

'Y' marks the spot as Kildrum

KYLE ROAD will be the location for a dream soon to be realised, say Cumbernauld YMCA-YWCA.

And their plans will meet many of the aspirations of the Kildrum community as already identified by the community group.

Having served Cumbernauld since 1960, the "Y" argues that few are better placed to make this ambitious project a reality.

The YMCA - named as Lanarkshire's Best Performing Social Enterprise 2008 - purchased the former Kyle Road Centre from North Lanarkshire Council earlier this year.

And Cumbernauld YMCA YWCA board members, staff, David Cooke (vice chairman of youth committee, service users, lon- Marc Creaney of GCA

century". The new facility will link to the existing farmhouse at Kildrum - the Y's original base - and will allow much needed expansion of its services for the community.

While plans are in the early stages and the consultation process not yet complete, it is envisaged the new Y Campus will include fitness zone, meeting rooms, conference facility, IT suite, nursery, play rooms, games area, parent / senior room, drop in cafe, craft zone, large hall, music room, soundproof studio, media room, safe play area and gardens.

Chief executive Eleanor Campbell (pictured below in the Kyle Road buildings) said: "The board is very excited about this new venture. Voluntary sector groups are now expected to be primarily



Architects, Monsignor Pat Osborne and other local supporters are all pictured outside the premises as they launch what will be a major building appeal.

They will be looking to their current members and supporters as well as the thousands who have benefited from the 'Y' over the years to help turn this dream into reality.

So what are their plans and what do they involve?

The local voluntary association, a registered charity, has announced plans to erect a state of the art, eco friendly, multifunctional community facility "fit for the 21st

self-financing, an aim we have been working towards since the 1980s.

"The new Y Campus development will have this as a central focus to ensure long term sustainability of the facility for the local community."

Architects GCA are currently working with the Association in order to finalise the consultation process and draw up outline plans which will meet local planning regulations.

A funding application for a full technical report is also being submitted to the Big Lottery. GCA will be involved in presenting the vision to

relevant stakeholders and funders at the earliest opportunity.

After a lengthy and demanding process, the Association is now in the final stages of assessment by Social Investment Scotland who can finance up to 60 per cent of the

costs involved in building the new facility.

The local Association has a turnover approaching £2million with an exceptional track record of providing and developing accessible, sustainable programmes and services that are open and

accessible to all.

The Association currently has 38 volunteers and 104 staff working in the local community. The board is pleased that as well as providing much needed local programmes and volunteer opportunities they are also

creating local jobs for local people, and subsequently making a substantial contribution to the local economy.

"Local and national stakeholders and funders have been impressed by the purchase of the Kyle site

appeal is launched



through our own resources and without any grant support; clearly showing the Association's commitment to making this 21st century vision a reality," said Eleanor Campbell.

Meantime, the Association will continue to deliver much

needed local programmes and services in Kildrum including fitness classes, men's circuits, fitness gym, out of school care, day camps, junior clubs, Prince's Trust, parent support classes, Trippin FM (podcasting), dance classes, parent and pre five, IT classes,

Golden Age club, life skills etc.

Other local groups including the Community Council, Friends of Cumbernauld Community Park, credit union and councillors will still be able to access facilities like meeting rooms.

Any Kildrum groups,

including those who previously used the Kyle Road Centre, currently looking for a place to meet are advised to call Iain Sinclair on 01236 721380 to see if their group can be accommodated within the existing 'Y' facilities.

PICTURE BY ALAN MURRAY