

Location: Lennoxtown

Friends of Campsie High Kirk

Impact: Growing an Inclusive Economy



Background

The Campsie High Kirk project involves taking ownership of the Kirk and restoring this historic building from a ruin to a bustling community space. The Kirk is a significant architectural building designed by David Hamilton, who also designed the Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow. The Kirk, which has been in structural decline since a fire in 1984, is seen as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for revitalising the community. The restoration aims to preserve the area's heritage, attract tourists, and provide a multifunctional space for events, classes, weddings, and more. The project is crucial for the community as it addresses social and economic decline, fosters community spirit, and leverages the area's historical and cultural assets to stimulate local development.

What did the support from Accelerate help you achieve?

This idea for transforming the Kirk began in December 2023, when community member Craig Taylor learned about the possibility of the community taking ownership of the historic High Kirk. This idea quickly gained traction, and by January, a group of enthusiastic residents had come together to form a charity that could take ownership of the Kirk.

The support guided the group through the complexities of forming a charity, developing a sustainable business plan, and determining the legal status of the High Kirk. The Kirk was among the first batch of sites identified for the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrance (KLTR)'s new [Ownerless Property Transfer Scheme](#), which gave the community a limited window to take it on.

Community Enterprise and other supporters offered expertise, answered questions, and acted as a sounding board, helping the team navigate challenges and move the project along quickly to meet the KLTR's timelines. This support was essential in transforming the group's initial idea into a structured and actionable plan.



The economic and social impact of the Support

The impact of the Campsie Kirk project extends beyond the physical restoration of a building. It represents a catalyst for economic and social revitalisation. The project will stimulate the local economy by attracting tourists and creating a space for local events, providing opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Moreover, it will foster a sense of pride and ownership among residents, strengthening the community bonds that make Lennoxtown unique.

