Newsletter for Irvine Bay Regeneration Company

baywatch

irvinebay

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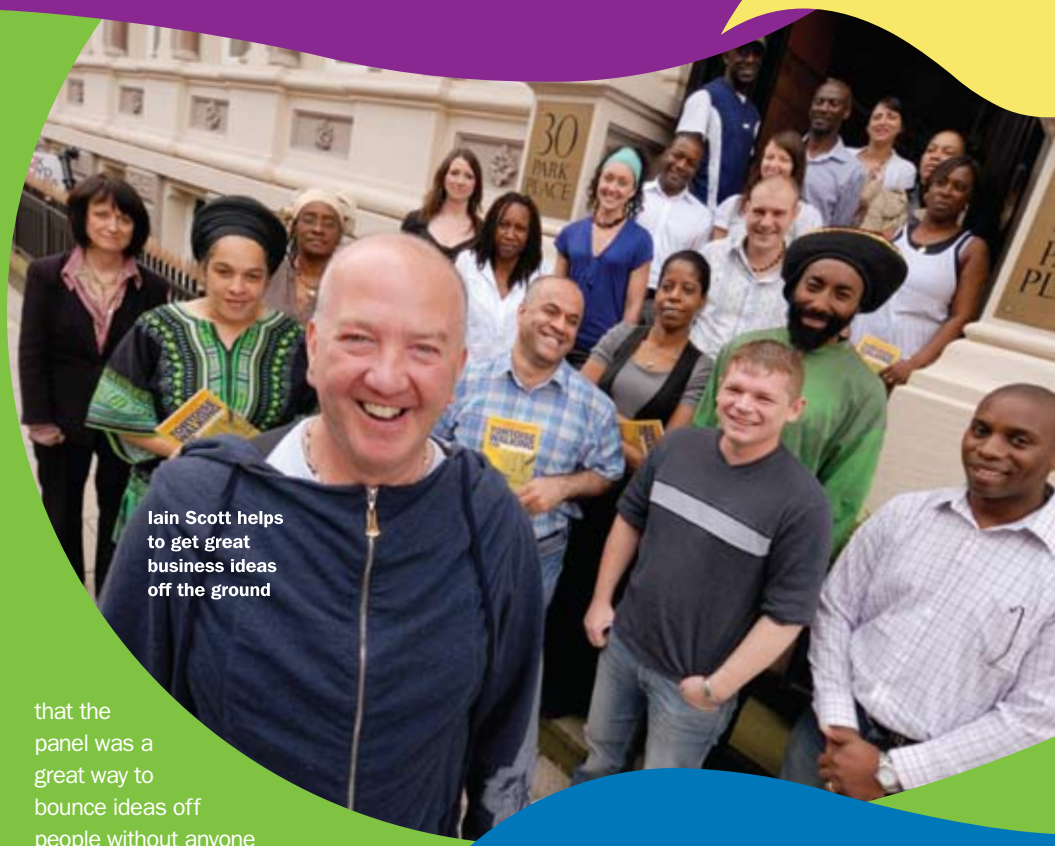
www.irvinebay.co.uk

Ever dreamt of starting your own business...

and done nothing about it? Know someone who needs a push in the right direction?



Iain Scott helps to get great business ideas off the ground

Calling all aspiring entrepreneurs in the Irvine Bay area

If you've ever dreamt of setting up your own business, or have a passion or hobby that could be turned into a business opportunity, this exciting new venture could be just the thing to get you started.

Business guru, Iain Scott, who developed the Enterprise Island Challenge concept: "Forget business plans – that's not what the Enterprise Island Challenge is about. We want to see people aged from 16 to as old as you feel – including students and unemployed people – who are excited about the possibility of setting up their own business and want to know if their idea has potential.

"Those we identify as having the most entrepreneurial potential will be offered the chance to take their business idea onto the next level at a free enterprise masterclass."

Pete Hirst from Leeds took up the Enterprise Island Challenge last summer: "I had an idea but wasn't really sure if I could make a business out of it. The biggest barrier to starting a business is confidence and I think that the panel was a great way to bounce ideas off people without anyone being negative. My business isn't started yet but now I am getting the support and advice to help me do it."

The Enterprise Island Challenge has been helping people all over the UK to get their business ideas off the ground. A panel of local business people will take time to listen and provide ideas for how you can get started.

If you live anywhere in Irvine Bay, book a free place on the Irvine Bay Enterprise Island Challenge right now by calling 0845 60 66 826.

The Enterprise Challenge is a partnership initiative with Irvine Bay Regeneration Company, North Ayrshire Council and the Business Gateway.

The Irvine Bay Enterprise Island Challenge is taking place at three locations, 11am – 7pm:

Tue 3 Feb, Ship Inn,
Harbour Street, Irvine

Wed 4 Feb, Lauriston Hotel,
15 South Crescent Road, Ardrossan

Thur 5 Feb, James Watt College,
Lauchlan Way, Kilwinning

Call **0845 60 66 826** now to register your place.

See inside...

After a year of public consultation, the regeneration plans for the five towns of Irvine Bay have now been published. See inside for what's happening in YOUR town.

Photograph courtesy of Holbeck Urban Village and Sharing the Success

Take five town centres

Artist's impression of how Ardrossan marina could look

Artist's impression of how Kilwinning Main Street could look

The regeneration plans for each of the town centres in the Irvine Bay area have been designed to kick start the economy of the whole area. The plans were prepared during 2008 following on from a massive consultation exercise in which hundreds of local people took an active role. Now North Ayrshire Council has endorsed the plans which will shape the future of our towns and create an environment in which businesses and communities can flourish.

The regeneration plans are designed to play to the strengths and character of each of the five towns and their communities: harbour and marina improvements at Irvine and Ardrossan; Saltcoats and Stevenston to be reconnected to their waterfronts; the ancient abbey town of Kilwinning to become more accessible, re-establishing itself as 'the crossroads of Ayrshire'.

An overview of the plans for your area is included in this edition. For more information and to download the full plans visit www.irvinebay.co.uk.

Artist's impression of how Irvine's civic quarter could look

Training with a sea view

Councillor David O' Neill, Leader of North Ayrshire Council, Patrick Wiggins, Chief Executive of Irvine Bay Regeneration Company and young people from Life Skills programme

The former bank building in Ardrossan is turning out to be the ideal premises for the Scottish Training Foundation (STF). The refurbished building was officially opened by Councillor David O'Neill, Leader of North Ayrshire Council in October.

The STF provides training to help people from North Ayrshire into employment. 93 Princes Street, although derelict at the time, was the perfect size and location for their new training centre.

Irvine Bay Regeneration Company refurbished the building and now lease it to STF.

The staff, clients and visitors are overwhelmed with their new training centre. Morag Sinclair, Chief Executive said, "The building has everything we could possibly wish for in a training centre with a range of good-sized training and interview rooms - many with a sea view!"

Revolution at Evolution

The Evolution skate park in Stevenston has added a new bike track to its growing range of facilities. The track, funded by North Ayrshire's Community Planning Partnership and Irvine Bay Regeneration Company, will now allow access to mountain, suspension, and trail bikes and is a valuable addition to Evolution's range of activities.

Evolution, the biggest outdoor skate park in the UK has been operational for three years and is North Ayrshire's biggest youth diversion project with a membership of around 3,000. The park is supervised at all times and is open from 10am until 10pm, weather permitting. The park facilities include a shop, kitchen, TV room, first aid, toilets and CCTV. The park caters for in-line skaters, skate boarders and BMX bikes as well as the new cycle track.

New bike track at Evolution

Education regeneration

Working with young people from Irvine Royal Academy

Our exciting new education programme is beginning to take shape. Working with pupils in our local schools provides an effective way of involving communities in regeneration and we are developing resources and projects that will mean that young people can have real influence on the regeneration process. The idea is that students will be able to participate in the regeneration of the Bay – and learn at the same time!

Regeneration is not just about improving the buildings in the area, it's about creating jobs and improving people's lives, so education is a fundamental way of bringing about this kind of change.

Our team of education experts will work with local teachers and young people to bring the benefits of regeneration right into the classroom. Children and young people will be able to get involved in planning local regeneration projects and seeing them develop. Their knowledge of regeneration and their involvement in the process will mean they are able to benefit from new opportunities in the area as it is gradually transformed.

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Art in the garden

Site of new garden

Now that the painted hoardings have been completed around the site of the old St Peter's school, South Crescent Road, a new project is underway to improve the area with a low maintenance garden. As part of their SQA Rural Skills Award with the Scottish Training Foundation, four pupils from Ardrossan Academy are carrying out the work.

The small garden will be planted with a variety of species that are hardy and suitable for the coastal environment, and will require minimal maintenance. Coloured gravel will be laid to imitate the sea and sand.

Irvine Bay Regeneration Company contributed towards the cost of materials to develop the garden, which should be complete by January 2009.

Councillor David O'Neill, Leader of North Ayrshire Council with young people from Ardrossan Academy

Into 2009...

We can look back on 2008 as a very exciting year for Irvine Bay. Early in the year we announced development partners at Irvine Harbourside and Annickbank and, more recently, this has been followed by announcements about the new golf resort at Marine Drive. These major projects will bring real growth to our economy, along with the host of others projects that we've been keeping you up to date with through ***baywatch***.

Another huge stride forward this year is the completion of the town regeneration plans for each of the five towns in the Bay. This is a very significant milestone, achieved by working in partnership with the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and North Ayrshire Council.

As we move into 2009, we have the sense of moving into the next exciting phase of the regeneration process. So many of the plans are now in place and we will quickly see physical developments taking shape.

Patrick Wiggins
Chief Executive, Irvine Bay Regeneration Company

Scottish Government backs regeneration with £6 million

The Scottish Government has backed our plans at Irvine Bay with guaranteed funding till 2011 of £6 million.

Making the announcement Stewart Maxwell, the Minister for Communities & Sport, said: "This funding demonstrates the Scottish Government's commitment to the ongoing regeneration of north Ayrshire. We see Irvine Bay Regeneration Company as having a unique opportunity to deliver real and lasting change for the area and its people. The organisation is developing a number of exciting projects which will improve the attractiveness of Irvine Bay as a place to live, work and invest and, most importantly, will improve the lives of local people, allowing them to take advantage of these new opportunities."

This money matches the investments already committed by our other funding partners, Scottish Enterprise and North Ayrshire Council.

www.irvinebay.co.uk

Get in touch!

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