

Introducing Lenzie Community Hall Limited – a Community Benefit Society



Who are we?

- A diverse group of volunteers from Lenzie
- Broad experience in charity/community work across Fair Trade, DeCafe, sports/first aid, disability access, environment, community council
- Professional backgrounds in civil engineering, business/project management, academia, finance, IT, healthcare, international trade, IT security, administration, fundraising, law...



What have we done so far?

In the space of 10 months:

- Ran an online petition gathering over 800 signatures in 2 weeks from supporter who wish to save the Hall
- Built a dedicated volunteer group of 13 people sustained over 20 meetings
- Community engagement event outside the Hall to raise awareness with real conversations
- Distributed >1000 leaflets to advertise the community survey at Lenzie Fireworks
- Established a new community body, registered with the FCA, with legal structure to submit a Community Asset Transfer bid (submission to OSCR in progress)
- Formed working partnerships with key support organisations such as EDVA, DTAS as well as good relations with key EDC officers and other community groups running halls
- Self-funded and obtained a building condition survey



What are we going to do?

- **Mission**

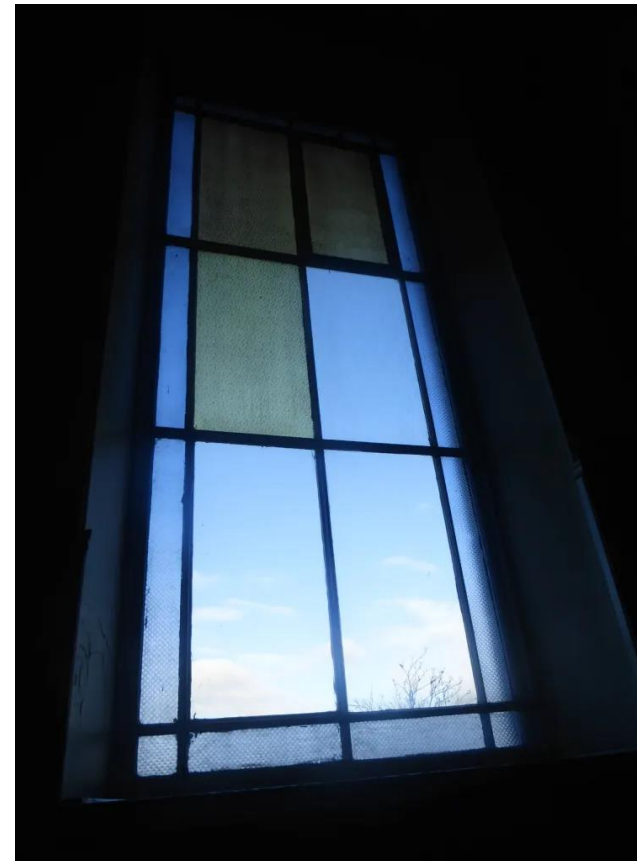
- Lenzie Community Hall Limited manages and maintains Lenzie Public Hall for the benefit of the local community.

- **Vision**

- Our vision is to provide a **flexible** and **accessible** community facility which benefits the local community and creates **healthier, more sociable lifestyles**

- **Our values are to:**

- put the interests of the local community first
- be determined to provide community space and activities
- be helpful, approachable and respond professionally and quickly to those who contact us
- be a supportive and flexible partner for organisations with which we collaborate
- sustain high levels of governance, accountability and compliance



LENZIE PUBLIC HALLS BAZAAR,

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday,

20th, 21st, and 22nd NOVEMBER.

A SPECIAL TRAIN

WILL LEAVE

QUEEN STREET STATION

On each Night of the Bazaar

At 10.15,

FOR KIRKINTILLOCH, LENZIE,

and Intermediate Stations.

Recent history



Very recent history



Lenzie Public Hall closed suddenly in Sept 2019 – community groups (e.g. Guides) had to relocate at short notice



LEAP and Love Lenzie Association placed a successful bid to EDC take over the lease in 2020



This agreement in principle was withdrawn by EDC in Feb 2025



EDC have declared the Hall surplus to requirements and **will not now renovate the building**

Do we still need it? It's a nice building but....



Lenzie has several community spaces (church and Scout halls) but **demand exceeds capacity**



Imminent merging of church estates will compound this problem



Funding for renovation will need to be secured in other ways – initial EDC estimate of £6 million due to stipulations placed on local authorities



Deadline for offers to buy or lease the Hall:

Friday 30th Jan 2026

What does
the
community
think?

Petition to save the hall on
change.org March 2025 – 850
signatures in 2 weeks.

Now stands at 1350 signatures

39% percent are from G66, 5% East
Dunbartonshire, further 28% from
Greater Glasgow/North Lanarkshire
(adjoining council areas)

EDVA Community Survey Nov 2025



78% of respondents from
Lenzie, 5% Woodilee, 2%
ED, 4.4% Kirkintilloch



87% of 186 agree that the
building should be
brought back into
community ownership



77% think it “very
important” that the
building remains a
community asset



42.5% are interested in
volunteering, joining a
committee or otherwise
contributing to
management



79.6% would support
fundraising or
membership schemes to
sustain it



50% would be interested
in a community shares
offer



Total potential pledges =
£39260

Summary of comments

Core Role: A community Hub/Focal Point

- Centrality and unity
- Essential resource
- Inclusivity and accessibility

Diverse activities and uses

- Clubs and groups
- Community events
- Private hire/functions,
- Social/welfare
- Education/learning

Financial and operational model

- Ownership and management
- Income generation
- “Shortage” argument

Integration of services

- Library
- Café/bakery
- Services

Addressing unmet needs

Non-denominational
space

Capacity for large events

Informal social space
(warm space, focal point)

Where does LCHL come in?



Clear interest for taking the Hall into community ownership evidenced by petition support, meetings and community survey data



EDC have repeatedly and explicitly stated their support for **Community Asset Transfer**



Funding remains tight – we need to think creatively long-term about how to renovate and maintain the building

How do you run a public hall anyway?

Learn from other successful groups:

- 1)diverse portfolio of activities across the community – this is both sustainable and equitable
- 2)aiming for high occupancy throughout the week – financial security and efficiency
- 3)broad approach to funding streams (leasing income, grants, community share offers, café, anchor organisation/users (library) and even accommodation space in attic considered ([Millport experience](#) and [Action Porty](#))

Who can run a community asset?

Company Limited
by shares

Community
Interest Company

Scottish Charitable
Incorporated
Organisation (SCIO)

Trust

Co-operative
Society

Unincorporated
Association

Community Benefit
Society (BenCom)

Company Limited
by Guarantee

Who can own a community asset?

Company Limited
by shares

Community
Interest Company

Scottish Charitable
Incorporated
Organisation (SCIO)

Trust

Co-operative
Society

Unincorporated
Association

Community Benefit
Society (BenCom)

Company Limited
by Guarantee

Examples

Company Limited
by shares

Community
Inter

Gavin's Mill
Community Project

Scottish Charitable
Incorporated
Organisation (SCIO)

Trust

Co-operative
Society

Unincorporated
Association

LCDT

Community Benefit
Society (BenCom)

Action Porty
(successfully
purchased Bellfield)

Company Limited
by Guarantee

In summary – BenCom Benefits

Can have charitable status.

Can submit a CAT application and take ownership of assets

All community members, local business and groups can have shares in it.

Widens potential funding sources from outside the Community

All usual funding also available

Not registered at Companies House.

Enhanced sense of purpose and ownership
→ motivates volunteers and community

What do we still need to do?



Submit our final business plan and CAT application documents by 30th January



Build a bigger membership of the BenCom to support our bid

Respect the Past – Embrace the Future

Official crest of
Lenzie established in
1990

