

Group gets booked into old library

Community aid group given the go-ahead for HQ

By JASPER HAMILL

A COMMUNITY group in Glasgow's East End has finally been given the go-ahead to turn a disused library into its headquarters.

Easterhouse Phoenix Development hopes to move into the library within months.

The Evening Times last year revealed that the charity had been asking for access to

the abandoned Easterhouse Library but this had been refused.

But this month the council's arm's-length building company, City Building, decided to give them the lease of the library, which will be shared with the Scottish Squash and Racketball Club.

Richard McShane, managing director of Phoenix, said: "We exist to help disadvantaged people in Easterhouse by giving them a chance to go somewhere they can take part in something, show them there are opportunities out there and put them on the right road to achieving those opportunities."

"This will be our base so



■ The old Easterhouse Library will be used to help underprivileged people learn life skills

the community can come together.

"We would like to say thanks to the Evening Times for supporting us in our efforts to use the library."

Drama workshops, held by actor Joe McGann who was impressed by the work Phoenix was doing, will be held in the centre and there will be a pensioners' club

as well as music lessons.

With little funding and no base, the group has worked tirelessly to help out people of all ages.

People on community service orders will be drafted in to help renovate the building and Richard said of that decision: "It means offenders are putting something back into the community."

Several years from now the library will be demolished along with Easterhouse shopping centre.

Until then Phoenix will be bid to raise enough cash to build a centre on the site where Frankie Vaughn made his famous plea for gangs to end violence.

For more information call 07748 513 327

Catering crew get a taste of honours

SOUTH Ayrshire Council has clinched a Healthy Living Award.

The honour recognises the effort of catering staff at the restaurant in the Council's headquarters at County Buildings in Ayr and the Dolphin House outdoor learning resource at Culzean Country Park.

The Healthy Living Awards is a national scheme and is open to both the public and the private sector catering businesses.

Councillor Nan McFarlane, Social Services Portfolio Holder said: "This is a very important award."

"It shows the council's commitment to provide healthy choices for our customers."

"Crucial to our success is making the healthy options appealing and ensuring that our customers enjoy eating them."

"Small changes to eating habits can help people to have a healthier lifestyle."

EveningTimes

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