

## One Beam Closer.....

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August marked a significant milestone in our mission to safeguard the long term future of Craigsfarm. We held a Topping Out Ceremony at Craigsfarm to celebrate the milestone of the last beam now being in place on the new community hub. Board Members, CFCDP staff, members of the local community, funders, partners and design team gathered on site, and after short presentations from Paula MacGillivray (CFCDP Board Member), John Aitchison (Maxi Construction MD) and Scott Turpie (Nicoll Russell Studios), participants signed a column which will remain in place within the hub for generations to come.

This ceremony is the culmination of 6 years of community consultation, and planning. **Dave King, West Lothian's Executive councillor for culture and leisure** said: "West Lothian Council are delighted to support this important milestone in the redevelopment of Craigsfarm". "Over the last six years the council has worked closely with the community to support the successful transfer of the campus to community ownership, and to support the exciting redevelopment of a new community facility that will make a positive contribution towards the social, economic and environmental regeneration of Craigshill and the surrounding area."

The redevelopment of and would not be possible without financial support from the Big Lottery Fund, the Scottish Government, West Lothian Council, The Robertson Trust and the Garfield Weston Foundation. **Maureen McGinn, Big Lottery Fund Scotland Chair**, said, "Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players this much valued centre is being refurbished and developed for the benefit of local people. Community ownership can deliver huge social, educational and economic opportunities. I wish the people of Craigshill all the very best for the future as they celebrate reaching this significant milestone towards opening their new centre."

The build is scheduled to conclude at the end of January next year and thereafter we will open our doors to the community once again from West Lothian Council in 2016; this time under the control of the community after the successful asset transfer. **Cathie O'Boyle, Chairperson, Craigsfarm Community Development Project Ltd** "After six years of hard work the community will finally begin to see the new Craigsfarm take shape which is testament to their ongoing support and involvement over the years. The Board and staff team are very much looking forward to opening the doors to old faces and welcoming new members of the community into the Hub early next year".

The new hub will expand services and projects including a larger community café including children's play area, improved meeting and office space, flexible community activity space and outdoor community space. **Nicola Welsh, Chief Executive. SANDS Lothians**. "We were based at Craigsfarm from 2012 and held our monthly support group meetings here as well as our counselling support. We have relocated temporarily but we miss our home! We cannot wait to return to this beautiful and purpose built building where we will also be able to hold our Mother and Toddler group. We feel excited about the prospect of being part of this new community building which we will be proud to be part of"

We have recently started the process of recruiting new staff and volunteers to support the delivery of services from the building which will include bespoke projects to support those facing loneliness and

social isolation, those with poor mental health and those looking to enhance their employability. It is estimated that such projects will support up to 2900 and support a number of third sector organisations deliver essential services.

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