. I didn't meet another couple of categories just for good measure."

And when he wandered rather despairingly into the Lennoxton Initiative office in December 2004 he thought all was lost.

But he hadn't reckoned on the



contacts of the Initiative's skills and learning manager Karen Heath.

Stuart went on: "I went to see Karen and she knew about a pilot scheme in this postcode area that could help. Karen put me in touch with Helen Shaw at the JobLink agency in Kirkintilloch and I put in a new application form to the college.

"On 23 December 2004 I heard

my application had been accepted. It really was the perfect Christmas present. Without the Lennoxton Initiative I would not have had the chance to run my own business. Karen knew the right buttons to press and her knowledge got me right to the person who was running the course."

He began trading at the end of June 2005 and by the end of his

first week he had won three weeks of work.

And it was this experience that helped him land a job as a tiler with East Dunbartonshire Council later in the year.

He said: "The college course was terrific and I had to achieve high standards every day for six months.

"I think the key to a great tiling job is the planning beforehand and I put a lot of effort in at that stage."

Karen Heath is responsible for helping people in the village get access to jobs, further education and training.

She said: "It's great to see a local lad start his career. I'm not just happy to help – it's my job. And I want to help many more people achieve their ambitions."

Brian's Gym'll Fixit role

NEW BUSINESS

GYM equipment doesn't run smoothly all by itself – it needs a helping hand and Brian Coyle's the man to provide it, thanks to the help he received from the Lennoxton Initiative.

Brian's business – Gymkit – services fitness machines in leisure centres and schools and makes any necessary repairs. And if you buy your own equipment or garden furniture for the kids, such as climbing frames or swings, Brian can assemble it for you too.

Brian worked for a company providing a similar service for 17 years before being made redundant. He popped into the Lennoxton Initiative office for help and advice about finding a new job. Having considered his options, he decided against retraining in another field and went for running his own business.

As there are only two other

businesses in Scotland providing the same kind of service, Brian figured he had hit upon a niche market. He's now been in business for ten months and has found plenty of private work, and he's currently waiting to hear if he will be providing the maintenance service for all East Dunbartonshire's schools.

Brian said: "I spoke to Karen Heath and Joyce Nicol at the Lennoxton Initiative and they were very helpful. They pointed me in the right direction for retraining opportunities and when I decided against that, they showed me how to apply for funding for my business which helped me buy tools.

"If I get more work, I'll be looking to take someone on and I'd like to employ someone local – to give something back to the community. Lennoxton Initiative has told me there would be additional funding and other help available for me if I did that."



CONTACT | Gymkit

Tel: 01360 310604

Mob: 07963 043488



There is a range of courses available at the Lennoxtown Initiative

TRAINING COURSES

JANUARY is a great month for a new start and learning a new skill or hobby fits the bill perfectly!

Lennoxtown Initiative is committed to providing local people with the opportunity to learn – whether that is in order to get a new hobby, start on the path to further education or to enhance your employment opportunities.

Skills and learning manager Karen Heath said: “In order for us to provide what people in Lennoxtown want, I need them to get in touch and tell me what it is they want to learn about. If we can’t provide it at Lennoxtown Initiative, I might be able to put people in touch with other learning and educational outlets.”

Courses organised for January 2005 are:

- Internet and e-mail
- Introduction to Alternative Therapies
- Windows for Work – for unemployed young people
- First Aid for Carers of Children
- Internet Safety for Families
- Learning through Play.

FIND OUT MORE |

If you would like to book a place or if you want to discuss ideas for future courses, contact Karen Heath on: 01360 312978, by e-mail: karen.heath@lennoxtowninitiative.co.uk or by coming into the office at: 51-53 School Lane, Lennoxtown.

Targeting the jobless

LEARNING

DID you know Lennoxtown Initiative is a learndirect branded organisation – a place that has achieved national recognition for its commitment to learning?

learndirect branding is a quality standard for local learning centres and achieving this status means going through a rigorous assessment. The Lennoxtown Initiative learning centre has been up and running since October 2003 and in that time has provided over 35 courses which have been attended by more than 273 local people. There is a wide range of courses on offer – from IT-based training to sign language and first aid. The main target market is unemployed people in the town.

The learndirect status means the centre can also offer on-line courses, giving local people access to a broader range of learning resources.



Chairman Ian Young with Liz Baird of learndirect

ONLINE UPDATE OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS

THE Lennoxtown Initiative has launched its website designed to keep everyone – from stakeholders and funders to local residents – up-to-date with developments.

The site went live in September after months of hard work by the team at the Initiative.

The content explains why the Initiative was set-up and what its aims are. It provides the latest news, lists the resources available, for example to business start-ups, and provides a history of the area, including a photo library.

Visitors to the site are invited to give

their feedback by phone or e-mail and can request a copy of the Lennoxtown Initiative newsletter.

Skills and learning manager, Karen Heath, said: “We put a lot of thought into deciding the content of the site – it was a labour of love. We wanted a balance between providing information on the rich history of the area and the work being done now by the Initiative. We’ll keep the site as up-to-date as possible by adding new content.”

www.lennoxtowninitiative.co.uk



COMMENT

**TOM CAMPBELL,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



SINCE the start of summer 2005 there has been a great deal of activity in the village which point to a very exciting few months ahead.

Work started on the new business development in Station Road, with an anticipated completion date of the end of January. This £1.8m development will bring quality business premises to Lennoxton and represents an important start to the physical regeneration of the village.

We anticipate that the office and workshop space will bring new businesses to the area as well as offering existing businesses new opportunities.

One of the key developments in Station Road is the new changing facilities for Campsie Black Watch and facilities for the Campsie

Racing Pigeon Club. A new secure area adjoining the football pitches will see this complex of much anticipated facilities.

The Initiative has worked alongside the football and pigeon clubs and appreciates the efforts of everyone involved in bringing forward these proposals to the point where they will be delivered on the ground. It is anticipated that the new facilities will be ready for use by the end of February.

As well as the physical changes to the village, the Initiative embarked on a wide-scale consultation with the residents on the Village Design Brief. Over 200 people took part in various meetings and I would like to thank all those who participated. The board of the Initiative has

been delighted by the positive response that the village has shown and is looking forward to working with those who are committed to delivering the change in the village. An action plan is being developed as a direct result of the consultation and this will appear in the final report by the end of January 2006. It is intended that every home and business will receive a summary of the report, with the main report itself being available on our web site and copies available at the Initiative's office and the library.

Undoubtedly, it was an exciting summer and autumn and I look forward over the coming months to see much of what we have started coming to completion.

**Who's who
at Lennoxton Initiative**

Your board members are:

CHAIRMAN:
Ian Young

VICE CHAIRMAN:
Derek Miller

SECRETARY:
Jim Gilmour

MEMBERS:
Jonathan Carlin
Councillor John Dempsey
Kathy Haswell
Derek Miller
Ian Reid
Lynn Rew
Alan Sim
Anne Unsworth
Alex Wingate

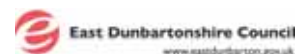
CHIEF EXECUTIVE:
Tom Campbell



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East Dunbartonshire Council
and Scottish Enterprise
Dunbartonshire.



**The eight key objectives of the
Lennoxton Initiative:**

1. To develop people's awareness of, access to and skills for work
2. To overcome barriers to individual inclusion
3. To sustain and grow the local employer base
4. To enhance the capacities of community groups and enterprises
5. To market the village's attractions
6. To mobilise the engagement of the community
7. To revitalise the physical fabric of the village
8. To integrate service delivery to Lennoxton

