

# Hotel gets £92,500

Enterprise company helps in £375,000 plans for new restaurant and four-star status

THE CRAIGARD House Hotel in Campbeltown is to be upgraded with the aid of a £92,500 grant from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) towards the business's £375,000 investment.

This will allow for the development of a new 64-seat glazed restaurant extension with panoramic views over Campbeltown Loch and improvements to the public and kitchen areas.

The former maternity hospital was rescued 11 years ago from near dereliction by the current owners,

Roger Clark and Lori Smith who formed the Craigard Partnership. Since then, the business has expanded from four bedrooms to 12.

Increased demand for the restaurant, together with the need to upgrade to meet four-star status, has led to the current investment.

#### Green technology

Plans include the use of green technology and the business expects to achieve a Green Tourism Award.

The hotel's owners issued a statement which said they were delighted and very grateful to acknowledge the assist-

ance of HIE in awarding the grant.

'The extensive kitchen refurbishment will provide more scope for the talents of chef Joanne Baird and her team.

'These environmentally friendly and financially prudent improvements, including a ground source heat pump system, are a vital step to further future expansion,' they said.

Sam Ford, business development manager for HIE said: 'The increase in high quality restaurant provision will attract additional business from both the business and leisure markets.'

Waterfront plan in line for approval

# Town set to share in £10m

CAMPBELTOWN looks set to be a winner in the bid for a share of £10 million for waterfront projects.

It emerged this week that the consultant's report into the business plans for five towns in Argyll has 'scored' Rothesay in top place to receive £2.4 million and Campbeltown second to receive £6.5 million, with Oban third.

The final decision on who gets the cash will be made at a full council meeting next Thursday.

Councillor John Semple, who chaired the Campbeltown Project Board said:

'Thursday is an opportunity for the Independent and SNP ruling group to broadcast that Argyll and Bute council has changed for the better, that parochial does not trump due process.'

Councillor Rory Colville said: 'It's still a political decision but I can't see how the decision can be changed. We'd be the laughing stock of the country if the recommendations were overruled.'

Councillor Donald Kelly said: 'Anything other than full agreement of this scoring system will lead to political chaos in Argyll and Bute.'