



# OWENSTOWN

## SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

### **NEWS RELEASE**

August 25<sup>th</sup> 2009

Details have been announced of a project for a new town for 20,000 residents with 8,000 jobs in rural South Lanarkshire.

It is to be called Owenstown after the social reformer Robert Owen who improved the lives and working conditions of mill workers at nearby New Lanark 200 years ago.

The new town will be self-sufficient, eco-friendly and run on a co-operative basis by its residents. It is the first major project by the Hometown Foundation, a Scottish charity which has been formed to help to create sustainable communities and regenerate rundown urban areas.

The Foundation has bought 2,000 acres of land south of Lanark and has drawn up proposals for a custom-built town with 8,000 households matched with a similar number of locally-based jobs.

Once Owenstown is established, the entire project will be handed over to trustees who will be elected from its residents. They will be responsible for running the community on a daily basis.

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.

The chairman of the Owenstown Trustees, Dr Jim Arnold, who is also director of New Lanark, said:

“This will be a new and inspired modern version of Robert Owen’s dream – a realisation of his ideals. Owen was ahead of his time and never fully achieved his ambition. It would be wonderful to realise the dream in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scotland.”

An exhibition detailing the plans will be held in New Lanark from September 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> as the first stage in a comprehensive public consultation process.

The project team will listen carefully to the views and opinions of local people, before they make a formal planning application to South Lanarkshire Council.

Full details of the proposals for Owenstown can be found at [www.owenstown.org](http://www.owenstown.org) where comments can also be submitted as part of the consultation process.

More information about the Hometown Foundation is at [www.hometown.co.uk](http://www.hometown.co.uk)

Further information:

Alan Douglas, The Broadcasting Business Ltd

0141 427 2545

07850 406060

[alan@broadcastingbusiness.co.uk](mailto:alan@broadcastingbusiness.co.uk)