

## New life for Hamilton club site

Last updated 12:00 11/08/2009

A modern riverside complex with cafes, restaurants and boutique shops is being earmarked for the Hamilton Club site on the prime Grantham St land after it was bought by property development firm Project Grantham last week.

The 111-year-old building sold last week for an undisclosed sum following a two-year effort by the financially struggling Hamilton Club.

The director behind the newly formed Project Grantham is Hamilton structural engineer Lyall Green, who owns Design Management Consultants. He bought the land and building with business partner Brian Bartels.

Mr Green said the site was part of a long-term plan to make the most of the city's best asset the Waikato River and he hoped to revive the council's Millennium Project study commissioned in 1998, which included development of the river bank and the CBD and a pedestrian/cycle bridge across the river.

A 12-month feasibility study would consult with key stakeholders such as the Hamilton City Council, local iwi and the Historic Places Trust over the design. "Nothing is going to happen overnight. It's a long-term development. The river's been forgotten and this is the opportunity to do something about it," Mr Green said.

The current tenants will stay on in the short-term with Hamilton Club holding the lease until next year and the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants having the lease until 2001, with the right to renew it until 2014.

The building remains intact and the club expects to stay on as tenants indefinitely.

Waikato Times