



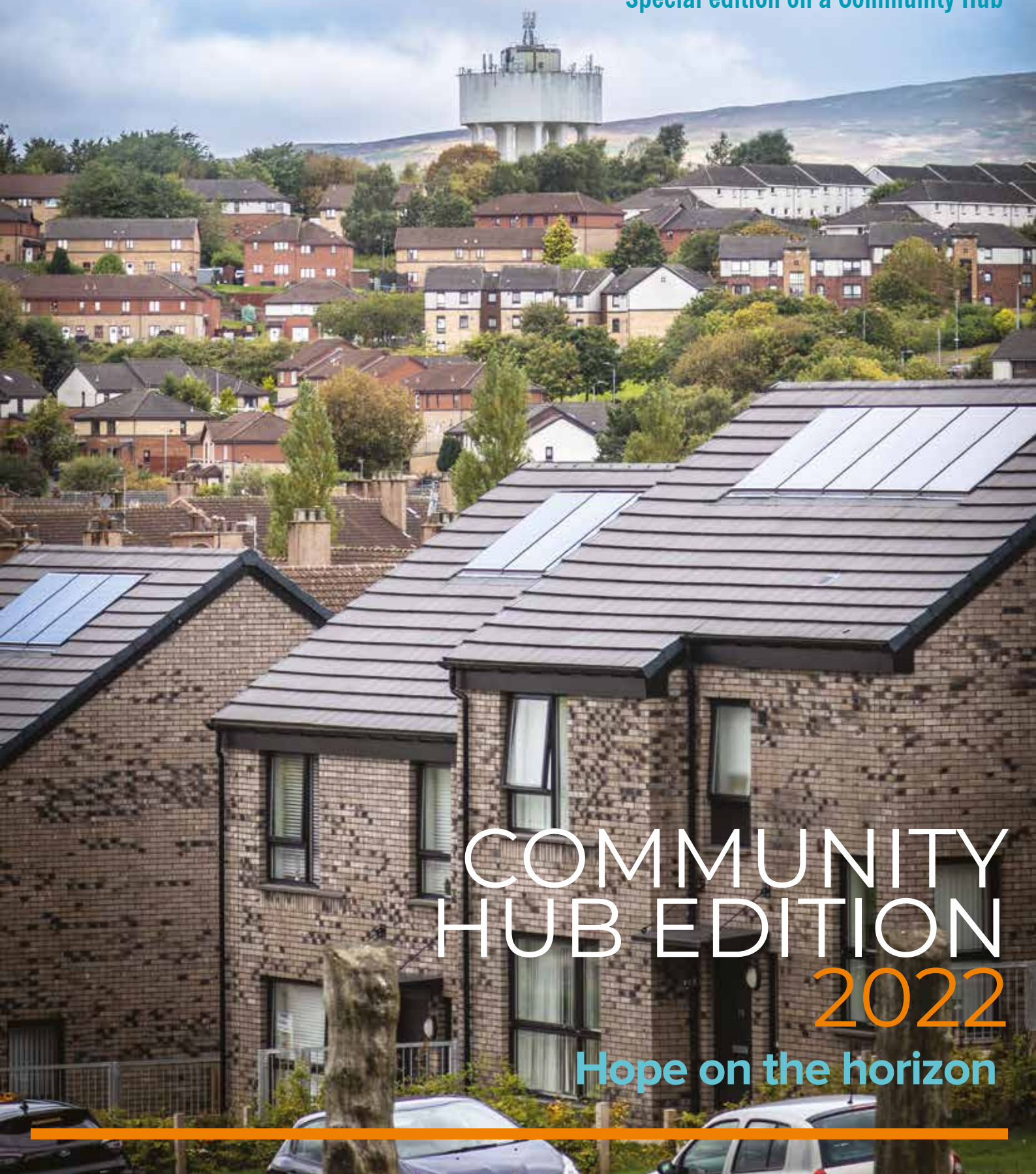
Drumchapel

Thriving Places Community

news

November 2022 -

Special edition on a Community Hub



COMMUNITY
HUB EDITION
2022

Hope on the horizon



What's in this special edition...

This edition presents a piece of research on a community hub to be installed in Drumchapel. The research was conducted by local people, participants of the Drumchapel Community Council, supported by the Thriving Places team. The entire process, from deciding the questionnaire, gathering the responses, organising the data, identifying, analysing, and discussing the findings and finally proposing recommendations, was led by the Community Council supported by the Thriving Places Team.

The aim of the research/survey is to establish a robust case for a community hub to be installed in Drumchapel, for, by and with the active involvement of the people of Drumchapel. The hub should correspond to the aspirations of local people, expressed in this report.

The research process started shortly before the pandemic and continued during the pandemic, which was a challenge, having to adhere to the Scottish Government restrictions. Nevertheless, the research team managed to engage in door-to-door conversations as well as maintain direct contact with residents in the shopping centre. With the easing of the restrictions the team also managed to conduct several focus groups.

The research, from inception to conclusion, is an exercise in community empowerment through local people taking control of a future development in their place. The hope is that, with the expectation generated through the research, the result, a community hub for, by and with the people, will become reality.

community spaces, which were available in the 1980's, in comparison to what is available now. Among those mentioned by residents were the YMCA in the Linkwood Tennant's Hall, the ARGO group, the Unemployed Workers Centre, the Waverley Centre, Drumry House, the Dookit, Drumchapel Adventure Group (DRAG), and most recently the Mercat and Open Gate, among many others.

The People Make Glasgow/Communities 2021 report confirms how the current buildings available are well used and are essential to the residents of Drumchapel and the wider community. Consequently, the loss of more community orientated buildings and services will have a detrimental effect on the community. It is therefore important to deliver a community hub that best responds to the aspirations of the community and of those who work in Drumchapel.

This consultation process on the community hub is designed to be as participatory as possible, hence the title of participatory action research (PAR), where local people's participation is essential both in gathering, analysing, and disseminating the data. The result of this process will be a robust evidenced-based case for the creation of Drumchapel Community Hub, which reflects and attends to the will of the people who live and work in Drumchapel.

Community Spaces in Drumchapel

There are currently some sport and leisure facilities in Drumchapel, run by Drumchapel Life, which include:

- **Drumchapel Library**
- **Drumchapel Community Centre**
- **Donald Dewar Leisure Centre**
- **Drumchapel Swimming Pool**

Drumchapel has suffered immensely in terms of loss of facilities, community groups and other public

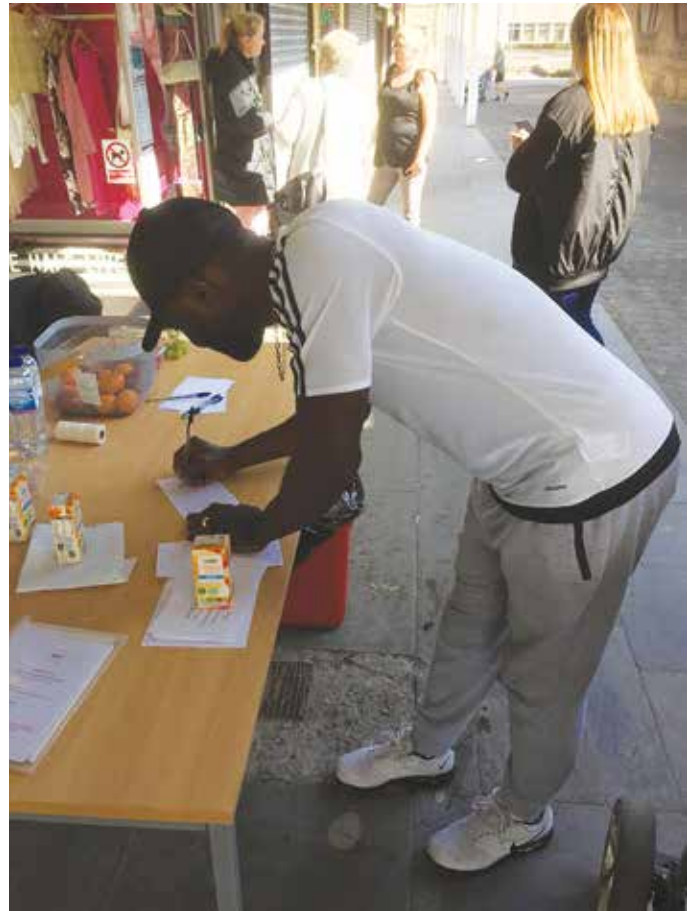
OLD BUILDINGS PICS

What we did...

We wanted to contact as many people as possible about the community hub, so we prepared a questionnaire with nine questions based on the following:

- activities to be delivered in the hub
- organisations accessing the hub
- opening times and costs for using the hub
- who should work in the hub and who should own it,
- and finally, where should it be.

Our research team consisted of 3 Community Council members, 4 Thriving Places team members and two volunteers from the Women Matter group. It was a difficult time to meet up with people due to covid restrictions but we still managed to knock on people's doors, put a table out in front of the Charity Shop to chat with the community, walk about the shopping centre asking people's opinions and, once the restrictions were eased, organise some focus groups with different organisations. All in all, we spoke with a total of 457 people, 325 individually and 132 in 22 focus groups. The responses were then discussed among the research team and the report is now concluded. It will be distributed to organisations that work in Drumchapel as well as to local councillors and the Glasgow City Council. A public meeting is planned to share the results of the research and to decide, with the community, the next steps. The research team is available to attend any meetings that people might want to organise about the report.



“Community needs to come together and bring back community spirit”



“If this happens it will be amazing. It is needed”

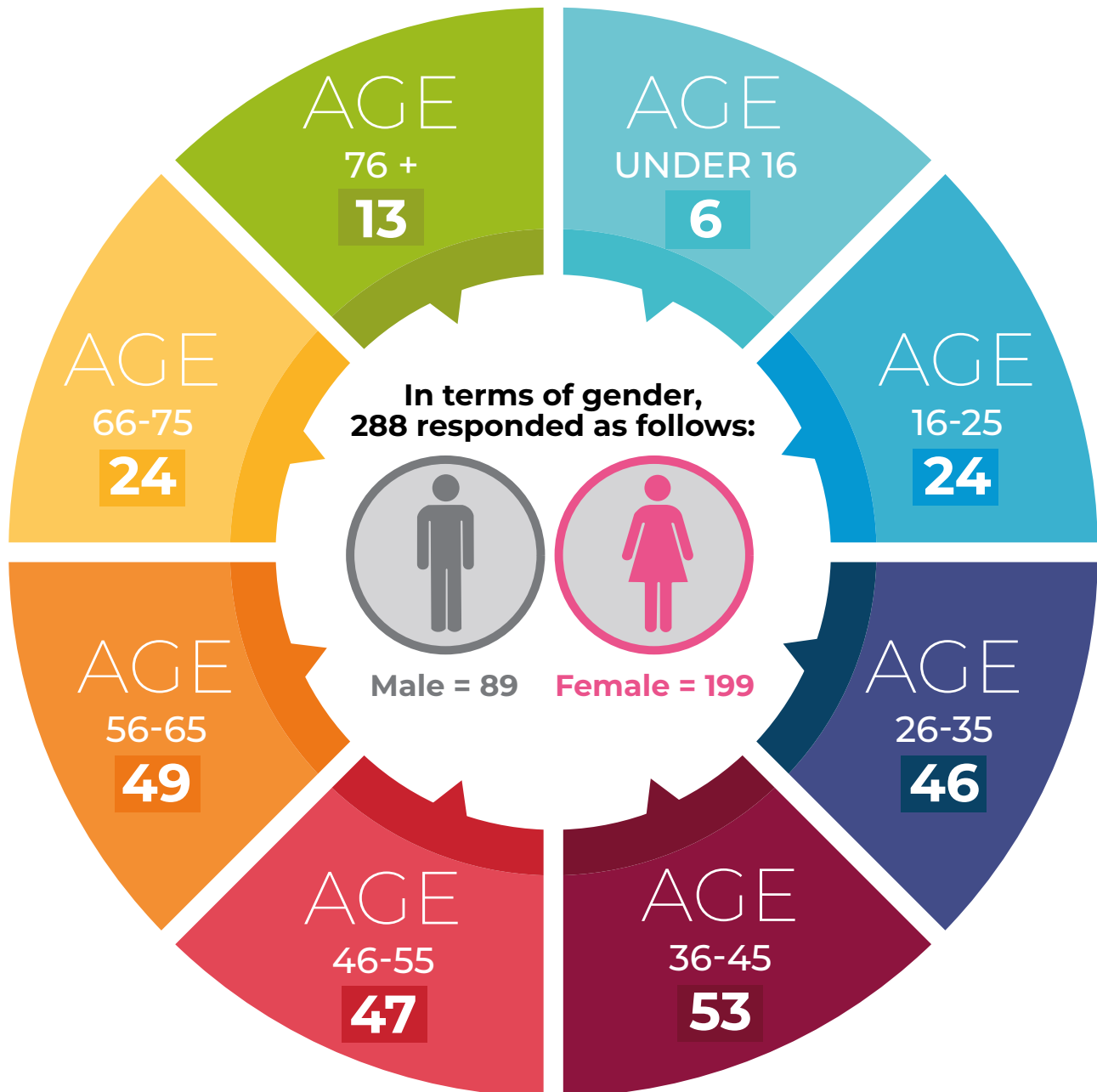
“Unsure of the word ‘hub’”



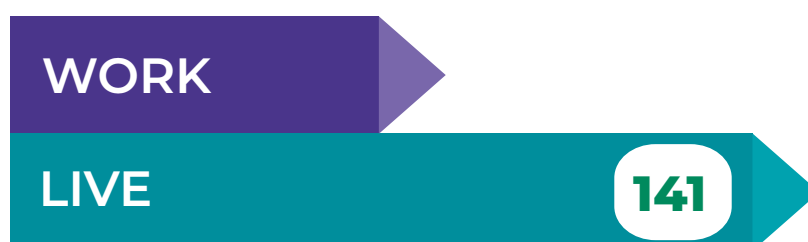
“Not a place to be taken over by agencies meeting but a place owned by the community who continue to be involved in how it develops and shapes up which is bright, cheery, well-furnished and maintained and a welcoming place to be.”

After each interview each respondent was free to answer about age, gender and whether they lived or worked in Drumchapel. Not all of the 457 interviewees wanted to respond but 262 agreed to do so and the result was:

In terms of age, 262 of the interviewees responded as follows:



In terms of living or working in Drumchapel, 194 responded as follows:





What the research tells us...

- The first most striking issue that came to light was that people expressed their deception about projects and community buildings being closed over the years. Several respondents expressed anger at the community being let down resulting also in many people consequently suffering from isolation and being confined to their house. There is a need to revive the community, and this entails having facilities where people can come together and experience community. At the same time, many respondents are doubtful about the hub being delivered due to the recent history of venues being taken from the community.
- **“We feel that it is even more important than ever to deliver on what people have asked for and this will depend a lot on the community as there is a strong feeling of doubt about Glasgow City Council (GCC) delivering on the hub.”**
(Andy Lynch, Community Councillor)
- Another issue which emerged from the data was the need for better communication as the local community is not informed of developments in the community and for many people this research was an opportunity for local people to have “an ear” that would listen to them.
“We are the ones that people talked to, but we cannot be blamed if GCC does not respond to what the community wants.”
(Diane MacMillan, Community Councillor)
and
“There is a perception of Drumchapel being left behind and instead of building up for future generations, the community is being let down.”
(Helen Thompson – Community Councillor)
- Many respondents said that people feel pushed aside as if they don’t deserve better. An example was made about how in the past the shopping centre was vibrant but now it seems abandoned. Several respondents referred to the past when they were younger and said that they had a good life, but that today kids are bored and becoming hooked on drugs and alcohol. However, on the positive side, other respondents said that there are people in the community who want to help to make the community work, as a truly diverse community that Drumchapel is becoming. **“People don’t expect anything anymore, they are not building up any expectations, but at the same time people are desperate for something to happen and things need to change.”**
(Diane MacMillan, Community Councillor).
- Even although disappointed at the number of venues and projects being taken from the community many respondents see the hub as an opportunity for bringing people together. Due also to a history of losing many venues and projects, there is a lack of trust in the Council, but while recognising that at the beginning it will be difficult many respondents still believe that it can happen.
- **“We need to resurrect hope!” When you take hope away from people, their lives are destroyed and they live in fear, not trusting one another anymore. “People need to know that they have a purpose in life”** (Helen Thompson, Community Councillor)
- Several respondents accepted that the implementation of the hub will be a challenge but that the community has shown resilience in the past and now must be prepared to fight for what people are wanting as expressed in our research. **“Many people still think that working class people don’t have the ability to do things, there seems to be a general lack of trust combined with a sentiment of negativity, which gives the impression that GCC is not listening to the voices of the people”**
(Andy Lynch, Community Councillor).

Everyone is asking about our research in the street because we are the ones who did it and we are local people known by the community; we have raised hope in people.

DIANE MACMILLAN,
COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR.

Conclusions & Recommendations

- To show respect both for the work which this research entailed, involving local people directly as researchers, and for the respondents who participated, the first step forward is to share the findings with the community. The sharing can be delivered in various formats, initially, for example, setting up a table in the shopping centre, a gazebo in the park, having conversations in the schools, and organising as many community gatherings as required.
- A special edition of the Drumchapel News will be delivered to every household in the G15 postcode sharing the main points which emerged in the research.
- Contact should be made with the media, TV, and newspapers, to disseminate as widely as possible the aspirations of the Drumchapel community on the issue of the community hub.
- All relevant organisations, whether statutory, voluntary or community, should be informed of the findings of the research.
- Once the community is informed, a next step will entail contacting the relevant GCC departments together with the elected members to discuss the implementation of the research findings which will require a calendar of events to guarantee the active involvement of the community at each stage of the development of the community hub.
- Drumchapel Community Council, as the lead in this research process, should be the main contact for GCC, and will convene all relevant organisations as well as the general public, to guarantee the implementation of the findings of the research.

October 2022

Drumchapel Community Council,
Andy Lynch (Chairperson) - 07586852571
Email - dcommunitycouncil@outlook.com



With thanks to Drumchapel Community Council, Thriving Places, and volunteers, who worked over a period of eighteen months, during an extremely challenging time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Public Meeting

Public Meeting on the Proposed Community Hub.

With the opportunity to share and discuss the responses from the community consultation.

Venue:
Drumchapel High School 340 Kinfauns Drive, G15 7SQ.

Thursday 24th of November 7pm till 9pm.

All welcome.



THRIVING PLACES
79 Airgold Avenue, Drumchapel G15 7AJ

07387 100182 (Ted), 07761 357026 (Charles),
07761 357139 (Tracy)

