

LENZIE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST NEWSLETTER November, 2023

Dear Member,

**MYRTLE AVENUE COMMUNITY GARDEN is now recognised
OFFICIALLY AS A COMMUNITY ASSET BY EDC:**

The Community Garden in Myrtle Avenue has achieved recognition and appears on East Dunbartonshire Council's online map of Community Assets in two categories; Health and Wellbeing and Social and Leisure.



“Local green space in Lenzie that is being developed into a community garden with raised beds, ground bedding areas, and environmental art pieces. Opportunity for volunteering available through Lenzie Community Development Trust and the Kirkintilloch Horticultural Society”



“... where do you find information about positive things - the assets - in the community, to help you stay healthy? If you are socially isolated - a deficit - you can get social support. But where can you find social activities - assets - that will stop you becoming isolated in the first place?”

**<https://www.lenziecdt.scot/>
<https://www.facebook.com/LenzieCDT>”**

Cohousing Update:

We have been working very hard since the summer, expanding our efforts to secure a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) from the council, reaching out to sources of support, and making friends with other cohousing groups.



On 11th October we had an on site visit to the vacant Campsie View School site with:
Left to Right; David Carracher, Estates Dept., East Dunbartonshire Council;
Murdoch Wilson, LCDT; Margaret Whitelaw, LCDT; Margaret Reid, LCDT; Margaret
O'Connor, Community Enterprise Scotland; Matt Bridgestock, Architect and
Director, John Gilbert Architects.



We have met twice with our local councillors, Provost Renwick and Willie Paterson to keep them up to date with our progress.

We are still talking to Estates Department about their offer to present our submission at the full council meeting alongside their own. We understand that will take place in February, 2024 On 15th December we have a meeting with the head of EDC's Health and Social Care Partnership. They granted us £1000 which we used to host 2 public events.



We have received funding from CEIS and our Adviser Margaret O'Connor (see picture above) has written a 20 page expert report

to present to the council as part of our feasibility study and business plan for 22 community-led retirement homes on the site.



Matt Bridgestock (see photo), from John Gilbert Architects had drawn up two preliminary sketches of layouts for the site; one retaining the existing building and retrofitting homes, the other for new build. We will discuss these with the 30 people who have indicated a continuing interest in the homes.



Our C.O.S.S. Adviser, Fiona Taylor is preparing documents required by EDC for consideration of our application for a Community Asset Transfer for the school site. Her colleague has provided

us with statistical analysis of Lenzie carried out by an Oxford Group and is focused on Housing.



Imagine If are a team of three Imagineers, women working in the field of architecture, urban design and community engagement. Following our Public meeting they ran our event at the Community Festival, "Imagine If: Housing could be more than just Houses? The brought their Imaginarium game and found that in Lenzie the resulting data set showed the diversity of needs from housing and the context it sits in, ie guest room

or shared laundry could be integrated within a housing development rather than each residential unit having a private dedicated space for this. We will invite them back to run a follow up event with those who expressed a continuing interest.



Lorenzo Martinico of Edinburgh Students Housing Cooperative who have years of lived experience of community led housing gave a clear explanatory presentation along with the Imagineers at the Community Festival event and we will invite them back to the follow up event with Imagine If.

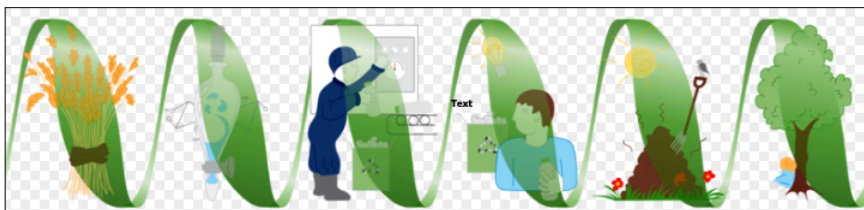


**UK COLLABORATIVE
CENTRE FOR
HOUSING EVIDENCE**

ESRC UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE), a leading housing research centre based at the University of Glasgow

There is growing research interest into cohousing, but all current work has been conducted on completed projects. If funding can be obtained, CaCHE is interested in conducting research into Lenzie Cohousing from start to finish which would make it unique.

That's all for now Folks, thank you for your continuing interest in our work which encourages us to keep going.



LATE NEWS: We have just arranged a meeting with Mr Derrick Pearce, Head of EDC's Health and Social Care Partnership to set out the health and social care benefits of senior cohousing in Lenzie.