

# Building Linwood from the Inside Out

*News from Linwood Community Development Trust*



## LINWOOD TOGETHER!

These quotations for me sum up the journey so far of the board of Linwood Community Development Trust. And just like on any journey, we've had our fair share of hold ups, no through roads and diversions.

It was only a year ago we launched the Linwood Community Action Plan which was produced following extensive community consultations as we wanted to hear what the residents of Linwood really wanted for their town.

This then enabled the Trust to use the valuable and personal contributions from hundreds of local residents when compiling a community plan tailored specifically for our town.

We now have great pleasure in announcing that hard work, determination and perseverance has finally paid off as not only are we in the process of owning a 2.4

hectare piece of land to develop community facilities, we have also secured more than £300,000 to deliver projects for the community by the community!

Another exciting development is that we will also be shortly moving in to our newly refurbished premises in Mossedge Industrial Estate.

I am proud of the progress achieved so far, all with the aim of improving local facilities for Linwood residents and making our community a better place in which to live, work and play.

I would like to thank the organisations and funders that have supported us throughout our journey. Their support has been invaluable.

My fellow board members have worked extremely hard and I would like to pay tribute to them. As volunteers, they have



dedicated an enormous amount of time, energy and passion to achieving the aims of the Plan.

We have made a good deal of progress; however, we realise there is still a long way to go in order to meet our goals and I look forward to building on this progress in the year ahead.

**Jeanette Anderson**  
*Chairperson*

*"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."*

Henry Ford

*"Perseverance is a great element of success. If you only knock long enough and loud enough at the gate, you are sure to wake up somebody."*

Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow

**Linwood Community**  
**Development Trust**  
*for the Community, by the Community*

## About LCDT



Members of LCDT L-R: Jeanette Anderson, Sharon-anne Ross, Carol Biggin, Kirsty Flannigan, Jacqueline Donnelly & Jacqueline Thompson

We are made up of volunteers from within Linwood and we will be launching a number of projects in the near future but recognise that we are unable to deliver these without the support of the local community.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you would like to help us by volunteering, becoming a customer or you want to find out more about our projects, then please get in touch:

## Contact Us

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[www.facebook.com/linwood.cdt](https://www.facebook.com/linwood.cdt)



## Community Football/Wellbeing Centre Project

At times, the last 4 years have been like 'rolling jelly up a hill' for LCDT. However, our voices have finally been heard and we are now in the process of acquiring from Renfrewshire Council a 2.4 hectare piece of land at Mossedge Playing Fields to develop much needed community facilities in Linwood.

Our initial plan is to build a football facility and later to extend this by building a wellbeing centre that will include a hall and permanent

stage area as we believe the delivery of a diverse range of health and social services under the one roof will help Linwood become a more thriving, inclusive and connected community.

We realise this will take a lot of hard work but we plan to get support from funding donors, external organisations and the local community to make this a reality.

*"Linwood has a great community spirit and the old community centre is witness to this. It is essential that this continues under the one roof so we can retain a sense of belonging, purpose and unity."*

(Quote by Linwood Resident)

## Kit & Caboodle Project

LCDT was delighted to be awarded funding from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund to develop an innovative project aimed at reducing carbon emissions in the community.

In conjunction with the local football community in Linwood, 'Kit & Caboodle' is a project designed to encourage people to think differently about activities related to sports such as car journeys, kit washing and recycling.

Kit & Caboodle will operate from our new premises at Mossedge Industrial Estate. Activities will comprise of:

- \* a re-cycling scheme for sports clothing and equipment to prevent useful items of kit

ending up in Landfill

- \* a bulk laundry system for football strips using large-load machines and eco-friendly air-drying pulleys
- \* the promotion of long-term behavior change with regard to travel habits

We also anticipate extending this scheme to include items of dancewear (leotards and jazz/tap/ballet shoes etc) and other items identified by the local community. Look out for further information about how you can use this facility to launder football strips, donate items of sportswear or pass on those football boots your child has grown out of and swap them for a bigger size!



Please get in touch if you can help.





## Healthy Eating in Linwood Project (HELP)

Published health statistics show that Linwood does not compare favourably with Renfrewshire or Scotland on a number of health measures; many of these can be linked to poor diet. Furthermore, unemployment has been found to have negative consequences on mental and physical wellbeing.

LCDT wants to do something about this and is currently developing HELP, which will:

- \* Provide Linwood residents with easy access to high quality, affordable fruit & vegetables

- \* Create educational and training opportunities to build a personal portfolio for employability requirements
- \* Signpost individuals to other services with support from other agencies.
- \* Provide volunteering opportunities
- \* Encourage healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle
- \* For every £5 spent on fruit/veg, £1.50 will be reinvested back into the project and other projects for Linwood

**Want to get involved? Please get in touch.**

***“Something to get residents working together. Raising money for new developments”***

**(Quote by Linwood Resident)**

## Linwood in Bloom Project

The Linwood in Bloom project aims to make Linwood a more attractive place by developing community flowerbeds and providing troughs/ planters.

Benefits of the project:

- \* Increase in civic pride through local people taking on the planning and management of their environment
- \* Long term improvement in the local environment through floral displays and improved cleanliness

- \* Regeneration of disadvantaged areas
- \* Stimulation of voluntary work
- \* A means to address conservation
- \* Positive impact on wellbeing of participants

**Want to help? Please get in touch.**

***“We need groups to work together to make Linwood more attractive eg flowerbeds and Christmas lights.”***

**(Quote by Linwood Resident)**



## Light Up Linwood



A question that was continually asked during LCDT's community consultation was “why doesn't Linwood have Christmas lights?”

LCDT members were committed to making this a priority as part of the Community Action Plan and we were delighted when volunteers from Linwood Community Council agreed to take this forward.

The Community Council applied for funding which resulted in us all experiencing an extremely successful Christmas 2013 Switch On event with many, many more to follow!

## Community Choir

Singing is good for you—and it's great fun!

With the help of local residents, LCDT would like to increase participation within the community by setting up a choir that will strengthen community ties across all age groups.

**Get in touch if you want to help**

## Keep up the good work!

It was one of those dark September nights in 2010 when I first turned into Linwood, past the eyesore of a shopping centre, down Brediland Road with the underused pitches on the right hand side and then pulled into the car park of a rather dilapidated looking Community Centre.

I was told by the Jannie that the meeting was upstairs, "it's the room with the women in it, and you'll no miss it". As I walked in, took my seat and listened to the introductions and the story of their campaign to save the Community Centre, it was the story being told in Beith, Govan and the Western Isles. A story of a community's agenda being largely ignored, an agenda which was measured, realistic and would not cost tens of millions of pounds to deliver. An agenda that was about people's needs, priorities and aspirations and, importantly, about a community's future. I soon realised that this campaign wasn't about a dilapidated Centre, it was a community reasserting their ownership of their community.

Over the course of the next few weeks and months, the Jannie was right - no one could miss the room with the women in it. As the group met and planned, their confidence grew and so did their voices. It was not just the vocal voices that they used; the use of Facebook, Twitter and all other forms of digital protest were brought into action. I almost felt sorry for those who were bombarded.

Almost; until I experienced the face to face

meetings where the women were ignored, patronised and belittled by the men in suits.

This experience only strengthened their resolve to change what was happening. With this resolve and their growing expertise of planning law, Government policy, Council policy and the usual Council shenanigans. The tone and direction of the discussions changed; no longer one of seeking permission to change, a growing realisation that no permission was required.

I don't think anyone attending those first meetings in the Community Centre would ever have thought that within three years a Community Trust would be formed, Tesco would have been forced to demolish the eyesore of a shopping centre, the Council would agree to transfer ownership of the football pitches, a retail unit would be set up and two development workers would be employed; over a thousand people would turn out to celebrate their Christmas tree and their lights being switched on in the middle of their community; "Linwood in Bloom" would be ready to plant up Linwood this spring, discussions would be underway to fund a football project; and the audacious move of setting up a food project in the shadow of Tesco would happen.

A forward thinking Council leader, a vocal MP and a supportive MSP have all contributed to



*Jim Boyle, The Grow Trust*

the success of the Trust.

However, Linwood! don't let anyone tell you any different; all this was achieved through the active and vocal support of the people of Linwood and primarily by the sheer determination of a group of tenacious women who make up the Board of the Linwood Community Development Trust.

Over the course of the last three years these women, supported by the people of Linwood, have ensured that Tesco lived up to their responsibility and that the Council did what Councils should do - put people first. Putting people first is reflected in the ambitious project to deliver a facility for football and wellbeing in Linwood. An ambition which will be made a reality through the continued and active support of the Linwood community. No permission is required; after all it's your community - support it.

*"This is our community, our future. Who best knows what our community needs than our community itself?"*

*Linwood Community Development Trust is proud to be a founding member of The Grow Trust and have shared their experience and ideas with Trusts in Beith, Govan and the Western Isles.*  
<http://www.growtrust.org>

