



Robert Smith

Robert has lived in Kirkintilloch since the 1990s and in Hillhead since 2011. Following a successful 25 years career in the construction industry, he was made redundant following the building industry collapse. After suffering the anguish of many life issues, Robert founded and later became the CEO of Group Recovery Aftercare Community Enterprise (GRACE) in 2012, recognising that he had personal experience of many of the issues faced by local people in Hillhead.

In order to help him further support his local community, Robert undertook further education and training. He states “ I understood the stigma and fear of change and realised that others must struggle too. This was when the vision of a peer-led recovery after-care resource was born. Hillhead Housing Association supported me in developing GRACE in its early stages, therefore I was more than happy to be invited to bring my experience within the Management Committee, which I have served upon since 2014. I believe in supporting my community and me being part of the Committee strengthens that. ”

Robert’s community involvement ethos supports him to be connected to and have good relationships with vast majority of local Statutory and Third Sector organisations, councillors, MSP, MP to the extent that he was awarded the East Dunbartonshire Local Hero at a ceremony in the Scottish Parliament attended by the first Minister and the Queen.