

20 August 2009

To all Full Members

Redevelopment of the British Legion Club (Inverness) Ltd

You will be aware that over the past few years the licensed trade has had a difficult time due to competition from high street supermarkets and changing social habits. While the Inverness Legion Club has fared better than most, it has not been immune from those adverse factors affecting clubs and pubs.

Over the past 5 years the number of members has remained steady. Turnover, however over the same period, has, in real terms, declined. One of the main problems is that while membership subscriptions are renewed annually, only a small minority of members use the club on a regular basis.

The club premises are ideally situated in the town centre but are housed in an older building which now needs significant investment in renewing and replacing essential plumbing and electrical services. Work is also required on the external fabric of the building and a phased modernisation programme needs to be introduced to bring the premises up to date. Down-sizing is required. The present building is costly in terms of rates, heating and lighting and the space and facilities available are substantially under-utilised.

The management committee recognises that change is needed and has commissioned a report by independent consultants on how to secure the future viability of the club.

Two main options have been identified. The first is to sell or lease the two rear blocks of the premises, comprising the snooker room and rear lounge. The second is to sell the present premises and relocate. The second option is less favourable at present because of the current economic climate but cannot be ruled out as the economy recovers.

Both options require to be further developed before any final decision is taken. Members will be advised on the specific details of the action to be taken for the redevelopment of the club at a special general meeting. The date of the meeting will be advertised in the club, local press and website. The management committee trusts that it can count on the co-operation and continuing support of members at what is a critical time for the Legion Club in Inverness. The underlying aim is to secure the future of the club and provide for the members a modern club that is 'fit for purpose'. All monies generated from the proposed redevelopment will be reinvested in the club to meet these objectives.

In the meantime, please support your club and let the management committee know of any changes you would like to see to encourage your participation in club events.

Yours sincerely  
BRITISH LEGION CLUB (INVERNESS) LTD

Peter Johnston, Secretary  
On behalf of the Office Bearers