



The Inverness Courier

Highlands and Islands Newspaper of the Year

Only in the Inverness Courier
Win VIP tickets to Caley Thistle v Dundee on Boxing Day

[Jobs in Inverness](#) | [CV Online](#) | [Dating](#) | [For Sale](#) | [Motors](#) | [Property](#) | [Photo Sales](#) | [Mobile Phone Offers](#) | [Family Notices](#) | [Special Features](#) | [General Notices](#) | [Supplements](#)

SEARCH

Site Web
Advanced search

JVC £100 CASH BACK
All money returned to you
All selected products
Landscape

E-MAIL UPDATES

- 15 December, 2009**
- HOME**
- NEWS**
- Local News
- Regional News
- SPORT**
- Local Sport
- Regional Sport
- Turf Talking
- OPINION**
- Business Comment
- Dear Diary
- Kessock Bridge
- Leader
- Letters
- Our Man In Holyrood
- Our Man In Westminster
- The Big Vote
- FEATURES**
- Am Peursa
- High School Notes
- Mann's World
- Mike On Camera
- Miller's Tales
- News Analysis
- Profile
- Time of My Life
- HIGHLAND ROOTS**
- Seeking The Past
- Times Gone By
- Links
- GALLERY**
- It's My Birthday!
- Graduations
- Wedding Days
- LEISURE**
- Film Trailers
- In the Spotlight
- The Music Room
- Regional Round-up
- Bingo
- Shopping
- Sudoku
- Travel
- Your Videos
- Crosswords
- Horoscopes
- TV Guide
- SERVICES**
- Contact Us
- Subscribe
- Place an Ad
- LINKS**
- Arts, Music and Entertainment
- Business
- Clubs
- Community
- Events
- Nessie
- Outdoors
- Sport
- Tourism
- Youth
- DIRECTORY**

NEWS » Local News

Legion unveils £1m development

by Lorna McCann
Published: 08 December, 2009

AMBITIOUS million pound plans to inject new life into a riverside club are being proposed by the city branch of the Royal British Legion.

It follows a decline in the number of members using the Huntly Street premises and the need to down-size.

The Legion wants to demolish the rear section of the building which stretches to King Street opposite Tesco and re-develop the site to create shops with flats above.

The project is likely to cost in the region of £1 million with money from the scheme being re-invested into refurbishing the remainder of the legion building, which was last renovated in the late 1970s.

By creating a new modern facility, the legion hopes to attract more members and in turn secure the long-term future of the club.

For the last few months it has been working on the proposals with commercial property agents Grant Stewart Chartered Surveyors, based in Ardress Place, and it now plans to advertise the part of the building for let.

Grant Stewart, speaking about the plans, explained the catalyst for the whole scheme would be finding a potential retailer for the proposed shop unit.

If this happens he said the whole development could be driven forward, subject to planning permission. "With property in the right location retailers are very keen to get a foothold in the area and we would hope this location is successful in generating interest," he said.

"It is a site with really good footfall because of Tesco and retailers will like that."

The King Street end of the property currently houses the club's function suite and a snooker room. It is these areas which would be demolished and re-developed to form the shop and flats.

And, if all goes to plan, Mr Stewart hopes the development could be under way as early as 2011.

Cash from the project will then be used to help pay for a complete revamp of the club, which in itself could cost in excess of £500,000.

It will include refurbishing the function room, lounge bar, toilets and main entrance.



An artist's impression of how the shops and flats would look if plans by the Inverness Branch of the Royal British Legion get the go-ahead

The Legion had considered selling the property and down-sizing to somewhere else in the city but in the current market ruled this option out, explained Mr Stewart.

"The legion is being very forward thinking. They are not sitting around waiting for something to happen, they are making things happen. They are being very innovative.

"They want to create an impressive, modern facility which will encourage new members." Brian Matheson, chairman of the Inverness branch of the British Legion, said it currently had between 2500 and 3000 members on its books but admitted only 400 regularly used the club's facilities.

"The crux of the matter is the club is oversized and under-used," he said.

"We are just not getting enough members through the door." Earlier this year developer Ardmuir was granted planning consent to create a 98-bedroom hotel on the site of the former bingo hall on Huntly street.

Local ward councillor Bet McAllister yesterday welcomed the Legion's plans and additional retail space near the river, saying it would work well alongside the proposed hotel.

She said there was plenty of parking along Huntly Street and at the Cathedral car park to accommodate the proposed development.

"It would be quite good to have some more retail units on that side of the water. There are not many shops there at present.

"The footfall is lively in that area and I think this is a good idea.

"I would hate for there not to be a British Legion club. It has been there for such a long time.

advertising

crucial
The Memory Experts
TECH TIPS
FIND MORE TIPS

TIP #303

Buying a Car? Selling a Car? **motors north**

Exploring the Highlands? **Cloud Inn**

Send a gift overseas? **New Zealand**

Watch Great **HOROSCOPES** click here

Discount Hotels UP TO **70% OFF**

Back the Loch Ness World Heritage bid

See the Video plus the latest campaign news

photo sales

- [Council and Parliament](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Emergency and Advice](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Jobs in Inverness](#)
- [Scottish Clans](#)

SPP PUBLICATIONS

- [Executive](#)
- [Highland Life](#)
- [Highland Weddings](#)
- [Lochaber Life](#)

- [Banffshire Journal](#)
- [Caithness Courier](#)
- [Forres Gazette](#)
- [Highland News](#)
- [John O'Groat Journal](#)
- [Lochaber News](#)
- [North Star](#)
- [Northern Scot](#)
- [Northern Times](#)
- [Ross-shire Journal](#)
- [Strathspey & Badenoch Herald](#)

BACK ISSUES


- [Previous issue](#)
- [Browse articles by date](#)

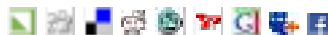
"It is a place where people can go to meet their friends and I would be happy to support these new plans."

 [Printer friendly version](#)

 [Email this article to a friend](#)

COMMENT (1)

 [Bookmark this](#)



WHAT'S ON

15 December, 2009
 Our House, Musical
See all events
[Submit an event](#)

THE BIG VOTE

Should councillors continue to receive free lunches when they attend council meetings?

- Yes
- No

[Vote Now](#)

[Current Results](#)
[Past Results](#)

Local Guides

- [Advertising & Marketing](#)
- [Business Services](#)
- [Careers & Work](#)
- [Computing & Technology](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Home & Garden](#)
- [Internet](#)
- [Legal](#)
- [Parenting](#)

Web Search

50% off Inverness Hotels
 Compare Cheap Inverness Hotels Book online. Best Price Guaranteed!
BookingWiz.co.uk/Hotel-l

Houses in Milan
 Visit now our Website and Buy your House in Milan. Choose Hera!
HeraImmobili.com/Milan

Household & Content Cover
 Compare Deals from the Best Brokers Quotes on Terraces to Lighthouses!
www.Fool.co.uk/Home_in

Compare Home Insurance
 Cheapest Home Insurance quotes from 500+ policies at MoneySupermarket.com!
MoneySupermarket.com/