

Planning application lodged for North West Luxury Hotel & Spa Complex in Portstewart

After months in the planning proposals for a new luxury Hotel and Spa complex adjacent to the North West 200 paddock in Portstewart have recently been lodged to the Council by C&V Developments. It follows a public consultation event back in June where strong support was received from local people.

The proposal seeks to fill a void with a luxury destination style hotel provision and provide the first purpose designed 4* Hotel Complex on the North Coast with 119 bedrooms in total. Complementing the hotel, the proposal also includes luxury spa and leisure facilities, dedicated visitor centre and offices for the North West 200 and, if that wasn't impressive enough, plans also include a demonstration restaurant where local businesses can promote their culinary produce, dedicated holiday cottages serviced by the hotel and hi-tech conference and banqueting facilities all designed to attract companies from across the UK and Ireland.

The conference centre, spa/leisure complex and demonstration restaurant elements of the scheme seek to ensure an all year round activity extending the significant economic and social benefits into the winter months. In all, the development is understood to represent over £15 million worth of construction investment and bring £5.6 million per annum in terms of new annual visitor spending into the local economy. With an immediate requirement of construction jobs, followed by new operational hotel jobs, with further employment created as result of the hotel's philosophy to use where possible local suppliers and existing business, it is one of the most significant private led investments the North Coast has seen in recent years.

Commenting on their plans Vivienne Gilholm of C&V Developments said:

We have worked extremely hard over the last year with the team to bring this project forward and to a key milestone in the submission of the detailed planning application. It follows extensive consultation with organisations, such as, the North West 200 together with the wider public. The interest and support received has really been quite overwhelming giving us the comfort that we are on the right track. Our early market analysis has shown that there was a clear shortfall in tourist bed spaces and spa & leisure facilities on the North Coast. As someone who grew up in the area it was so disheartening to see coach tours come in and go out of the area daily without spending any quality time here and missing out on what the locals produce in terms of arts and crafts the natural beauty area has to offer.

The demand for this type of facility, to us, is abundantly clear and will be even more so on the run up to the Open returning to Royal Portrush Golf Club in 2019. We hope this development will go some way in servicing the vast demand that will soon to be visiting in less than three years time. We also feel

that by having the leisure and spa facilities on offer all year round local residents can also enjoy what will be on their door step. We will continue to work with all those interested in our plans and, planning permitting, look forward to delivering the project in the not too distant future.

Commenting on the news of the application being lodged Mervyn Whyte MBE of the North West 200 commented:

Coleraine and District Motor Club Ltd, Committee and members offer over whelming support to the proposed Hotel Complex to the rear of the NW200 paddock. This is an exciting chapter in the history of the International North West 200. This will give the event organizers a permanent presence in the heart of the Causeway Coast and the NW200 start area. The event has a proven track record in attracting international visitors to the region, it's fantastic to see top-drawer accommodation being available in the future.

It is understood that the application will go through the consultation process over the coming weeks with a decision expected early in the New Year.