



PRESS RELEASE Meeting the challenge at Luton Irish Forum



Members and supporters are delighted with the decision made by Luton Borough Council to finally grant Planning Permission to redevelop the Luton Irish Forum at 102 Hitchin Road, Luton.



Tom Scanlon, Public Relations Officer for Luton Irish Forum, exclaimed his delight saying “this milestone is excellent news for the Irish population in Luton. Since 2006 the membership and services have soared in accordance with the demands of our Community and because of this the building is unsuitable and in serious need of redevelopment.”

The Bushwood partnership has stepped in to realise this milestone by working closely with Luton Borough Council, in particular Ben Huskinson. This collaborative working has created an innovative and modern building design becoming of Luton Irish Forum.

This redevelopment has taken considerable time and energy due to planning, securing of funding and agreeing the design and legacy for future generations. We are grateful for all the financial assistance that we have received to date, (capital assistance given over the past 2-3 years, specifically for the redevelopment of our building) namely from The Emigrant Support Programme [Irish Government Fund], the Ireland Fund of Great Britain, The Kathleen and Michael Connolly Foundation and the Bushwood Partnership. We are also especially grateful to our staff and volunteers for their contribution and support whose vision drives positive change for the future.



The eco-friendly building will provide the local communities with up-to-date facilities to accommodate the welfare, social and cultural activities consistent with a modern and dynamic Luton. These are challenging times for voluntary organisations and there is still much more to be achieved. We are confident that our new building will be an emblem of the contribution made by Irish emigrants in shaping the modern Luton.

Finally we would like to express our gratitude to the Bushwood Partnership, as without their significant charitable contribution and guidance this redevelopment would not be realised.

John Boyle, Director of the Bushwood Partnership said, "Our view as a local company is that the Irish Forum is a fantastic charity that we are proud to support. Many people benefit and rely upon the excellent work done by the Forum. It is a tribute to all concerned that there is a requirement for a larger building because of their success and we feel sure that with their new facility the charity will continue to flourish."

We aim to relocate back to our redeveloped building by Autumn 2011; but in the interim period it will be 'business as usual'.

For further information on the redevelopment or the services of Luton Irish Forum, please contact Noelette Hanley, Chief Officer on Tel: 01582 720 447/ 07934 442 861 or by Email: noelette@lutonirishforum.org

.....END.....