

## **SEMBCORP PRAISED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECT TRANSFORMING LIVES IN NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITY**



***Grangetown ward councillor Lynn Pallister (front right) with daughter Leanne, members of the Board of Future Regeneration of Grangetown (FROG), funding partners and residents outside the Grangetown United Community Hub. FROG Board members from Wilton are Terry Waldron of Sembcorp (back row left) and Ron Grant of SABIC (back row right)***

Sembcorp and other businesses at Wilton International have been praised for helping to steer a major regeneration project that is breathing new life into one of the poorest communities in the country.

Grangetown, less than a mile from the 2,000 acre Wilton International site, is regularly ranked as one of the most underprivileged places in Britain, with high levels of unemployment, economic deprivation and poor health.

The area – built more than a century ago to house local steelworkers - has been in decline for more than 40 years with a decade of Government ‘austerity’ cuts adding to the belief that the community has been ‘forgotten.’

Now, thanks to the efforts of the local residents in partnership with a wide range of public and private sector business and organisations, a rundown former social club in the centre of Grangetown has been given a £1.5 million revamp transforming it into a facility of benefit to people of all ages.

The dramatic reconstruction is now playing a major role in bringing the community together and restoring pride in the area.

The Grangetown United Community Hub features a cafe, meeting and entertainment spaces, a play village and nursery, plus several retail units and offices for small businesses.

“It has totally transformed this area and is a facility which the area’s 5,000 residents can enjoy and be proud of,” said ward councillor Lynn Pallister, whose drive and commitment in her role as Community Enterprise Manager for the Future Regeneration of Grangetown (FROG) group helped secure the Big Lottery funding.

She added: “The hub is already making such a difference to people’s lives. People are popping in for a coffee, breakfast, lunch and a chat with friends and neighbours and soon children will be having fun in the play village.

“We’ll hold summer events, Halloween and Christmas parties, weddings and use the hub to celebrate local achievements. We’ll hold keep fit classes, a dementia friendly cinema and a grand reunion for all those who used to attend the former Grangetown United Social Club. All of these events will help to bring the community together and reduce social isolation.

“In addition, we have saved two long established businesses that were in a soon to be demolished rundown set of shops nearby and created two entirely new businesses”

Cllr Pallister recruited Sembcorp’s Corporate Public Relations Manager Terry Waldron and SABIC finance chief Ron Grant to the FROG board to bolster the Big Lottery Community Fund bid and praised both companies for their active participation in the project.

She said: “It was completely new territory for me and most of the board, but the steer we’ve had from both Sembcorp and SABIC has been invaluable and we’re really grateful to both companies.”

Another Wilton firm, Sirius Minerals, provided some important funding during the latter stages of the project and Cllr Pallister also paid tribute to the other local firms and organisations involved in the project.

They included Lotte Chemical UK, Beyond Housing, Impetus Waste Management (now Highfield Environmental), Power to Change Community Business Fund, North East Ambulance Service, SSI Task Force, Co op Foundation, Virgin Foundation,

Tees Valley Community Foundation, Thirteen Housing, MGT, TTE and Potton Homes.

Redcar and Cleveland Council also contributed significant guidance, support and finance to the project.



***Before: The derelict former club prior to its £1.5 million revamp and (below) new retail units plus the café, meeting area and large function room inside the building***









***Sembcorp's Jo Potter (right) and Natasha Wilkinson admire the play village at the recent official opening event***



# sembcorp