

Buyout is last resort

IT'S make or break time to save Lesmahagow Jubilee Hall as user groups invite members of the public to an open meeting on the hall's future.

User groups are hoping that the meeting, on June 22, will see the public back proposals to keep the hall open through a community buyout.

The community would then run the hall, rather than South Lanarkshire Council.

Margot Lindsay, from Class Act drama group, said: "It really is make or break time for the user groups.

"I've had a letter from the council confirming the hall is going to close so a community buyout is our only option.

"None of the groups have a lot of money so we're hoping members of the public will come along and support us.

"I would like to see council representatives and our local councillors at the meeting too.

"Whenever any of the user



Make or break...for hall users

groups speak to the council they do it separately rather than all of us together."

The campaign to save the Jubilee Hall has been ongoing for a number of months.

It has even made its way to the debating chamber of the Scottish Parliament, thanks to South of Scotland MSP Aileen Campbell.

Community halls in the Clydesdale area have been successful in the past including those in Ravenstruther and Crawfordjohn.

Lesmahagow Community Council has backed the campaign every step of the way.

A spokesman said: "It's an open meeting so we're hoping for a good turnout.

"If we get a positive reaction from the user groups and folk in the village then we can go forward in getting a feasibility study to see what can be done in terms of a community buyout of the hall.

"If we can get past that then we could look forward to the future, by seeking funding through the Lesmahagow Development Trust.

"If, however, that doesn't happen then we will have to accept the fact that the hall is going to close and look at other options around the village for the user groups such as the new schools and the Fountain Hall."

The open meeting on the future of the Jubilee Hall takes place at the hall itself on Tuesday, June 22, at 6.30pm.