



OWENSTOWN

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

NEWS RELEASE

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NEW TOWN PROJECT ATTRACTS WIDE INTEREST

More than 200 people have already registered an interest in living in Owenstown, the custom-built town which is being planned for South Lanarkshire.

Details of the project were announced only three days ago and anyone interested can record their details on the town's website www.owenstown.org which also went live this week.

"The interest has been intense," said Stuart Crawford, one of the trustees of the Hometown Foundation, the Scottish charity which has been formed to help create sustainable communities and regenerate rundown urban areas.

"We've had people from all over the country registering an interest in buying or renting a home and they're obviously just as enthusiastic about this as we are. We've also had significant interest from the commercial sector, both in supplying the new town and in locating their business there."

Several hundred people have also confirmed that they intend to visit the Owenstown exhibition at the World Heritage site of New Lanark next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This will be the first official stage in a comprehensive public consultation process.

The new town will be called Owenstown after the social reformer Robert Owen who improved the lives and working conditions of mill workers at New Lanark 200 years ago. In time, it will have 20,000 residents and create 8,000 jobs.

It will be self-sufficient, eco-friendly and once established, it'll be run on a co-operative basis by its own trustees, who will be elected from its residents.

The town will be eco-friendly – recycling its waste to produce energy for the district heating system and it will have green transport throughout the site powered by renewable sources such as wind.

More information about the Hometown Foundation is at www.hometown.co.uk

Further information:

Alan Douglas, The Broadcasting Business Ltd

0141 427 2545

07850 406060

alan@broadcastingbusiness.co.uk