

PRESS RELEASE

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16 March 2010

NEW LOCHSIDE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED

A planning application has been submitted to Highland Council for the development of the existing lochside facilities at Brackla Harbour, Loch Ness. The application has been made on behalf of the owners, the Bremner family, operators of the Loch Ness Exhibition Centre, Drumnadrochit.

The application in principle, which was made following some eight months of research and consultation, seeks approval for the development of the existing harbour, which is on the western shore of the Loch. It will create an enhanced lochside access, public toilets, public parking, retail and catering facilities. Plans will also incorporate the wider Loch Ness and Caledonian Canal canoe trail and altogether the proposals will represent an investment of some £2m. It is anticipated that ten new jobs will be created initially, rising to between 30 and 40 at the peak of the tourist season.

Mr Robert Bremner, Managing Director of the Loch Ness Exhibition Centre commented:

"We are very excited by the positive impact this development will have on facilities and jobs in the area. It will enhance existing visitor amenities in a safe and attractive manner, offering a scale and design of development which we believe is entirely appropriate to the location. It will allow significantly improved views of the loch and will provide new public parking, 24 hours a day and new public toilet facilities."

Mr Bremner continued:

"The proposed development will also create new jobs locally, and will enable the area to continue to contribute to a competitive, sustainable and adaptable Highland economy. We are planning an Open Meeting in Drumnadrochit to tell local people about the development and answer any questions they may have."

Note for Editors:

Ref: New Lochside Development Proposed 16 March 2010

The application, made on 12 March 2010 to the Highland Council, is for planning consent in principle to redevelop Brackla Harbour on Loch Ness side; the project will include extensive new car and coach parking by the loch, new public toilet facilities, a new loch-side picnicking area, new cafe, retail, restaurant and interpretive facilities, new jetties and moorings for small craft and will incorporate the Loch Ness and Caledonian Canal canoe trail.

The Loch Ness Exhibition Centre's vision for Brackla Harbour is aligned with national, strategic and local tourism policies and guidance, including the preferred option of the emerging Highland Wide Local Development Plan that supports high quality tourism proposals in appropriate locations.

The design project, begun in 2009, is led by Inverness based architects HRI and Transport and Planning Consultants Halcrow. Discussions have been held with community representatives, Highland Council and Transport Scotland.

The Loch Ness Exhibition Centre, which has for some time been the largest employer in the local area, was co-founded by Mr Ronnie Bremner in 1980 and is now operated by his sons, Robert and David Bremner. The Loch Ness Exhibition Centre, the business' premier facility, is a five star Visit Scotland attraction.

Image: Caption: "A view of the existing harbour at Brackla, which is the subject of a planning application."

All Press enquiries to:
Anne McDonald
AM Communications
T: 0131 449 9146 M: 07932 197 997
Email info@amcomms.co.uk