# GIRVAN & SOUTH CARRICK UPDATE

November 2012

South Ayrshire Council

South Carrick community leisure

# Help your new facility create a splash!



*All design images courtesy of Page\Park Architects and are current at time of going to press but subject to further development and changes.*

Put the date in your diary and get your ideas and views at the ready as we want to hear what you think of the latest designs for the new £8 million multi-faceted leisure and community facility planned for Girvan Harbour.

Tuesday 27 November 2012 is the date, the place is the conference room at the Carrick Buildings and you can drop in anytime between 12 noon and 8pm to see the designs produced by our architects, Page & Park; have a chat with the design team and the architects; and let us have your views.

The main areas we're looking for feedback on are the size of the pool and the 'fun' features it could include; the potential to include a quality restaurant; and the size and capacity of a community hall or gathering space.

Ultimately, it's about giving you the chance to have your say on what will be your new facility before we apply for planning permission, which is the next big milestone.

We're keen to ensure the new facility provides a positive balance between sports and leisure facilities and activities and access to arts and culture. And your input will be vital in making sure you get the most out of the much-anticipated facility.

So, come along, have your say and make sure you help your new facility create a real splash.

**Find out more on page 2.**

## Word from the Chair



Welcome to the first Girvan and South Carrick update and the great news that we can confirm a drop-in consultation day on the designs for the new multi-faceted facility on Tuesday 27 November.

I know this has been a long time coming, but together South Carrick Community Leisure and South Ayrshire Council are working to ensure we come up with a new facility that will do exactly what we need it to for our communities and our people and – more importantly – that will continue to do that for a very long time.

There's been a huge amount of work going on behind the scenes and things are gearing up to full steam ahead, which is great news for everyone in Girvan and South Carrick.

While we will always keep our focus on the new harbourside facility, we've always said this is about a much bigger picture for the town.

I'm sure when you read this update, you will have a much better idea of the progress that's been made not just in terms of a new leisure and community facility, but also the wider regeneration of our town and the surrounding areas.

It really is an exciting time for Girvan and South Carrick and, on behalf of South Carrick Community Leisure, I can assure you that we will continue to work closely with the Council and the other parties involved to ensure we deliver the best possible outcomes for the people of Girvan and South Carrick.

That's what matters and that's what we will deliver.

*Pic: Andrew Sinclair, Chair of SCCL*

# NEWSBITES

## The sign marks the spot




New signage promoting the new facility will soon be in place in Girvan Harbour. The signage will highlight the partnership working between South Ayrshire Council, South Carrick Community Leisure and local people to regenerate Girvan and South Carrick and will act as a visual signpost to the new facility to come at the harbourside location.

## SCCL Business Plan

SCCL has appointed a consultant to prepare a business plan for the new facility as part of our ongoing work to attract external funding to Girvan and South Carrick. A robust business plan is a requirement of most large funding bodies and, while we have submitted some smaller scale funding bids, this will allow us to progress major funding bids so we can match the £4 million on the table from South Ayrshire Council.

## SPORTA Membership

SCCL has joined an organisation called SPORTA which is made up of affiliated leisure and cultural trusts across the UK. SPORTA members operate around 30% of the public leisure centres across the UK – from the Shetland Isles to Cornwall and from the Western Highlands to Kent. Membership entitles the SCCL board in Girvan to access information from hundreds of facilities that operate as local trusts running similar centres up and down the country. Further information can be found at http://www.sporta.org/.

## Board Members' Training

As part of a programme of ongoing training and development for SCCL Trustees, the next training session, which will be delivered by CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy) Scotland, will take place between 9.30am and 4pm on Saturday 24 November at the Ailsa Horizons Office, Dalrymple Street.

If you are a member of SCCL and are interested in becoming a Trustee, please email us at southcarrickcommunityleisure@hotmail.co.uk or call 07548 661884.

## Watch the birdie!

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has become involved in the design team for the new facility and restated their interest in 'interpreting' Ailsa Craig. They have provided comments on what would be required to provide information to visitors on bird life on Ailsa Craig and this will be considered as part of the development of the detailed designs.




# More than just a building



A six-lane 25 metre swimming pool. A quality restaurant. Space for arts and culture events and activities. Are these what you want to see in your new community facility at Girvan Harbour?

There are no right or wrong answers – it really is up to you and we want your answers so we can feed into the design process before we take our plans to South Ayrshire Council to apply for planning permission.

Design sketches and plans as well as a model based on the current designs will all be available at our drop-in consultation event. Based on feedback from those in the know – such as sportscotland and Scottish Swimming – the current designs suggest the new facility should include a 25 metre swimming pool with six lanes and a floating floor, which provides greater accessibility for users.

However, the new facility is all about being much more than just a swimming pool and a hall, which is what we had in the old building, and that's exactly where you come in.

# Trust takes to the pond like ducks to water

Girvan Youth Trust has taken over the running of Girvan Boating Pond, reaching a service agreement with South Ayrshire Council to maintain and operate the pond and the adjoining putting green.

Working with Council staff initially and then formally taking over sole running of the facilities from 1 August 2012, this provided employment for eight young people and gave them the chance to get involved in local regeneration activities and acquire new skills.

The Trust then got off to a flying start, introducing family fun days that included puppet shows, story-telling, magic shows and a special pirates' day to round off the season. The team also introduced a family ticket to include the boats and putting, offering great value for local families and visitors alike.

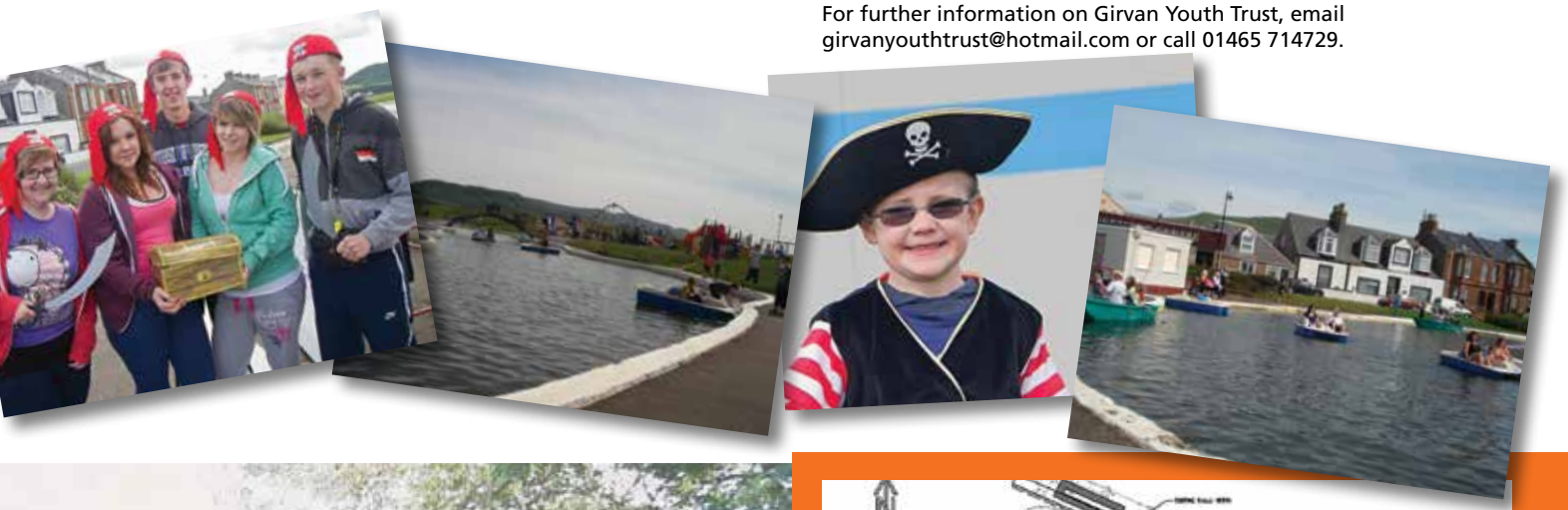
Despite the horrendous weather, the new approach proved a real hit with more than 1,300 people using the pond and the putting green during August and the September weekend alone. And customer feedback was extremely positive:

- "It's great family fun."
- "We could do with more of this."
- "This is cracking – our grandkids have loved it!"

One visitor actually said: "If people from Ayr and Kilmarnock knew what was on offer at Girvan boating pond, they would be inclined to spend the day in Girvan." You can't get a better testament than that!!

An agreement is now in place for the Youth Trust to operate the boating pond and putting green next summer, which will allow the facility to open on more days throughout the summer months including key bank holiday weekends.

For further information on Girvan Youth Trust, email girvanyouthtrust@hotmail.com or call 01465 714729.





Your ideas, views and feedback will be vital in ensuring the new facility functions effectively both as a community facility for local people to use on a regular basis as well as an exciting visitor attraction or hub that gives visitors a reason to stop and stay in Girvan and South Carrick.

What's on the inside will be just as important as how it looks on the outside, maximising the spectacular setting with views to Ailsa Craig so that it creates a new landmark for the area, fits in with town's coastal setting and complements the existing buildings and infrastructure while adding something important to the town.

By working together to achieve this, we can ensure the long-term success of this new facility not just for us but for generations to come, creating a bright and prosperous future for Girvan and South Carrick.

Work with us: 12 noon-8pm, Tuesday 27 November 2012, Carrick Buildings conference room.



# Sailwest

Getting on board is set to get easier than ever in Girvan thanks to Council investment of almost three-quarters of a million pounds in Girvan harbour in the current financial year.

More than £700,000 is being made available to extend and improve sailing facilities within the town. This includes an extra 24 berths/ pontoons through the Sailwest project, which will be installed early in 2013, making it easier than ever for the sailing community to stop off and enjoy all the town has to offer and giving a significant boost to the wider regeneration of the South Carrick area.

In addition, dredging works will also be carried out early in the new year, which will improve access to and berthing at the harbour; and a number of repairs have already been completed including new quayside ladders, replacement timbers for the wooden jettys and other small jetty repairs.

Together, these improvements will transform the harbour environment for the sailing community as well as for local people and visitors, creating even more reasons to spend time in the town.



# Setting up to be good sports

Over the last year, SCCL has been working with the Council and local and national sports clubs and governing bodies to develop a community sports hub.

One of the key elements of this was to draw together information on all of the events that take place in the area – both the ones we know take place every year, but also the newer ones such as the introduction of beach volleyball competitions and the exciting return of road cycling to the area through the likes of the 'Davie Bell Road Race'.



We used this to create a calendar of events and we're now getting to work on next year's calendar, so if you have an event or activity you're keen to promote and would like to include in the calendar, email alistair.mutch@south-ayrshire.gov.uk or call 01292 313295.

We also purchased a mobile climbing wall and training has been developed for local volunteers to use it at events like 'Gig on the Green' and local galas, which has proved very popular. You can book the climbing wall for your event by contacting Alistair on the details above.

Moving from land to sea, we've also been progressing a lot of work to promote sailing and other water sports and South Ayrshire Council has just upgraded its water sports licence to enable more activities to take place, which is really exciting. Elsewhere, we're seeing the development of coastal rowing, with a boat under construction at Girvan Academy.

If that wasn't enough, the South West Scotland Community Justice Authority (SWSCJA) received a grant from the Scottish Government for almost £54,000 from the Cashback/Payback Sports fund.

These monies are being used towards a triple crown of sporting upgrades in the town – relaying the running track at Girvan's Hamilton Park, resurfacing and relining a tennis court at Victory Park and setting up a second beach volleyball court at the seafront, all to be undertaken through unpaid work by offenders.

This will bring all three facilities up to competition standard and SCCL has already been in close contact with Girvan Athletics Club, Girvan Tennis Club and others interested in regenerating sports facilities in the area to drive the exciting programme forward.

We'll keep you posted.

## News from the Town Team

A dedicated Girvan Town Team was set up following the Girvan Vision charrette held earlier this year and now meets monthly. The Town Team, chaired by Reverend Ian McLachlan, is made up of people who want to get involved to make a difference for the town and its people.

Meetings take place on the third Thursday of the month at the Carrick Buildings and are open to everyone to attend and participate, putting forward ideas, suggestions and your opinions.

Different groups in the town such as SCCL or Girvan Youth Trust attend to provide updates for the Town Team and the floor is open for any issues to be raised. If there is something to address, the Town Team tries to come up with ways to meet that need or engage with an existing group or organisation to do just that – that way, there is a co-ordinated effort to improve things in Girvan. Examples of issues discussed by the Town Team include a shop front improvement scheme; a Credit Union; and a Cooking Bus initiative.

So, if you are interested in working together to make Girvan better, join the Town Team. For further information, call 01465 710628.

## New picture ahead for former cinema

Recent news on plans to refurbish the Regent Cinema in Girvan have been welcomed by both SCCL and South Ayrshire Council.

We see this as a real opportunity to complement our project at the harbour, making a combined difference for the town and its people – which is what it's all about. With this in mind there has been a joint meeting with representatives of the newly formed Cinema Trustees who are taking this forward. This was positive and it was agreed that both organisations should work together for the betterment of the town.

Both developments are important to the town and any new investment to bring back a resource such as a cinema is to be welcomed. Further meetings are planned to take the project forward and we'll keep you advised of any developments.